

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Reorganization Board Meeting December 8, 2021 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 PM	Present:	Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Stair, Business Manager; Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary; Atty. Reid, Solicitor; Zowie Zokuskie, Jr. Board Member
	Absent:	Angela Madonna, Jr. Board Member

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The Reorganization Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-President Dr. Ann Blankenhorn.

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.**

Public Comment from **Mrs. Lillian Hobbs**, teacher, parent, alumna and taxpayer: Mrs. Hobbs, who works at the reading center at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center and a former librarian at the Pottsville Area High read the following statement:

“Imagine teachers in a school trying to teach their students critical thinking and communication skills without a school library. It’s even harder to imagine creating 21<sup>st</sup> century independent learners – students prepared for college and the workplace – without a school library. Yet throughout Pennsylvania, many students don’t have to imagine learning in a school without a library or librarian; it is their reality. Funding for school libraries and for school librarians can be among the first reductions made when budgets are cut. Many K-12 students do not have the opportunities to learn from a certified school librarian or reap the benefits of access to a well-resourced library with appropriate technologies. As state funding cuts for public schools continue, these inequities grow, in Pennsylvania and throughout the country. The research findings presented provide clear and consistent evidence of the incredible impact school library resources and personnel have on student achievement, and the findings make a definitive case for building strong libraries in every public school throughout Pennsylvania”.

Mr. Adrian Portland, teacher and President of the Pottsville Area School District Education Association welcomed the new Board members. Mr. Portland also agreed with Mrs. Hobbs about the importance of having a Library program at the District. Mr. Portland said it was absolutely necessary for students to be competitive academically.

Dr. Blankenhorn thanked Mrs. Hobbs and Mr. Portland for their comments.

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

The Secretary continued by reading the following notice of the meeting that was sent to all Board members, Superintendent, Solicitor and advertised in the Pottsville Republican on November 14, 2021.

In compliance with Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code of the State of Pennsylvania, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District will meet in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of accepting the Certificates of Election of the School Directors who were elected in November 2021; and for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; and also for general purposes.

Mr. Shields nominated Dr. Blankenhorn as Temporary President, seconded by Ms. Wytovich. Motion carried.

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

On the motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Dr. Cardamone, the Board approved Dr. Blankenhorn as the Temporary President. Dr. Blankenhorn, Temporary President, proceeded with the Reorganization Meeting. Motion carried.

Dr. Blankenhorn accepted the Certificates of Election from the new Directors.

The Oath of Office was administered to the new Board Directors by Schuylkill County President Judge William E. Baldwin. The new Directors are: Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan, Mr. Harry Ciavarella and Mr. Jerome Urban. The new Directors will serve for a four (4) year term.

The Oath of Office was administered to Mr. Bob Thomas, new Board Director, by District Magistrate Judge James K. Reiley. Mr. Thomas will serve for a four (4) year term.

Congratulations were extended to the new Board of Directors.

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

Mr. Shields nominated Dr. Cardamone to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, nominations for President were closed.

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

Congratulations were extended to Dr. Cardamone on his election as President of the School Board.

Dr. Cardamone proceeded with the election of a Vice President.

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

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the nominations for Vice President were closed.

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

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

An Executive Session was announced by Mrs. Lombel:

In accordance with Act 84 of 1986, Sunshine Act, an Executive Session with the Board as a whole at this meeting is hereby announced for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

After the Executive Session Dr. Cardamone continued with the meeting and asked if anyone had any public comments. Hearing none, Mrs. Lombel announced that the Board will continue to meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month for Regular Board Meetings except May's meeting for Year 2022. The May meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022 due to timing of Final Budget approval.

On the motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board authorized the Board Secretary to advertise the Board Meetings for Year 2022. Motion carried.

On motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the November 10, 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 November 2021:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of November 30, 2021- \$12,996,993.22; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of November 30, 2021 - \$324,681.50.
2. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Revenue Report - General Fund condensed Board Summary Expenditure Report
3. Cafeteria Condensed Board Summary Report
4. Payment Summary – General Fund, Food Service
5. Budget Transfers – No Budget Transfers

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Atty. Reid, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following Discipline Waivers, effective December 8, 2021:

- #275947
- #278296
- #236233

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the Superintendent's preapproval of credits indicated for the following professional employee(s) be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Kendra Boris - 3 credits

Jennifer Brant - 6 credits

Emily Earley - 3 credits

Alicia Fehr - 3 credits

Tracy James - 3 credits

Neil Johnson - 3 credits

Kelly Lombel - 6 credits

Gregory Schuettler - 3 credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved the Superintendent's preapproval of credits indicated for the following administrative employee: Kelly Brennan – 3 credits. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following salary adjustment and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year: Kelly Boyer – Master's Equivalency. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following professional employee be excused from his employment duties to serve as a juror in the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA: Cody Blankenhorn - beginning, Friday, January 14, 2022. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Ms. Wytovich, Aye. Dr. Blankenhorn, Abstain.

