

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
August 18, 2020
DHH Lengel Middle School/Zoom
7:15p.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, Solicitor,
Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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 asked if there were any Public Comments.

Mr. Tom McGoey, Varsity Football Head Coach; Zachary Reichert, Boys Soccer Head Coach; Bob Stock, Girls Soccer Head Coach; Kelly Lombel, Cross Country Head Coach; Maria Sherakas, Girls Volley Ball Head Coach

Dear Dr. Gerace, School Board Members, Mr. Rismiller, and Mr. Mattea:

We are writing you today, representing 5 Crimson Tide Sports Programs who are set to participate in the Fall Sports Season. During the 6 weeks of Return to Play, we were able to safely conduct practices in which approximately 175 Student Athletes participated in Weight Room Training, Conditioning Sessions, Community Events, and Drills and Skills Sessions. As we followed the strict guidelines published by the Athletic Department, we checked for temperatures daily, provided hand sanitizer, enforced social distancing, and wiped down equipment. These measures proved to be successful as zero of our student athletes tested positive for COVID-19. We cannot control our Student Athletes 24/7, however giving them an opportunity to participate in Fall

Sports, allows for us to offer closer monitoring and control measures, in which they may not have if a season does not exist.

Our request goes beyond the participation of the sports we may Coach, as we value the added benefits of participating in high school sports. Studies suggest that student athletes are less likely to participate in unhealthy or risky behavior when they are playing sports in high school. NFHS cited a 2002 study by the Department of Education that found students who spent no time in extracurricular activities in high school were 49 percent more likely to use drugs and 37 percent more apt to become teen parents. Just four hours in an extracurricular activity like sports each week dramatically improved those numbers. Another study published in the *Medicine & Science in Sports and Exercise* in August, 2007 found that students who were active in sports like soccer, football and even skateboarding performed 10 percent better in core subjects like math, science, social studies and language arts. Because sports offer equal opportunity to all students at the high school level, these academic benefits extend to all areas of the student population, including students that might be traditionally underserved. Along with the increased fitness and improved academics is positive mentorship. High school athletics are filled with positive mentors, from the coaches on the sidelines to the leaders on the team. Students learn to work with a wide range of authority figures, who teach them important lessons about hard work, respect and good sportsmanship. Early experiences with mentors like these help shape student athletes in positive ways for the rest of their lives. For us, it goes beyond catching a ball, or kicking a ball in the net, we take pride in preparing our student athletes in the future endeavors.

As we advocate for our Student Athletes we bring forward a study which was aimed to assess the impact of the COVID-19 on high-performance student athletes in grades 9-12. While in late April, about six weeks after lockdown began researchers from *The Sport Journal* – collected 115 online surveys from student athletes. The data shows that teens in this study, for the most part, understand and recognize they're in the middle of a bad situation. That's good and bad: the circumstances are bad, but it's good they're aware it's bad – identifying a problem means they can work to fix it. Also, for the most part, the absence of sports makes them feel isolated and disconnected, creates a lack of initiative/sense of apathy, and causes them to experience feelings of anxiety, frustration, and depression.

Collectively we have listened to the previous board meeting and athletic meetings, and understand the concern of liability if we return our Student Athletes Return to Play. However we ask that as we did so with choosing an Educational Plan (Hybrid vs Online), we give our students and parents the same choice when it comes down to participate in sports or not. If the same parents are opting to return to a hybrid environment, shouldn't they be able to assume the risk to return to play?

We are asking that a decision not be made tonight, however adopt the decision by PIAA scheduled for 21 August 2020. We will continue to work together, seek the guidance from our Athletic Department, and continue to enforce the measures put in place. While doing so allows our student athletes to return to play, in as safe of an environment made possible. We thank you for your time and consideration of this manner.

