

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
October 20, 2020
Academic Center/Zoom
7:10 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. John Freund,
Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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.

Mr. Moran said that the Board will meet for its regular monthly meeting on November 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Board meetings will now be the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr. Quandel asked if there were any Public Comments.

Ms. Linda Maley

Dear Dr. Gerace and Board members of the PASD, Last week parents of students were notified of a Covid case of a teacher in the high school. How is the school taking precautions with the students in the class that have been exposed to the said teacher? Are parents being notified individually as to whom the teacher was so we as parents can take precautions as well? Thank you for your time. Linda Maley.

On motion of Dr. Cardamone, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the August 11, 2020 Special Board Meeting, September 15, 2020 Board Minutes and September 24, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Since all members

received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Ms. Mason, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the following financial reports:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds)
2. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Revenue Report
3. General Fund condensed Board Summary Expenditure Report
4. Cafeteria Condensed Board Summary Report
5. Payment Summary – General Fund, Food Service
6. Ms. Budget Transfers

Ms. Mason noted that this is a new format for the financial reports.
Motion carried.

Under Solicitor's Report, Atty. John Freund was sitting in for Atty. Kevin Reid. The Board welcomed Atty. Freund. There was no solicitor's report this evening.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, 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:

Jacqueline Butz	-	3 Credits
Lisa Falkowski	-	3 Credits
Benjamin O'Brien	-	3 Credits
Lloren Reichert	-	3 Credits
Neil Johnson	-	3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the preapproval of credits indicated for the following Administrative employee: Caitlin Mohl. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the reimbursement as indicated for the following Administrative employee on successful completion of a preapproved credit courses: Caitlin Mohl - \$4,632.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following salary

adjustment be approved for Katelyn Reichard, effective beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the resignation of Nathan Halenar, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, in accordance with his letter submitted, effective October 9, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the agreement between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and the Pottsville Area School District for the provision of Special Education Services for the 2020-2021 school year. The amount of \$876,443 will be paid to the Intermediate Unit 29 in four (4) scheduled installments. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the agreement between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and the Pottsville Area School District for the 2020-2021 Title IIA Non-Public Programs and Services. Term of Agreement shall commence on September 1, 2020 and terminate when the 2020-2021 funds are expended. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the agreement between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and Pottsville Area School District for IDEA B funds. The estimated IDEA Allocation for the Pottsville Area School District is \$455,536. The funds are used to supplement special education and related services for eligible school aged children. Agreement shall commence July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the Sub-grant agreement between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and Pottsville Area School District IDEA-Section 619 Pass through Funds in the amount of \$6,060.00. Funds are used to support kindergarten eligible children, 5 years of age, either receiving special education services or remaining an extra year in Early Intervention. Term of Agreement: July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the Consulting Services Agreement

between the Eastern Lebanon County School District and the Pottsville Area School District for the EMS program at the high school. Consulting Fee for Services is \$5,000.00 which will be paid for by Lehigh Valley Health Network. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Cardamone, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Blankenhorn and Mr. Quandel, Aye. Mr. Moran, Abstain.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the renewal of lease agreement with First Choice Solutions for the Pitney Bowes equipment. Term of Agreement: 63 months. Monthly Amount of \$260.00 will remain the same as last agreement. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the following Repository Sales:

- Parcel 59-03-0196.000 – 203 Jackson St. Port Carbon - \$1.00
- Parcel 59-02-0279 – 318 North Coal Street. Port Carbon - \$1.00
- Parcel 59-03-0101.000 – 106 Market St. Port Carbon - \$1.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board accepted the following resignations:

1. Matthew Ditzler, custodian at DHH Lengel Middle School, effective September 17, 2020
2. Rosemary Kiehner, van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective September 17, 2020
3. Sherry Simons, cafeteria employee, effective October 5, 2020
4. Lily Seiders, paraprofessional at Pottsville Area High School, effective October 5, 2020
5. Madonna Hammer, ACCESS Coordinator/Special Education Secretary, effective, October 16, 2020

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 (#1).

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Joan Goodwin, cafeteria employee, effective November 20, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Patrick McGinley, custodian/dishwasher at Pottsville Area High School, effective September 25, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved Florence Berger as a bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$15.70, effective October 21, 2020. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved Danielle Boris as a substitute lunch aide and cafeteria employee, effective October 21, 2020 contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved an FMLA for employee #264, effective September 8, 2020. Motion carried.

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

- Employee # 1393 – cafeteria employee – effective August 31, 2020
- Employee # 1116 – cafeteria employee – effective August 31, 2020
- Employee #202 – cafeteria employee – effective August 31, 2020
- Employee #1018 – lunch aide – effective October 6, 2020
- Employee # 175 – lunch aide – effective October 6, 2020
- Employee #1318 – paraprofessional – August 30, 2020

Motion carried.

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

- Employee #1029 – lunch aide – September 18, 29 and October 1, 2020; October 18, 2020 through March 31, 2021
- Employee #537 – lunch aide – October 5, 2020
- Employee #1349 – lunch aide – September 18, 2020
- Employee #25 – lunch aide – September 3 thru 30, 2020
- Employee #1228 – lunch aide – September 8 thru 11, 21, 25, 2020
- Employee #283 – Reading aide – beginning November 2, 2020 thru TBD
- Employee #1473 – paraprofessional – October 6, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2020
- Employee #70 – paraprofessional – October 16, 2020
- Employee #1472 – ticket aid – October 6, 7, 2020

Motion carried.

