

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
December 2, 2020
Academic Center/Zoom
6:30 p.m.

Present: Dr. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone,
Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Mr. Quandel, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban,
Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Gerace, Acting
Superintendent; Mrs. Lombel,
Asst. Business Manager/Board
Secretary, Atty. Kevin Reid,
Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager;
Mrs. Hummel, Mr. Maley, Mrs. Mohl

The Reorganization Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Noble Quandel.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Quandel welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Quandel reminded the public that the public comment period is not a question and answer period, but rather the opportunity for the public to submit comments to the Board. Public comments will follow our public comment procedures which require members of the public to identify themselves by indicating name and address and we will read comments consistent with all aspects of our public comment policy. With our meetings now being conducted virtually until further notice, you can submit comments via the Q & A feature. Mr. Quandel said next month there will be a Board protocol for answering questions. More information will be forthcoming.

The School Board will strive to answer questions pertaining to the current agenda at the beginning of the school board meeting, in a conscious effort to maintain transparent practices. After the School Board agenda is posted online, questions may be emailed to plombel@pottsville.k12.pa.us by 2:00 PM the day of the meeting. Questions pertaining to the agenda posted online will be answered in the order received for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. If the questions are not able to be answered during the 30-minute period, the School Board will endeavor to answer the questions at the beginning of the next school board meeting. Questions pertaining to confidential personnel matters will not be addressed. Questions that require some research or further inquiry and might not be answered at the current school board meeting. **The question and answer period does not replace the public's current right to public comment.**

Mr. Quandel asked if there were any Questions or Public Comments.
There were no public comments at this time.

Mrs. Lombel, Board Secretary, read Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code providing for the Reorganization of the Board of School Directors during the first week in December.

The Secretary continued by reading the following notice of the meeting that was sent to all Board members, Superintendent, Solicitor and advertised in the Pottsville Republican:

In compliance with Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code of the State of Pennsylvania, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District will meet in the Directors' Room in the Academic Center on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; and also for general purposes.

Mr. Quandel appointed Dr. Cardamone as Temporary President of the meeting.

Dr. Cardamone declared the meeting in order to proceed with the election of a President and Vice President for the ensuing year.

Ms. Wytovich nominated Mr. Quandel to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year. Nomination was seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields, nominations for President were closed. Motion carried.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Mr. Noble Quandel was elected to the office of President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich and Mr. Quandel, Aye.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Quandel on his election as President of the School Board.

Mr. Quandel proceeded with the election of a Vice President.

Mr. Shields nominated Dr. Blankenhorn to serve as Vice President of the Board for a term of one year. Mr. Moran seconded the nomination. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the nominations for Vice President were closed. Motion carried.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Dr. Ann Blankenhorn was elected to the office of Vice President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich and Mr. Quandel, Aye.

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Blankenhorn as Vice-President of the school Board.

On the motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the meeting agenda for General Purposes proceeded. Motion carried.

Mr. Quandel announced that the Board of Directors will continue to meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month for Regular Board Meetings and authorized advertisement of notice.

Mrs. Mason, Interim Business Manager, reported that Financial Reports for December 2020 will be approved at the January 2021 meeting.

Under Solicitor's Report, Atty. Kevin Reid had no report this evening.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the preapproval of the credits indicated for the following professional employees and be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Rebecca Ferdoucha	-	6 Credits
Ashley Shappell	-	9 Credits
Neil Johnson	-	6 Credits
Kendra Boris	-	3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following professional employee be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Rebecca Ferdoucha - \$900.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following be elected as a Temporary/Professional Employee subject to the assignment of the Superintendent and set her salary listed below. Her effective start date will be determined after all necessary certification requirements and appropriate paperwork is submitted:

Erin Newcomer - DHHL Special Education Teacher
Bachelor's +15 – Step 1 - \$47,100.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved Nathan Kraft as the MATHCOUNTS Coach for the 2020-2021 school year, effective December 3, 2020 in accordance with the current Memorandum of Understanding between the PASD and the PASDEA approved August 18, 2020. Motion carried.