Robert Walchak

Dear School Board,

As you meet tonight in good faith with our child's decision makers for what can be another great memorable school year or one we would all like to forget. You all have the power to decide! Please keep in mind by allowing my child to attend school on a daily basis and play sports is ultimately my choice or I would have initially decided full virtual and removed him from participating in any sports. I hope you all decide to allow these families like ours that feels comfortable sending our kids to school that you don't take that away hastily because of your own fears or concerns. I don't believe pushing sports off to the spring/late winter which is normally our flu season is in any way logical or helpful. Let Them Play Now!!

It is our right to decide what we feel is safe for our children. I have the utmost confidence that the teachers, coaches, trainers, and supporting staff are all working diligently to ensure our children's safety. I have already seen it on the football field thus far with our fine coaching staff and players all doing what it takes to maintain safety. Many of these children have sacrificed a lot for their respective upcoming seasons. Personally my son passed up two out of state vacations because they were in states considered hot spots.

Lastly I would like you to all take into consideration our senior class which has already suffered quite a bit. Many have a lot riding on the sports they compete in for scholarship opportunities at the next level. Not playing could be a life changing decision for my son Bobby Walchak and numerous other great athletes in our incoming senior class. The other part of being a senior is the last year these children will get to interact with their Friends the spent the last 11 years building a bond with.

I again ask you to please highly consider sending our children back to school full time and allow sports to resume ASAP! Thank you for your time and efforts. Sincerely,
Robert Walchak

Christine Trapani

To the Members of the Pottsville Area School District Board of Directors:

Hello, I am Christine Trapani, the President of the Pottsville Area Educational Support Professionals Association, the Association, which represents Paraprofessionals, Custodians, Secretaries, and Food Service Employees in the Pottsville Area School

District. I am writing on behalf of myself and twelve dedicated colleagues who were employed as full-time Paraprofessionals until the end of the 2019-20 school year. On May 6th, 2020, we were notified that our full-time status would be demoted to part-time.

Since May 6th, my PSEA UniServ Representative and I have been working tirelessly to negotiate with the district to save money to maintain these positions full-time. We have offered numerous money-saving concessions with no counter-proposals from the school district. It is incredibly challenging as we believe the negotiations have been one-sided to this point. We feel that our loyalty over the past two decades is of no importance to the school district.

These positions are critical to the success of vulnerable students in the district. We work with at-risk populations such as Life Skills students, Learning Support students, Autistic Support students, and those in regular education who require additional support. The demotion to part-time status has removed 19.5 hours per day of necessary paraprofessional contact with students, equating to 3,510 lost hours per school year of paraprofessional interaction with our most vulnerable students. We love our jobs and the students that we serve; however, we cannot sustain our families without the health insurance coverage that our previously full-time positions provided.

The thirteen Paraprofessionals who were demoted to part-time status have between ten and twenty years of experience working with vulnerable student populations that the school district serves. The importance of our positions to students cannot be quantified by our salaries of less than \$21,000 per year. Our years of experience are much more valuable to the district than our wages and benefits show.

Please consider keeping us as full-time employees. We have offered drastic concessions to keep our positions as full-time. We ask the district to please take into consideration everything we have provided as well as the extra savings in future years from these concessions to keep us as full-time employees of the Pottsville Area School District. Roll Tide!

Sincerely,

Christine Trapani	Bernadette Ott	Tessa Remaley
Karen Runkle	Susan Griffin	
Kathy Thompson	Karen Bevan	
Kathleen Weiss	Brittany Stevenosky	
Kimberly Pekarik	Michelle Aungst	
Diane Schweikert	David Hess	

Josephine Kwiatkowski

In ordinary times I would be the first to agree that in-person learning is best for students. Unfortunately, we are not in ordinary times. The two choices before the district are the “blended” and the all virtual options.

If the blended option is chosen, chances are that there will be even more disturbances to the students’ daily schedule or routine, if a quarantine or closure is issued. According to the new guidelines a 7 to 14 days closure may be issued depending on the number of reported positive Covid cases.

The efficacy of the blended option depends on us asking students to act in ways that they have never even imagined before: wear a mask all day, keep away from other students, and keep your distance from adults. It also depends on parents prepping their children at home. From casual observance in the community, as to the correct and appropriate wearing of masks in the general public, compliance it is greatly inadequate. I would estimate that indoors those appropriately wearing masks and wearing effective masks is about 60% to 70%; outdoors the figure drops to 25%. Outdoor social distancing and mask wearing is basically nonexistent. This behavior is representative of the behavior students will be bringing to school.

Can you expect an educator to ensure that in a 70-foot line everyone remains masked correctly and remains properly distanced? Is it appropriate to assume that the students will know how to do this? I do not believe that we have the luxury of having a time frame to perfect these behaviors.

If you are sitting in the safety of your own home voting on the plans set forth by the pandemic response committee, please take that fact into consideration when you cast your vote. If you vote to proceed with a blended plan you will be plunging the Pottsville Area School District, Pottsville and its surrounding areas head first into the current public health experiment. Although we know more about the virus now, there are still too many unknowns.

When we are talking about our most valuable resource, our children, I would rather be accused of doing too much than too little. Know and understand the consequences of your vote. Thank you.

Suzanne Delaney

Dear Dr. Gerace and members of the Board,

I am writing to you as the parent of a student-athlete with a request that you allow our students to resume practice and to allow fall sports to go on as scheduled. It has been a very difficult past few months for everyone, including our children. We all have lost many things since March 13th, and our children have also been victims of this loss. As young adults, our students rely on the daily interactions they have in school with teachers and peers in order to develop relationships that are critical to them at this point

in their lives. Many of these same students participate in sports, band, and band, not always for the competition alone, but to continue to develop those relationships with peers, coaches, teammates, and opponents. They learn lessons that can't be taught at home or in the classroom. They develop study skills over the course of juggling academics, practices, and games and a large number of our student athletes are also high-achieving students in the classroom. They develop time management skills they may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn. They learn how to compete with and against other athletes and musicians, how to be part of a team, and our coaches instill in them lessons on how to win with grace and lose with dignity. Many of these students have been participating in organized sports since they were very young, as long as they have been attending school, and since March 13th, 2020, their lives have been completely turned upside down. As adults, it is easier for us to recognize the need for our world to come to a halt; it is not as easy to see this through the eyes of young adults. They already lost months of school and many of them also lost their spring season of track, baseball, and softball. While teaching online this past spring, I have witnessed students become depressed, withdrawn, and lethargic since the beginning of the quarantine. It's important to realize that the mental health of our children is as important as their physical health.

We have seen local recreational sports, such as little league baseball and soccer return this summer, fortunately with no known spread of Covid-19. Our local pools in Pottsville and Minersville also reopened, and there were many days this summer that there were hundreds of patrons swimming together, again with no known spread of disease, in part due to extensive plans in place to keep these patrons and staff safe. Our student athletes have been working jobs in the community, such as at grocery stores, restaurants, and public pools and have been healthy in these high traffic locations. We plan on opening schools in a few short weeks, and our school administrators, teachers, custodial staff, and others have spent countless hours discussing how this will be done in the safest manner possible for both students and staff. Our students should also be allowed to return to playing the sports they love and marching with the band they love with the same precautions taken. All of these sports and practices had already begun and our coaching staff has done an excellent job of screening our student-athletes before each and every practice for symptoms.

I understand and respect the decision of some families to choose online learning for their children as the new school year starts. I hope they understand and respect the decision of other parents to send our children back to school in person. And while I appreciate and respect the Administration and Board's precautions for safety purposes, I believe that parents should be allowed to decide what is best for our children, as we have been doing since this pandemic began. Just as parents are given the choice of in-

person instruction or online learning, we should also be given the choice to allow our student-athletes to participate in fall sports. Thank you for your time.

Judy Barket

Board Members and Dr. Gerace: I just wanted to voice my opinion for whatever it is worth. This doesn't have to be said but no parent would intentionally put their child/children in harm's way. Throughout this entire pandemic, we have been told, follow the science... from the very top federal level right down to our county where the number of new cases is consistently single digits. I am hoping that the school district opens the schools back up full time, 5 days in school or at the least give parents/students the choice of being 5 days all in or all virtual. So many parents I talk to, their children are stressed from the stress of not knowing what will happen, how it will happen and from not being in school every day. Thank you for your time, Judy Barket.

Jim Bohorad

Dear Dr. Gerace,

I wanted to follow up my letter from last week with a few points in light of your discussion at last Tuesday night's meeting. I and many others appreciate you giving this matter serious consideration and for keeping an open mind on the issues. I apologize for the length of the letter, but I feel these issues are important and relevant.

I have talked to many parents of students who are involved with sports, band, and other activities, and I have also talked to members of the community who have no direct interest. We would all simply ask that the school board follow the PIAA vote next Friday, or whenever it makes a decision. If the PIAA shuts down athletics, it would be disappointing, but at least it would be a uniform decision throughout the state, however if the PIAA votes to allow athletics to move forward, I would ask that you support their vote and allow our athletics to move forward.

Most of your discussion and concern Tuesday focused on liability, and I would like to address that, because I truly think liability can be taken out of the equation for the school district.

First, school districts are covered under the Pennsylvania Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act. This Act gives local government agencies sovereign immunity from being sued for negligent acts, unless one of several exceptions apply. The most common exception to this act is the real property exception. This would allow a school district to be sued if the district is negligent in maintaining its property, such as a hole in the football field, or an unpadded wall in gym class. Based on my review of the Tort Claims Act and the exceptions, I don't see how any exception would apply or how the school district could be sued under state law in the event that a positive test occurred.

I should note that there is no sovereign immunity under federal law, however in order for a plaintiff to bring a federal action against a school district, the plaintiff would have to show a breach under the Constitution, such as discrimination, freedom of speech, etc. Any potential action against a school district for a positive test would be a negligence action, and it's my understanding that courts have determined that these negligence actions cannot be brought under federal law.

So sovereign immunity should protect the school district and Board from any liability issues.

However, in the event someone got around the sovereign immunity argument, and as I said, I don't see how they could in light of the statute, then the Board would raise numerous defenses that should ultimately protect the Board from liability as well.

First, the PIAA is the governing body for high school athletics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it has served in that capacity since 1913. The PIAA is made up of representatives from around the state, and it has numerous committees, including a medical committee made up of leading medical professionals from around the state. If the PIAA votes to authorize sports, the board would simply be proceeding in accordance with the PIAA's vote. That should serve as a strong defense to liability. Second, parents either have, or will sign waivers. The waivers will be signed by the parents, not the minor students. While I agree with your solicitor that waivers are not 100 percent full proof, they document parental consent, and go a long way towards reducing and potentially eliminating liability.

Third, there is always a risk in anything anyone does. Is there a COVID risk, yes, but the risk is incredibly small in our area, as the numbers show that Schuylkill County has been averaging 3-5 new cases a day, almost all of which are attributed to the elderly. If parents allow their children to participate, there is a principal in the law called assumption of risk, which is a defense to a lawsuit. If I am aware of a risk but I willingly participate, I am assuming the risk, which would significantly reduce any liability. Based on your discussions, it would appear the Board intends to begin the year with a hybrid approach for school, which I definitely agree with. With the hybrid approach, parents still have a choice for hybrid or virtual. The sports and other activities should be no different. The parents should have the ability to make the choice of sports or no sports, and parents would be assuming the risk.

Fourth, if a student did test positive, it would be next to impossible to prove how the individual contracted the virus. The student could have gotten it at home, at a store, at a restaurant, at a gathering with friends, etc. There is really no way to prove how the student contracted the virus, and this would be a strong defense to any claim. As I see it, the only way a claimant might get past this if a coach had direct knowledge that a player was positive, and he or she allowed that student to participate. Even then, it would still be extremely difficult to prove how the individual contracted the virus. Our

coaches and activity volunteers, however, have been incredibly careful in following all guidelines over the past seven weeks before practices were halted, and they all understand the need to be safe, so this would never become an issue.

