

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Board Meeting
September 8, 2021
DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium
7:00 PM

Present: Dr. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone,
Mrs. Dewitt. Dr. DiCello, Mr. Moran,
Mr. Quandel, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban,
Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent;
Mrs. Stair, Business Manager; Mrs. Lombel,
Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary;
Atty. Reid, Solicitor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Noble Quandel.

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 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.**

The first comment was from Mr. Dave Swirsky. He was wondering how the solar panels are doing. Mr. Quandel noted that an update on the solar panels is scheduled for the next meeting.

Victoria Wilson noted that she was impressed with the school's Health and Safety Plan. Ms. Wilson also understood that the Department of Health mandate supersedes any

questions about masking. Ms. Wilson also noted that other districts have deviated from the mask mandate. Some schools are allowing exception forms for students who cannot wear masks.

Heather Stefan had asked why virtual classes were not set up for the children that were quarantined and then had to be quarantined again. Ms. Stefan said it is not fair for the children because they end up getting behind in their classwork. She noted that the school should go back to hybrid.

Jennifer, another parent, is concerned about the wearing of masks and asked if it is safe for children to wear them all day. She also agreed with the other comments.

Mary Alice McHugh feels like the choice has been taken away from parents and would like the district to reconsider about wearing masks.

Marlene Hohman is concerned with children's mental health. Ms. Hohman said the masks were not made to be worn all day.

Mr. Quandel thanked everyone for their comments.

On motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the August 11, 2021 Board Meeting. Since all members received copies, and there being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Stair, Business Manager, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of August 2021:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Checking as of August 31, 2021 - \$9.7 million.
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. Budget Transfers – No Budget Transfers

Motion carried.

Mr. Moran reported that the \$625.00 donation from Crimson Tide Foundation was for student incentives at the Rite Aid Vaccine Clinic held at Martz Hall. The District thanked the Crimson Tide Foundation for their generous donation.

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

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, 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:

Alicia Fehr – 3 credits

Neil Johnson – 6 credits

Paula Jones – 3 credits

Kelly Lombel – 6 credits

Ashley Shappell – 3 credits

Anya Wood – 3 credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Urban, 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 - \$3,096.00

Cody Blankenhorn - \$3,096.00

Kimberly Edling - \$300.00

Alicia Fehr - \$1,566.00

Katrina Greenawalt - \$1,548.00

Cara Kelly - \$1,548.00

Jeremiah Lynn - \$3,096.00

Peter McDonald - \$300.00

Crystal Pugh - \$300.00

Kara Ryan - \$300.00

Gregory Schuettler - \$1,548.00

Ashley Shappell - \$1,548.00

Donna Skosnick - \$909.00

Anya Wood - \$1,566.00

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 Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the following salary adjustments be approved and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2011-2022 school year:

Michael Anthony – Master’s

Christopher Kovaleski – Bachelor’s +15

Peter McDonald – Master’s +15

Donna Skosnick – Master’s +15

Motion carried.