Under the Crimson Tide Foundation, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent, congratulated the following teachers for being awarded a Teacher Venture Grant from the Crimson Tide Foundation:

**Deborah Lecker** - High interest books for special education students - \$266.20  
**Kindergarten Teachers** - "Heidi Songs" - songs and videos that teach reading, writing and alphabetic principles - \$275.94  
**Second Grade Teachers** - 6 packs of 25 headsets and 2 packs of 12 fidget chair bands - \$428.72  
**4th Grade Teachers** - 4th Grade Zoo Trip - \$1,000.00  
**9th Grade Gettysburg Field Trip** - \$1,000.00  
**Maria Malek** - Virtual Shakespeare Festival Competition - \$1,000.00  
**11th Grade Ellis Island and Liberty Island Trip** - \$1,000.00

Under Federal Programs, The District was notified on December 6, 2021 that its allocation for ARP – Homeless Children and Youth has been decreased from \$48,741 to \$31,719.

On the recommendation of the **Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Committee** and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following:

-Accepted the resignation of Zach Hogan as 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach due to work commitments. Mr. Hogan will remain as a volunteer.

-Approved Brett Ennis as 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$2,400, effective immediately contingent upon receipt of all completed paperwork. Mr. Ennis was previously a volunteer.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Finance Committee** and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following:

- Approved the service agreement between Chester County Intermediate Unit and Pottsville Area School District for professional development sessions in Student Engagement. The sessions will be held on the in-service day on January 17, 2022. Cost for services: \$3,500 (*funded through the A-TSI grant*).

- Approved the contract between Coal Region Consulting and Investigations LLC and Pottsville Area School District, effective December 9, 2021 pending solicitors' approval.  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Personnel Committee** and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following:

-Accepted the letter of resignation from Lilly Seiders, substitute paraprofessional, effective November 4, 2021.

-Accepted the letter of resignation from John Zuratt, security officer for the Pottsville Area School District, effective November 15, 2021.

-Accepted the letter of resignation from Irene Miller, transportation aide for the Pottsville Area School District. Ms. Miller's last day of work was October 29, 2021.

-Accepted the letter of retirement from Dianne Dougherty, Director of Technology. Mrs. Dougherty's last day of work will be March 11, 2022. We are grateful for Mrs. Dougherty's dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish her well in her retirement.

-Approved the non-FMLA for employee #1516, retroactive to November 11, 2021.

-Approved the FMLA for employee #305, effective December 6, 2021.

-Approved the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 339,439,539:

- Employee #1349 - lunch aide - November 9, 2021
- Employee #537 - lunch aide - November 16, 2021
- Employee #1483 - lunch aide - November 17, 22, 30, 2021

-Approved Katelyn Reichard to serve as mentor for Nathaniel Libby, JSC Music Teacher who was hired November 10, 2021.

-Approved Erica Berger as a van driver at an hourly rate of \$10.70, retroactive to November 3, 2021. Ms. Berger was previously a transportation aide for the District.

-Approved Linda Andrews as a van driver at an hourly rate of \$12.24, effective November 9, 2021. Ms. Andrews was previously a bus driver for the District.

-Accepted the letter of resignation from Tegan Shirk, bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District. Ms. Shirk's last day was November 24, 2021.

-Approved the following lifeguards for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$9.00/\$10.00:

- Hannah Kruppenbach, retroactive to November 19, 2021
- Henry Mohl, effective December 9, 2021 - contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork
- Nicholas Englert, effective December 9, 2021 - contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork

-Approved Kaleigh Sibbett as a substitute paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$11.25, effective December 20, 2021.

-Approved the following teachers to plan and /or teach with the afterschool tutoring program, at an hourly rate of \$32.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA. The afterschool tutoring program will be funded through the ESSER II Grant.

- Kelly Lombel
- Heather McDonald

Motion carried.

-Approved a sabbatical leave of absence for the 2nd Semester (2021-2022 School Year) for restoration of health per Board Policy #438 for employee #589. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

Under Promotion, Public Relations and Social Meeting, Ms. Wytovich read the following:

1. Congratulations to Mr. Andrew Smink, for being selected as Teacher of the Month after being nominated by a student. Farmers Insurance in Mahanoy City sponsors the program and gave Mr. Smink \$100 in classroom supplies of his choice.
2. Congratulations to seniors, Kaylee Becker and Taylor Welsh, for being selected as December Rotary Students of the Month. They were honored at a luncheon on December 1st, at Vito's Coal Fired Pizza, accompanied by Dr. Yoder.
3. Congratulations to senior, Taylor Welsh who was selected as the 2021-2022 PAHS Female Scholar Athlete.
4. Congratulations to Faith Eckley who was named as the Pottsville Area High School DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen. Faith along with six seniors were nominated by the faculty and staff for the dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The senior class then voted for their top choice. Faith will now go on to compete for the state and hopefully, a national title.
5. Thank you to Abby Weaver from Pressed Coffee and Books for collaborating with PASD on the Thanks-A-Latte raffle.