Informational Item:

Early Dismissal Times for Christmas break – December 23, 2020

Pottsville Area High School – 11:00 a.m.

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School – 11:30 a.m.

John S. Clarke Elementary Center – 12:00 Noon

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 334, 434 and 534:

- o Employee #1349 – lunch aide – November 7,12,13, 2020
- o Employee #70 – paraprofessional – November 20, 2020
- o Employee #1346 – lunch aide – November 10, 2020

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical leave to the following:

- o Employee # 1271 – custodian – effective November 13, 2020
- o Employee # 1115 – custodian – effective November 13, 2020
- o Employee #604 – paraprofessional – effective November 2, 2020
- o Employee #471 – cafeteria employee – effective November 13, 2020
- o Employee #302 – cafeteria employee – effective November 6, 2020
- o Employee # 1445 – teacher – effective November 6, 2020
- o Employee #1058 – custodian – effective November 10, 2020

Motion carried.

Under Legislation, Mr. Moran, Chairperson, reported that Senate Bill 1216 will delay the Keystone exam requirements for graduation until the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Hummel, High School Principal, noted that there will be changes on how students will

be tested on Algebra 1, English 10 and Biology. Parents will be notified on these updates and how it applies to students.

On the motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved the following Use of Facilities Requests:

HS

A. High School Cafeteria (Outside)

Poinsettia Fundraiser Pick Up

Thursday, December 3, 2020 3:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

B. High School Little Theater

Audition Callbacks

Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

Dr. Gerace and Mrs. Mohl, presented a PowerPoint "COVID-19 Updated guidance and Impact in our Schools". Dr. Gerace would like to thank Mrs. Mohl and the pandemic team for their commitment and dedication during these times.

Recent COVID-19 Changes

- Schuylkill County continues to see rises in COVID-19 cases.
- Schuylkill County remains in a substantial designation in community transmission for the week ending November 27, 2020.
- Schuylkill county superintendents are continuing to meet at least once per week with Schuylkill County Emergency Management officials.

COVID-19 Cases by Day

- Over the past 7 days:
 - November 25 – 79 cases
 - November 26 – 122 cases
 - November 27 – 93 cases
 - November 28 – 75 cases
 - November 29 – 38 cases
 - November 30 – 38 cases
 - December 1 – 88 cases

COVID-19 Data and Reporting

- St. Luke's University Health Network is our partner who provides us with recommendations concerning COVID-19.

Updated Guidance and Mitigation – (PA Dept. of Health and PA Dept. of Education)

- Travel Order: requires negative COVID-19 or 14-day quarantine.

- Universal Face Covering:
 - Must be worn at all times indoors.
 - Must be worn outdoors when not with members of household.
- Attestation to compliance with updated face covering order and positive case recommendations.
 - Required for any school entity that intends to provide any in-person instruction that is designated with a substantial transmission level.

Recommendations for Instructional Model

- Despite heightened transmission rates in Schuylkill County, Pottsville Area School District has not observed any significant number of positive cases.
- District administration closely monitors cases, consults with PA DOH, and communicates with all stakeholders when COVID-19 impacts our schools.
- Pottsville Area School District should remain in the blended learning model, will enforce the updated face covering order, and will observe the recommendations when a positive COVID-19 case is identified within our schools. The blended model:
 - Allows for all students and staff to physical distance during in-person learning
 - Allows for greater supervision of students, including the enforcement of proper wearing of face coverings

Important Health and Safety Reminders

- Complete the daily health check each morning. If any symptoms are present, a student should not report for in-person instruction and should consult with a health care provider.
- Students and staff that have had direct contact with a known positive COVID-19 case must quarantine for 14-days starting on the date of the last know contact.
- If a student or any household member are awaiting COVID-19 test results, they may not return to in-person instruction until results are received.
- Masks must be worn by students and staff at all times while on school grounds.
- Students are highly encouraged to participate in live remote instruction when they are unable to attend in-person.

This PowerPoint will be made available on the district's website and Facebook page.

An Executive Session was held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Moran, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Patricia A Lombel 1/13/2021

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)
Board Secretary