Under Promotion, Public Relations and Social Media, Chairperson Ms. Wytovich congratulated Isabella Varano and Christian Honicker for being selected as October Rotary Students of the Month.

On the recommendation of the Technology Committee and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the renewal of the Color Printer Lease and Managed Print Program contract with Fraser Advanced Information Systems (formerly DocuSense). The district will realize a monthly saving of \$518.27 (annual savings \$6,219.24). Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Policy and Procedure Committee and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the 1st Reading of the following: Policy 006 – Board Procedures (Revised) and Policy 114.1 – Acceleration (Gifted). Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Labor Relations Committee and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Pottsville Area Educational Support Personnel Association, ESPA/PSEA/NWA and Pottsville Area School District. Term of Agreement: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Motion carried.

Legislation Chairperson, Mr. Moran noted that the state could have a \$5 billion shortfall due to COVID-19.

Dr. Cardamone, St. Clair Committee Chairperson, noted that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25, 2020.

On the recommendation of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Use of Facilities:

HS

- 1- High School Track and Weight Room October 31, 2020
Track and Weight Room 8:00 am-10:00 am
City of Pottsville Civil Service Commission
- 2- High School Cafeteria October 27, 2020 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Cross Country Pizza Party

AC

- 1- Boardroom November 7, 2020 8:00 am-1:00 pm
City of Pottsville Civil Service Commission

MS 1- Top of Martz Hall, Track Area

Cheer Practice

- 11/ 2, 11/3, 11/5 2020 4:30-6:30 pm
- 11/10, 11/12, 11/13 2020 4:30-6:30 pm
- 11/16, 11/17, 11/ 19 2020 4:30-6:30 pm
- 11/23, 11/24 2020 4:30-6:30 pm
- 12/1, 12/5, 12/6 2020 4:30-6:30 pm
- 12/8, 12/10 2020 4:30-6:30 pm

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, The Board approved the following Resolution:

“Resolve to formally oppose the actions of the Schuylkill County Commissioners in the acquisition of the former Giant Grocery Store property. The Pottsville Area School District is committed to retaining our current tax base, the overall economic development, and the education of our students. “

A signed resolution by President Quandel will be sent to the Schuylkill County Commissioners. Motion carried.

Dr. Gerace and Mrs. Mohl, Pandemic Coordinator, presented the following Powerpoint:

“Current-19 Impacts and Status of Phased return to Full In-Person Instruction”

Recent COVID-19 Changes

- Schuylkill County has recently seen a rise in positive COVID cases.
- Schuylkill County has moved from a moderate to substantial designation in community transmission for the week ending October 16, 2020.
- Schuylkill and Berks County Superintendents met with officials from Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health o Monday regarding this designation.

COVID-19 Cases by Day in Schuylkill County

Over a 7 day period cases have ranged from 20 cases on October 13, 2020, 41 cases on October 17, 2020 and 19 cases on October 19, 2020.

COVID-19 Data and Report by St. Luke's University Health Network

New cases per 100,000 in the last day for Schuylkill County – 27.5

New cases per 100,000 in the last 7 days in Schuylkill County - 152.0

New cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days in Schuylkill County – 249.8

Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most recent 7 days) – 107.7

Status of Phased Return to Full In-Person

Review of requirements to initiate phased return plan:

- Low moderate or low rate of transmission (<30 new cases/100,000 in the last 7 days)
- Percent positivity not to exceed 5%
- School community-specific cases maintained in the low range of moderate or decrease
- School- or district-specific student and/or staff cases do not exceed the Pennsylvania Department of Health's recommendations for closure

Currently, the **TRANSMISSION RATE** and **PERCENT POSITIVITY** exceed the requirements to initiate the phased return to full in-person.

PASD will remain in the current **BLENDED LEARNING MODEL** until there is a decrease.

Recommendations for Instructional Model

- Maintain current instructional model: **BLENDED LEARNING MODEL**
- District administration will continue to monitor COVID-19 data daily
- Pandemic Planning Team will meet to evaluate impacts of COVID-19 on our school community
- PASD will continue to communicate with families about changes

Important Health and Safety Reminders

- If your child has symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19, please keep them home and have them evaluated by a health care provider
- If you or your child are waiting for test results, your child must remain home until they are cleared to return
- Students and staff must wear a CDC-approved face-covering while in school and on school grounds
- Regular hand washing and sanitizing
- If a student is not able to attend in-person, remote participation is encouraged

Dr. Gerace noted that there was a positive case in the school community. Protocol was followed and the Department of Health was notified. Dr. Gerace said the district followed all recommendations; a full account of employee's movement was noted. Dr. Gerace said it is extremely important that social distancing is also maintained outside of the school setting.

Dr. Gerace recommendation is, "There will not be a return to school for full four (4) days. It will be postponed for two (2) weeks. Data will be monitored and all safety protocols will be observed."

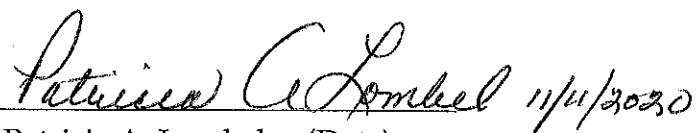
Mr. Moran thanked the committee for their appropriate handling of information that is all within guidelines.

Mr. Quandel said it is important to get the students back to school safely.

Mr. Shields stated that on behalf of the Board of Directors, sincere condolences were offered for the loss of a recent Pottsville Area High School graduate.

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. Shields, seconded by Mr. Moran, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

 Patricia A. Lombel 11/11/2020

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary