

**POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING**

**July 14, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

1. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Statement

- A reminder to 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. If members of the public wish to make public comments, then they must do so in person. The meeting will be available online.
- 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](mailto: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 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.**

2. Public Comment - Are there any public comments at this time?

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the June 9, 2021 Board meeting minutes.

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

4. Financial Reports – Mrs. Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager

**Approval of Financial Reports as of July 14, 2021**

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

**Mrs. Mason would like a motion to approve as recommended.**

5. Unfinished Business

6. Donations

7. Solicitor's Report - Kevin Reid, Attorney at Law

8. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Sarah Yoder

**It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board approve the following items as listed:**

- It is recommended, as in the past, that the Superintendent be authorized to approve conferences, field trips, and staff development activities for the 2021-2022 school year, based on the recommendation of the building principals and the policies pertaining to conferences, field trips, and budget allocations.
  
- It is recommended that the 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:

• Gregory Schuettler	-	3 Credits
• Donna Skosnick	-	6 Credits

- It is recommended that 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:

▪ Paula Jones	-	\$1,695.00
▪ Gregory Schuettler	-	\$1,548.00

- It is recommended that the following Administrative employee be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses:

▪ Tiffany Hummel	-	\$3,120.00
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- It is recommended that the following list of personnel be elected as Lead Teachers and Extracurricular Advisors at the stipend indicated for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA.

- Approval is recommended for the 2021-2022 school year for the dental examiners whose names appear on the list. It should be noted that the dental examiners are not limited to this list and additional applications for placement are welcome.
- It is recommended that Dr. Matthew Sophy be reappointed Physician in charge of certifying student's Individualized Educational Programs at a rate of \$3.00 per evaluation.
- It is recommended that the following professional employee be excused from her employment duties to serve as a juror in the Schuylkill Court of Common Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA: Melissa Yoder - Thursday, August 19, 2021.
- It is recommended that the following salary adjustments be approved and become effective for the 2021-2022 school year:

Neil Johnson	-	Master's +15
Jennifer Lipton	-	Doctorate

- Recommendation to continue the Relaxed Dress Code with further review of the overall dress code in the 2021-2022 school year. The difference between the Original Dress Code and the Relaxed Dress Code is that students are not required to wear collared shirts. All other dress code aspects apply for the 2021-2022 school year. We greatly appreciate all of the survey submissions from students, parents/guardians and staff as well as the thoughtful reasons to support their perspectives. We look forward to gathering additional feedback about other topics this summer and during the school year.

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

## **INFORMATION**

- C-Tide Foundation
- Federal Programs

### 9. Committee Reports

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities - Mr. Craig Shields

**ACTION** Facilities and Grounds - Mr. Jerome Urban

**It is recommended by the Facilities and Grounds Committee that the Board approve the following item as listed:**

1. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Administration to award the contract for the Metal Panel Roofing and Wall Elastomeric Coating Project at Martz Hall (“Project”) to the low bidder C&D Waterproofing. The contract shall include the following base bid and accepted alternate.
  1. Base Bid: \$440,000      2. Alternate 1: \$80,000

Funding for the Project to be provided by the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant on a reimbursement basis.

The Board will be asked to approve either #3, #4 or #5 through the change order process to the Contract as the sample installations will occur after contract award.
2. It is recommended that the Board authorize the Board Secretary to advertise for proposals for no-lead gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

Transportation – Mrs. Ashley DeWitt

**ACTION** Finance – Dr. Ann Blankenhorn

**It is recommended by the Finance Committee that the Board approve the following Finance items as listed:**

1. The Board hereby amends its motion passed by the Board on May 19, 2021 to correct the PDE allocation amount for gambling tax refunds from \$704,521 to \$704,537. Accordingly, the motion previously adopted is amended to reflect the language as more fully stated below. **Motion to approve as recommended.**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of School Directors of the Pottsville Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2021, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.**  
The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2021:
  - a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$704,537.
2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:
  - a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 4,475.



3. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Behavioral Health Associates for services for the 2021-2022 school year. BHA will only cover the services which are specifically requested and physically utilized by PASD.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve the Service Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Chester County Intermediate Unit. The CCIU will provide sessions for middle school ELA teachers with focused learning in validity, reliability and alignment and creating performance-based assessments. Date of Services: August 3, 2021 and Marking Periods 1, 2, 3 (Dates TBD). Cost for travel, preparation and delivery of professional development - \$3,250.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve the Addendum to the Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and ESS Northeast, LLC for the services of Substitute Teachers and Staff. The agreement will be modified effective July 1, 2021.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve the contract between Progressive Pediatric Therapy, LLC and Pottsville Area School District for Occupation Therapy Services at an hourly rate of \$69.00. Term of Contract: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
7. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit and Schuylkill County AVTS Operating Agency and the Pottsville Area School District for participation in the Child Nutrition Program. This program provides students with services authorized by the National School Lunch Program, National School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program and/or the Special Milk Program under Traditional Menu Planning Option. The Term of Agreement: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area School District Education Association and the Pottsville Area School District to establish compensation for virtual learning in the Pottsville Area School District beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.
9. It is recommended that the Board approve the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement. The agreement is effective for the July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 program year and will remain in effect for subsequent program years unless the District discontinues participation in the Policy Maintenance Program.
10. It is recommended that the Board approve a contract between the Pottsville Area School District and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 for a Special Education Emergency Certified teacher at an hourly cost of \$25.00. Services will occur on schedule Extended School Year days beginning July 8 through July 29, 2021.
11. It is recommended that the Board approve the Repository Sale - Parcel # 53-01-0012.000 located at 66 Main Street, Mount Carbon Borough. Purchase Price - \$1,899.
12. It is recommended that the Board approve the breakfast, lunch and milk prices for students and adults for the 2021-2022 school year. Prices will remain the same as the 2020-2021 school year. There will be an increase for adult meals.

	Lunch Prices:	Breakfast Prices:
Elementary Student	\$2.60	\$1.60
Secondary Student	\$2.65	\$1.65
Adult	\$4.00 (increased from \$3.90)	\$2.80 (increased from \$2.75)
Extra Milk	\$ .70	\$ .70
Reduced **	\$ .40	\$ .30

\*\* Pricing of meals are mandated by the Equity in School Meal Pricing set by the USDA. Reduced meal prices are set by the government. Adult prices are set by PDE.

13. It is recommended that the Board approve the following amendments be made to the 2021-2022 Budget:

**ESSER III - ARP ESSER (ESSER III)**

**Revenue**

\$9,270 10-8744-000-990-00-000-000-0000 ARP ESSER (ESSER III)

**Expense**

\$9,270 10-1110-650-990-20-000-000-000-0000 REG PROG SUPPLIES/FEES TECH - ESSER III

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

**ACTION** Personnel – Mrs. Ashley Dewitt

**It is recommended by the Personnel Committee that the Board approve the following Personnel items as listed:**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve Donald (Bo) Ditzler as Supervisor of Facilities and Grounds, retroactive to July 1, 2021 with a 2021-2022 salary of \$87,000. Mr. Ditzler was previously Acting Supervisor of Facilities and Grounds for Pottsville Area School District.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve Dr. Jared Gerace’s 2021-2022 salary of \$104,154, retroactive to July 1, 2021. Dr. Gerace is the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Pottsville Area School District.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the following 2021-2022 salary increase for the members of the Act 93 Agreement, retroactive to July 1, 2021:
  - Eleanor Aschman - \$5,000 due to a change in responsibilities
  - Kelly Brennan - \$5,000 due to a change in responsibilities
  - All other Act 93 members - \$2,225
4. It is recommended that the following be elected as Temporary/Professional Employees subject to the assignment of the Superintendent and set their salaries effective August 18, 2021 pending the submission of all appropriate paperwork.
  - Savannah Cole ( Music) – Step 5-Bachelors+15 - \$49,600
  - Julie Drummer (4<sup>th</sup> grade) – Step 7 - Bachelors - \$43,000.
  - Corey Keener (Health & Phys Educ) – Step 2 Bachelors+15 - \$48,100
  - Rachael Metzinger (Speech and Language Pathologist) at Step 1–Master’s - \$49,600
  - Tayah Moore (1st grade) – Step 1-Bachelors - \$41,000

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the following mentors: Kristyn Blum, 1<sup>st</sup> grade lead teacher as mentor to Tayah Moore; Jennifer Brindle, 4<sup>th</sup> grade lead teacher as mentor to Julie Drummer and Kim Steigerwalt as a mentor to Rachel Metzinger.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve a sabbatical leave of absence from August 25, 2021 through January 12, 2022 for restoration of health per Board Policy #438 for employee #589.
7. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Timothy Firestone, Sr., custodian at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective July 5, 2021.
8. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation for retirement from Janine Roth. Mrs. Roth's last day at the District will be September 30, 2021. We are grateful for Mrs. Roth's dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish her well in her retirement.
9. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Caitlin Mohl as Pandemic Coordinator for the Pottsville Area School District, effective July 14, 2021.
10. It is recommended that the Board approve Dr. Jared Gerace as Pandemic Coordinator for the Pottsville Area School District, effective July 15, 2021.
11. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 334, 434 and 534:
  - Employee #450 – lunch aide – June 4, 2021
12. It is recommended that the Board approve the following positions to be advertised which will be paid by Federal "ESSER III Learning Loss" funds. Prior to the expiration of ESSER III funding period, Administration will present the Board with a recommendation as to whether the positions should continue to be supported and renewed considering as factors the relevant academic and budgetary condition of the District.
  - STEM teacher at JSC
  - Social Worker at DHHL
  - Graduation Coach with a focus at PAHS

If a current PASD employee is the successful candidate for any position, permission to advertise is granted for consequent anticipated opening(s).