Pending the defined roles and description approved by the Board, and on motion of Dr. Cardamone seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board appointed the following students as Jr. Board Members of the Pottsville Area School District: Angelina Madonna and Zowie Zokuskie for the duration of the students’ junior year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved Gregory Schuettler as the Aquatics Director for the 2021-2022 school year at an annual stipend of \$4,400. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Facilities and Grounds and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved the Change Order #1 (Alternate 3) for the Metal Panel Roofing and Wall Elastomeric Coating Project at Martz Hall. C & D Waterproofing (the Low Bidder) will furnish and install Poly-1 Reinforcement Fabric with **brush applied** AF-315 Fibrated Sealer at all “knuckle” transitions. Cost of change order - \$20,000. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Facilities and Grounds and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board approved the agreement with Edwin L. Heim Company to upgrade Systems Software from Enterprise Buildings Integrator R410 to R600 and migration to a new server, which is provided by Pottsville Area School District. Cost for upgrade: \$21,063. Upgrade will be paid out of ESSER II Federal Funds. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved Mrs. Stacy Stair, 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. Moran, the Board approved a Repository Sale for Parcel No.: 68-07-0099.000 located at 456 Nicholas Street, Pottsville, PA. Purchase Price - \$1,077.00. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the Resolution that authorizes Dr. Sarah Yoder, Superintendent, to sign any and all electronic contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the contract for professional services between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Pediatric Physical Therapy LLC – Lynn M. Babbitt, MSPT for Physical Therapy Services. Hourly rate is \$62.00 and will be increased to \$65.00/hour, effective December 31, 2021. Term of Contract: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved the agreement between the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Non-Member School District/Charter School and the Pottsville Area School District for Special Education Services, retroactive to September 1, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved a 36 month renewal with Direct Energy, the District's gas supplies, at a rate of 3.5480 with a 10% increase or decrease for a potential savings of \$40,590, effective January 1, 2022. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board approved HealthEquity for the Pottsville Area School District's HSA (Health Savings Account) and FSA (Flexible Spending Account), the District's current providers due to changes in services with Capital Blue Cross. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Dawn Leigh, Transportation Aide at the Pottsville Area School District, effective August 11, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Kalyn Hinkle, paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective August 11, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board accepted the letter of resignation from Taylor Mercuri, substitute paraprofessional, effective August 17, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the contracted \$.50/hour increase for Colleen Coulson above her 2021-2022 hourly rate. Ms. Coulson was hired as a part-time cafeteria worker at the August 11, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the adjustment of the annual salary for Renee Weismiller from \$16,000 to \$23,034.38. Ms. Weismiller was hired as a full-time cook at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center at the August 11, 2021 Board Meeting. Ms. Weismiller has been employed by the District for ten (10) years as a part-time employee with a current rate of \$16.25. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved Nicole Lukach as a part-time cafeteria worker at the DHH Lengel Middle School at an hourly rate of \$11.25, retroactive to August 23, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved Erica Berger as a Transportation Aide at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective September 9, 2021 contingent upon submission of all required paperwork. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the following ACHIEVE teachers at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center for the 2021-2022 school year: Debbie Lecker and Heather Martin. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved Mr. Joseph Martin for the 2021-2022 school year as a 6th Grade Science Teacher at the DHH Lengel Middle School – Step 1 – Bachelor's - \$41,000, effective August 18, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved Patricia Zimmerman as a mentor for Mr. Joseph Martin. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved a contract with Jennifer Brant to serve as the DHH Lengel Certified Counselor – Master’s degree - \$43,750. Term of Contract: the first day of In-service through the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year, effective August 13, 2021, pending release from her current employer and contingent upon submission of all required paperwork. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board elected Mrs. Leandra Maley as an Assistant Director of Dramatics (Choreographer) for the 2021-2022 school year at a stipend of \$700.00 in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved a contract with Ms. Kaitlyn Leffler to serve as the DHH Lengel Middle School ISS Monitor at an annual salary of \$20,000. Term of Contract: August 18, 2021 through the last day of the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area School District Education Association and the Pottsville Area School District to recognize years of seniority for Kimberly O’Brien, effective September 8, 2021 pending solicitor’s review. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved the advertisement for the position of Benefits Specialist/Bookkeeper. Salary will commensurate with education and experience. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved an FMLA for Employee #440, effective August 24, 2021. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved an increase to the substitute nurse pay to \$125 per day. Motion carried.

Under Promotion, Public Relations and Social Media, Chairperson Ms. Wytovich announced the following:

Congratulations to the following band officers for being elected for the 2021-2022 school year:

President, Tanya Johnson

Vice-President, Vanessa Biddle

Secretary, Elena Martinko

Treasurer, Evan Vidal

Librarian, Crystal Mease

Equipment Managers: Yseult Barbedette and Sydney Gerhard

Drum Majors, Logan Miscannon and Madelyn Strauss

Flag Captains: Kaylee Becker, Emilee Rose and Alyssa Sheriff

Cheerleader Captains: Caitlyn Corby, Grace Murphy and Jadyn Wagner

Majorette Captains: Vaness Biddle and Caroline Gist

Coach Kevin Keating was honored as Pottsville's winningest football coach on August 21, 2021. We are grateful to the Crimson Tide Football Club and Barefield for the celebration that players from many decades came together to reminisce. Coach Keating was also recognized at the September 3, 2021 Football Game against Wyomissing at Veteran's Memorial Stadium.

Ms. Wytovich announced the Upcoming Events:

Back to School Nights

September 15, 2021 JSC

September 7, 2021 DHHL

September 2, 2021 PAHS

October 2, 2021 SAT's at PAHS

October 7, 2021 Regional College Fair at Martz Hall for High School Juniors and Seniors

October 11, 2021 Teachers' In-Service Day

October 13, 2021 PSAT testing for Juniors at PAHS

October 25, 2021 Picture Re-Takes – All Schools

Under PSBA Representative, Dr. Blankenhorn recommended that the Board vote for the following PSBA Members seeking election.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board voted for Sabrina Backer, Franklin Area School District as President – Elect. This is a one year term. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, and on motion of Dr. DiCello, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board voted for Allison Mathis, North Hills School District as Vice President. This is a one year term. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board voted for Edward Brown, Upper Darby School District as East Zone Representative. This is a three year term. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board voted for the following three candidates as Trustees. The term ends December 31, 2024: Richard Frerichs, PSBA Past President; William LaCoff, PSBA Past President and Nathan Mains, PSBA CEO. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Blankenhorn, and on motion of Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Shields, the Board voted for the following Forum Steering Committee, which is a two year term and ends December 31, 2023:

Jennifer Davidson – Manheim Township School District

Bethanne Ziegler – Shikellamy School District

Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky – Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Motion carried.

The Board Secretary will register votes on behalf of the school entity.

Under New Business the following were approved:

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. DiCello, the Board approved the following Use of Facilities:

Pottsville Area High School

1. HS Little Theater

Crimson Aide Meeting

7:00PM – 8:00PM on the following dates

9/13, 10/1, 12/6/2021 and 3/28/2022

2. High School Main Entrance/Lobby

Pottsville Cheer Booster

Cheer Camp Sign-Ups

9/9/2021 5:45PM-8:15PM

3 High School Cafeteria

Cross Country Fundraiser Distribution

September 30, 2021 3:00PM-5:00PM

4 High School Cafeteria

Cross Country End of Season Pizza Party

October 14, 2021 5:30PM-7:00PM

DHH Lengel Middle School

1. Middle School Cafeteria

Band Banquet

2/1/2022 1:00PM-8:00PM

2. Middle School Cafeteria, Halls, Display Areas, Lobby, Library

District Art Show

May 13, 2022 6:00PM-9:00PM

3. Middle School Cafeteria

DHH Lengel PTO Meeting

9/16/2021 6:00PM

10/7/2021 6:30PM

4. Middle School Auditorium

Beginning Band Meeting

September 14, 2021 5:00PM-8:00PM

5. Middle School Auditorium

The Brain Show Title I and PBIS

September 30, 2021 8:00AM-8:00PM

John S. Clarke Elementary Center

1. JSC Cafeteria

JSC PTO Meeting

9/14/2021 6:00PM-7:00PM

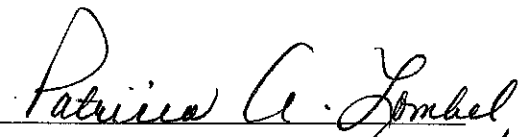
All events must follow the Department of Health Mask Mandates.

Face Coverings must be worn in all buildings.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Lombel announced that an executive session was held this evening for personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Moran, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Patricia A. Lombel (Date) 10/13/2021
Board Secretary