Finally, even if in the unlikely event a claim was brought against the school district, the district has liability insurance. I don't know the terms of the policy, but a standard policy for a school district would include payment for the defense of the claim and the payment of any damages, up to a certain limit. The Tort Claim Act puts a cap on the amount of damages, so it is common for a school district to obtain insurance up to the amount of the caps. I would expect that Pottsville has sufficient insurance. Yes, there are deductibles, but for the most part, defense costs and damages would be covered. But again, because of Sovereign Immunity, the District should never get to that point. Between Sovereign Immunity and the above Defenses, liability should not be an issue.

Clearly, many others feel this way. I heard Tri-Valley delayed the start of athletics, but other than Tri-Valley, every other Schuylkill County school, and every other Schuylkill League school, which includes Jim Thorpe and Lehigh from Carbon County, have authorized athletics and other activities like band and cheerleading to continue as scheduled. This means that every one of those school boards believes it is safe to move forward, and every one of their solicitors has recommended that their Board authorize these activities to move forward. If the PIAA authorizes athletics and the Schuylkill League moves forward and plays with all of its member schools, Pottsville should be part of it.

The governor has said this should be a local issue. The virus is pretty much under control in our area, with minimal new cases daily. That is certainly a contributing factor as to why the other districts in our area are moving forward. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are different, as is every county in the state, and I could understand Philly and Pittsburgh maybe reaching a different conclusion. However, I should mention that I saw that the superintendent at Franklin Regional School District in Pittsburgh came out with a thoughtful letter on August 14 as to why his district was moving forward with sports, pending PIAA approval.

Yes, the governor made a recommendation, which he said was his personal opinion. The Department of Health also made a recommendation. If the PIAA votes to approve fall sports, it will be a specific authorization. We have to remember that the Department of Health and governor allow outside gatherings of no more than 250 people. Clearly, all outdoor sports can be conducted well within this number. Volleyball understands issues must be worked out to play indoors, but it's my understanding they are willing to make whatever accommodations are needed. The governor also made a comment the other day about a similar recommendation he made that Pennsylvania residents not go to the Jersey shore this summer. I don't have to tell you how that recommendation was followed, as my family, along with tens of

thousands of others, traveled to the Jersey Shore and other beaches this summer. My family and other families took precautions, stayed safe, and remained healthy. Our student athletes can do the same as long as it is done right.

My final point is this. These kids have been doing the voluntary workouts since the end of June. They and the coaches have taken every precaution that has been recommended, and they have stayed safe. They want to play more than anybody, and they know that in order to do so, they must continue to be safe. I honestly feel that a student will have less of a chance of getting the virus if he or she plays sports. Athletes are going to limit their socializing and interaction with their friends and other large groups because they will be participating in games and practices. And when they participate, their temperatures are taken, masks are worn on the sidelines, and other precautions are taken and guidelines followed. If these kids do not have athletics, we all know they are not going to stay in a bubble and avoid their friends. They're 15-18 year old kids. They will spend more time out in large groups, without temperatures being taken, most likely without masks, and subject to more of a risk than if they were playing sports. So I honestly believe these kids will be safer playing sports under PIAA guidelines.

I know this is very long and I apologize, but I love my son and would do anything for him, and I know how hard he and the other seniors have worked over the past three plus years and how much this means to him. I would never do anything to jeopardize his health, and if I thought for a minute that the PIAA did not have a way to conduct this safely, or if our coaches and district were not following guidelines and taking precautions, I would be the first person to pull him. But knowing the district and the coaches have been doing everything properly, and everyone has been safe, I felt the need to write this letter to do everything I can to help him get the most he can out of his senior year.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for your consideration. If you would like to discuss the issue in more detail either in person or by phone, I would be happy to do so with you.

Best Regards, Jim Bohorad

Amy Walchak

Dear School Board Members and Administration,

School activities and sports play an important role in our children's health and well-being. These kids need this normalcy back in their lives during this difficult time. Our student athletes, band, and cheerleaders along with our amazing coaches and advisors have been following the guidelines put in place by the Department of Health and they deserve the chance to participate this fall. They had been practicing without incidents until the governor made his recommendation a few weeks ago. I am comfortable

allowing my children to practice using these guidelines. The children are being monitored for symptoms and that is all we can ask for. Most jobs monitor employees before their shift and these businesses are not closing down due to fear of getting sick. Almost every school district in Schuylkill County has been allowing their children to practice voluntarily during this time except for our district. Please make the right choice for our children and allow them to play this fall. Sincerely, Amy Walchak

President Quandel thanked everyone for their comments and said the Board appreciates all the input.

There will be a new Emergency Medical Technical Program at the Pottsville Area High School. Mr. Patrick Moran, Board Member and Education and Community Outreach Coordinator with the Schuylkill EMS and one of the instructors noted that there is a dramatic shortage of EMT's. This new partnership between Lehigh Valley Hospital-Schuylkill, Pottsville Area School District, Schuylkill EMS and the East Lebanon County School District hopes to change that. Mr. Moran noted that the yearlong curriculum begins with the new school year and expects to draw about 30 high school students who will meet one period every day, in the classroom or online learning. In addition to the daily class schedule, students will also participate in "field experiences" aboard Schuylkill EMS units. Mr. Moran thanked President Reppy, LVH-Schuylkill, Mrs. Hummel, Pottsville Area High School Principal and previous administration. There will be a Press Release on this Partnership for Education.
(Press Release at end of minutes).

On motion of Mr. Shields seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the July 7, 2020 Special Board Meeting and July 21, 2020 Board Meeting. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board accepted the reports of the Treasurer for the month of July 2020 - Mid Penn Bank – \$1,794,033.99. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Blankenhorn and Mr. Quandel, Aye.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Cafeteria Financial Report for July 2020: Revenue Received - \$7,319.27; Expenditures - \$42,800.47; Net Gain - \$-35,481.20. Ending balance for July 31, 2020 - \$22,829.39. Motion carried.

A list of bills, as appended, was submitted for payment. (Copy to each Director.)

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. DiCello, vouchers were ordered drawn in payment of the bills listed or where vouchers had been drawn, such action was approved and the list of bills was ordered appended to the minutes. Motion carried.

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

Michael Anthony	-	6 Credits
Alicia Fehr	-	3 Credits
Kaycee Hess	-	3 Credits
Cara Kelly	-	6 Credits
Amanda Purcell	-	3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following professional employees be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Michael Anthony	-	\$1,548.00
Cody Blankenhorn	-	\$1,548.00
Lucas Bricker	-	\$1,548.00 (2019-2020)
Lucas Bricker	-	\$1,548.00 (2020-2021)
Alicia Fehr	-	\$1,551.00
Nathan Halenar	-	\$ 300.00
Kaycee Hess	-	\$1,551.00
Cara Kelly	-	\$1,548.00 (2019-2020)
Cara Kelly	-	\$1,548.00 (2020-2021)
Deborah Lecker	-	\$ 300.00
Jeremiah Lynn	-	\$1,548.00
Suzanne Sterner	-	\$ 300.00

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, and Mr. Quandel, Aye. Dr. Blankenhorn, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following salary adjustments be made effective in the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year: Cody Blankenhorn – Master's