13. It is recommended that the Board approve the following position be advertised which will be paid by State "Level Up" funds: Full-time 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

If a current PASD employee is the successful candidate, permission to advertise is granted for the consequent anticipated opening.

14. It is recommended that the Board appoint Stacy Stair as the Business Manager of Pottsville Area School District for a term commencing August 9, 2021 and ending July 31, 2024 at a beginning annual salary of \$100,000 pending the completion of necessary paperwork. (ROLL CALL).

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

Promotion, Public Relations & Social Media – Ms. Linda Wytovich

Good Citizenship Awards

Each year Senator David G. Argall recognizes two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that exemplify the qualities of good citizenship through the display of outstanding character, leadership, and scholarship. Eighth grade teachers nominated a total of 10 students to be considered for this award. All DHHL faculty members voted to select the recipients. The 2021 Senator David G. Argall Good Citizenship Awards were presented to Lauren Kelly and Ryan March during the 8<sup>th</sup> grade awards assembly on June 8, 2021.

Upcoming Events

- Freshman and New Student Orientation – Thursday, August 12, 2021 – Last names beginning A-L at 6:00 PM in the High School.
- Freshman and New Student Orientation – Tuesday, August 17, 2021 - Last names beginning M-Z at 6:00 PM in the High School.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade and New Student Orientation – Wednesday, August 4, 2021 and Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Families will receive an email to sign up for their preferred orientation session
- DHHL school picture day will be on Friday, September 3, 2021  
Pottsville High School picture day will be on Wednesday, September 1, 2021  
John S. Clarke Elementary picture day will be Monday, August 30, 2021

Technology – Mr. Jerome Urban

**ACTION Curriculum – Dr. Michael Cardamone**

**It is recommended by the Curriculum Committee that the Board approve the following Curriculum item as listed:**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the new Discovery Education Science Program for the DHH Lengel Middle School. The cost of the virtual three (3) year science program is \$19,950, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

Policy and Procedure – Dr. Christina DiCello

Food Services – Dr. Michael Cardamone

Labor Relations – Mr. Jerome Urban

10. **Information Board Member Reports**

1. Legislation – Mr. Patrick Moran
2. IU 29 Representative – Dr. Michael Cardamone
3. St. Clair Committee – Dr. Michael Cardamone
4. PSBA Representative – Dr. Ann Blankenhorn

11. **New Business**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Use of Facilities:

**16th Street Sports Complex**

1- **Softball Field**

3Sixty Fitness LLC

Softball Camp

7/17/2021 and 7/18/2021 11:50am-3:00pm

**HS**

1-**HS Band Room**

PAHS Percussion

5:00pm-7:30pm on the following dates for the 2021-2022 school year:

5/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21,  
10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 12/2, 12/9; 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3,  
2/10, 2/17, 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/26

**HS**

2-**HS Wachter Auditorium**

HS Drama Fall and Spring Performances

11/13/2021 5:00PM-10:00PM

11/14/2021 12:00PM-5:00PM

4/1/2022 4:00PM-11:00PM

4/2/2022 4:00PM-11:00PM

4/3/2022 11:00AM-6:30PM

2- **HS Little Theater**

Booster Clubs and Coaches Meeting

August 4, 2021 5:00PM-7:00PM

**MS**

1-**Martz Hall Gym**

-College Fair

10/06/2021 2:30PM-4:00PM

10/07/2021 7:30AM-12:00PM

-Rite Aid vaccine distribution

July 27, 2021 and August 17, 2021

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Pottsville Area School District Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year. The District notified parents/guardians through Skylert about the opportunity to participate in the Health and Safety Plan meeting. The Health and Safety Plan was reviewed by the Pandemic Planning Team

and parent representatives on June 29, 2021 and has been posted on the District's website to invite public comment.

**Motion to approve as recommended.**

3. Taryn Dragna was appointed as Tax Collector for the City of Pottsville, effective July 1, 2021 due to the retirement of Ellen Micka.
12. Announcement of Executive Session
13. Adjournment - **Motion to adjourn as recommended.**