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members whose names were drawn for the \$20 Pressed Coffee and Books gift cards:

Jeff Smith – Teacher at PAHS  
Mary McGinley – Teacher at JSC  
Daniel Dubbs – Substitute Teacher at PAHS  
Melissa Petrozino – Bus Driver  
Katelynn Miller – Teacher at DHHL  
Lisa Holobetz – Teacher at DHHL  
Karen Runkle – Paraprofessional at DHHL  
Robin Kalinich – Cafeteria Manager at DHHL

Cody Blankenhorn – Teacher at DHHL

Amy Rubinkam – Teacher at JSC

We appreciate everyone who submitted nominations over the Thanksgiving break!

6. Thank you to the DHH Lengel staff and students who joined forces to provide our community with Thanksgiving meals this season. PBIS sponsored a can drive competition and rewarded Mrs. Snyder's 5th grade classroom with a pizza party for collecting the most cans. Members of the Tide Tek and staff collected food items to provide four (4) families with a complete Thanksgiving meal and gift card which was donated to the Salvation Army.

7. Congratulations to the following JSC students who have been selected as December Students of the Month. These students have been nominated by the teachers for following the JSC PBIS Rules of treating others with kindness, and working hard in the classroom.

Kindergarten - Brady Smith - Mrs. Rubinkam's Room

First Grade - Kennedy Hughes - Mrs. McDonald's Room

Second Grade - Matthew Billingham - Mrs. Earley's Room

Third Grade - Chloe Heck - Mrs. Salem's Room

Fourth Grade - Mattea Anthony - Mrs. Hess' Ro

#### **Upcoming Events:**

December 14, 2021 - DHHL Choir and Band Concert

December 16, 2021 - PAHS Holiday Concert

December 17, 2021 - DHHL PTO Winter Dance

December 22, 2021 - DHHL 8th Grade Career Day - Part 2

December 23, 2021 - Christmas Baskets and Toy Deliveries

December 23, 2021 - Holiday Early Dismissal (PAHS 11:00 am; DHHL 11:30 am; and JSC 12:00 noon)

On the recommendation of the **Technology Committee**, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board retroactively approved Change Order #1 for the VOIP Project with Garland Communications at a cost of \$65,000. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the **Curriculum Committee**, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the Pottsville Area School District 2020-2023 Comprehensive Plan, the Pottsville Area School District 2020-2023 Professional Development Plan (Act 48), the Pottsville Area School District 2020-2023 Induction Plan (Chapter 49), and the Pottsville Area School District 2020-2023 Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16). Motion carried.

PSBA Representative Dr. Blankenhorn noted that PSBA will be providing training to the Board after its January 2022 meeting.

**Under New Business the following were approved:**

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

**HS**

**1-Band Room, Ground Floor Bathrooms**

Stage Band Rehearsal

5:00pm-8:00pm on the following dates:

1/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21/2021

1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24/202

**2-Auditorium**

Drama Rehearsal

12/20/2021, 1/3/2022 2:30pm-4:30pm

1/7/2022 2:30pm-5:00pm, 1/1/2022 2:30pm-7:30pm

1/12/2022 2:30pm-4:30pm, 1/14/2022 2:30pm-5:00pm

1/15/2022 10:00am-2:00pm, 1/19/2022 2:30pm-4:30pm

2/21/2022 2:30pm-5:00pm

**3- Boys' Gym**

Schuylkill Heartland League Basketball

9:30am-1:30pm on the following dates:

12/12, 12/19/2021, 1/9, 1/16/2022

**4-Little Theater**

Drama Rehearsal

12/4/2021 3:00pm-7:00pm

2:30pm-4:30pm on the following dates:

12/8, 12/15, 12/22/2021

**MS**

**1. Cafeteria**

PAHS Swim and Dive Boosters

Booster Meeting 1/12/2022 5:30pm-7:30pm

Concession Stand for League Meet 2/12/2022 8:00am-4:00pm

Fundraiser Distribution 2/19/2022 1:00pm-4:00pm

**2. Cafeteria**

PTO Meeting 12/20/2021 6:00pm-8:00pm

PTO Meeting 1/3/2022 6:30pm-8:30pm

PTO Dance 2/15/2022 5:00pm-9:00pm

JSC

1-Elementary Gym

High School Cheer Tryouts

4:45pm-7:15pm on the following dates:

2/28, 3/1, 3/2, 3/3/2022

4:30-8:00 3/4/2022

Motion carried.

An informational item under New Business:

The Pandemic Planning Team will meet on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00 AM via Zoom.

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. Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Patricia A. Lombel (Date) 1/12/2022

Board Secretary