+15 and Suzanne Sterner – Master’s (Equivalent). Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, and Mr. Quandel, Aye. Dr. Blankenhorn, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following list of personnel be elected as extra-curricular advisors for the 2020-2021 school year at the stipend indicated in accordance with the current Memorandum of Understanding between the PASD and the PASDEA approved August 18, 2020. (See office files) Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board appointed Mrs. Tiffany L. Hummel as Pottsville Area School District Title IX Coordinator, effective August 14, 2020. There will be no additional compensation for this position. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the COVID-19 Emergency Resolution. The resolution determines that the Pennsylvania Department of Education, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, constitutes an “emergency” with the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Public School Code. The Superintendent shall have the duty and the authority to develop a Health and Safety plan in a form and manner prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the Emergency Instructional Time Template Section 520.1 of the School Code which provides flexibility to meet minimum instructional time requirements in the event of an emergency that prevents a school entity from providing for the attendance of all pupils or usual hours of classes at the school entity. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the School Reopening Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent and the Pandemic Planning team to reopen schools following the Blended Learning Model as outlined in our School Reopening Health and Safety Plan. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent to await further direction from PIAA regarding sports and congregate activities. This guidance is expected on Friday, August 21, 2020. Accordingly, the Acting Superintendent directs that all school sponsored practices and congregate activities not occur on campus or at any other venue or location during this time period. Upon further guidance from state officials and agencies, the Acting Superintendent may change or otherwise modify this directive. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area School District Education Association and the Pottsville Area School District to clarify if stipends for Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular positions shall be made during the 2020-2021 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Fall Coaches for the 2020-2021 season. **Coaches will be paid as long as sports are in session.**

FOOTBALL

Tom McGeoy, Head Coach	\$6,250.00
Kurt Eroh, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Jamie O'Brien, Assistant	\$3,400.00
Pete McDonald, Assistant	\$3,600.00
Rob Shaffer, Assistant	\$3,800.00
Rusty Yost, Assistant	\$3,000.00
Pete Kalinich, Assistant	\$4,200.00

Junior High-7th and 8th G

Mark Laubenstine, Head Coach	\$3,000.00
Lucas Bricker, Assistant	\$2,600.00

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Cody Blankenhorn \$2,600.00

CROSS COUNTRY

Kelly Lombel, Head Coach \$3,000.00

GOLF

Michael Anthony, Head Coach \$2,600.00

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Maria Sherakas, Head Coach \$4,361.00

Krista Varano, Assistant \$2,000.00

BOYS' SOCCER

Zachary Reichert, Head Coach \$3,800.00

David Sherry, Assistant \$2,200.00

GIRLS' SOCCER

Robert Stock, Head Coach \$5,300.00

Robert Evans, Assistant \$2,200.00

GIRLS' TENNIS

Adrian Portland, Head Coach \$2,600.00

CHEERLEADER ADVISORS

Melissa Recla, Head Varsity \$2,850.00

Jody Rutherford, Assistant \$2,000.00

Christine Matz, Head Jr. High \$1,600.00

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, and Mr. Quandel, Aye. Dr. Blankenhorn, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board appointed the following volunteer coaches for the 2020-2021 school year:

FOOTBALL

Tony Barone

Daniel Doyle

Scott Grochowski

Tyler Heffner

Anthony Kelly

Charlie Schuster

John Toomey
Butch Vandermeer

EQUIPMENT MANAGER
Charles Rinaldo

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL
Mike Puzauskie
Kendra Boris

BOYS' SOCCER
Ian Adams
Taylor Header

GIRLS' SOCCER
Eric Lord
Brian Spotts

JR. HIGH HEAD CROSS COUNTRY
Jennifer Brindle

CHEERLEADING
Crystal Reedy

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the extension of the Pepsi Beverages Company Agreement for five (5) years. Term of Agreement – July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Facilities and Grounds, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board rejected the bid for the Underground Storage Tank System Upgrades for reasons of non-conformance to the bid specifications. Bid Opening was August 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the contract between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Pediatric Physical Therapy LLC by Lynn M. Babbitt, MSPT for Physical Therapy Services for school year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Hourly rate - \$62.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the Tredegar Performance Films, Inc. Tax Assessment Appeal. The district would refund taxes over a period of five years to Tredegar. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the fee agreement with Levkolic Associates to assist the Pottsville Area School District with the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for Martz Hall and Pottsville High School Projects. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Blankenhorn and Mr. Quandel, Aye. Mr. Shields, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the 2020-2021 Non-public Title I Agreement between Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29. Term of Agreement – August 24, 2020 through June 4, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Behavioral Health Associates for the 2020-2021 school year. The contract between BHA and PASD shall only cover the services which are specifically requested and physically utilized by the district. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved Ms. Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager, as an authorized representative to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board extended the Business Privilege Tax (BPT) payment due date from May 15, 2020 to September 15, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the provision of Student Assistance Program Service between the Pottsville Area School District and Child and Family Services Inc. effective first day of August 2020 in order to serve students with emotional difficulties and/or alcohol and other drug problems. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the letter of agreement for the provision of Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) between the Pottsville Area School District and Safety Net Counseling, Inc., effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board accepted the resignation of Jacqueline Sherry, paraprofessional at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective July 16, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board accepted the Administration's recommendation to recall Kelly Boyer off of the furlough list and assign her to the open position of special education teacher. Ms. Boyer's current salary will remain at \$47,100, effective 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board accepted the Administration's recommendation to recall Michelle Goodman off the furlough list and assign her to the open position of PIMS secretary. Ms. Goodman's current salary will remain at \$20,000.00, retroactive to August 10, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved Madonna Hammer as the ACCESS Coordinator/Special Education Secretary at her current salary of \$29,299.25, effective August 19, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board rescinded the April 21, 2020 motion for employee #1385 for unpaid time off request for December 7-11, 2020 due to the pandemic. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved the FMLA for employee #274, effective August 25, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved the FMLA for employee #31, effective August 25, 2020.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Technology and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the charge of an annual technology fee of \$20.00 to Kindergarten through 4th grades beginning the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried. Mr. Urban noted that this is the first year that the elementary students are taking their iPads home thus the \$20.00 technology fee.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Curriculum and on motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following policies effective 2020-2021 school year:

- DHH Lengel Middle School Family Engagement Policy
- DHH Lengel Middle School Compact (remote)
- District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- JSC Family Engagement Policy
- JSC School Compact (remote)
- JSC Schoolwide Plan

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the Revenue Report for June 2020, which included local, state and federal sources. (Local Sources - \$2,419,818.08; State Sources - \$80,814.31; Federal/Other sources - \$.00. Total \$2,500,632.39). Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Blankenhorn and Mr. Quandel, Aye.

Under New Business:

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Salary & Benefits Report for July 2020 (2 payrolls): Total Salaries \$1,082,271.32; Total Employer share Retirement - \$371,268.42; Total Employer Share FICA - \$81,405.52; Total Employer Paid Insurance Benefits - \$523,950.75. Grand Total for July 2020 - \$2,058,896.01. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the use of Martz Hall Parking Lot on August 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the Schuylkill County Volunteer Firefighters Association as a staging area for a first responder's memorial parade. All will remain in their vehicles. Masks must be worn and social distancing will be followed. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr.

Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, and Dr. Blankenhorn, Aye. Mr. Quandel, Abstain.

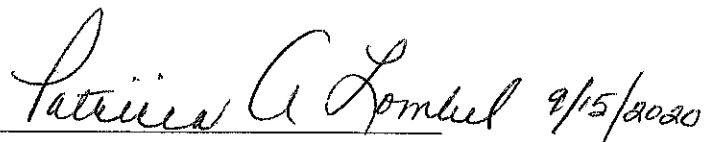
On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following 2020-2021 suppliers for the Pottsville Area School District Cafeterias:

- o Bedway – fresh fruit and vegetables
- o Varano – meat and cheese
- o Guers Dairy - milk supplier, 100% orange juice, iced tea, 20% orange drink, lemonade, and spring water.
- o Moribito Baking Co. – supplier for bread and baked goods with the option to purchase certain specialty rolls from an alternate vendor should these products not meet our standards.
- o Hershey's Ice Cream – ice cream products

Motion carried.

President Quandel announced that an Executive Session was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

 Patricia A. Lombel 9/15/2020

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary