

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 10, 2024
Planetarium – High School
6:02PM

Present: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan,
Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs,
Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban,
Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent;
Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/Board
Secretary
Absent: Mrs. Stair, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by President Linda Wytovich .

Roll Call –9 members present. Mrs. Stair, Business Manager was absent.

Ms. Wytovich - Board 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.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Adrian Portland, Head of the Science Department at Pottsville Area School District presented an excellent view of the planet Earth, Jupiter and Saturn on the new Planetarium Equipment upgrade. The upgrade was due to a Federal Grant (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund under the American Rescue Plan); Capital Reserve funds were also used. Mr. Portland showed the members and audience a real time view of the night sky and all the constellations. It was an amazing presentation. Mr. Portland also explained that it's immersive and can fly the students to the moon and planets which in turn enhances the learning experience. There are over 200 students enrolled in the astronomy courses. In the future, Mr. Portland would like to have presentations for the community and other groups. The Board thanked Mr. Portland for his presentation.

Ms. Wytovich read the following statement:

Thank you **Mr. Portland** for your excellent presentation showcasing the capabilities of our new Planetarium system and dome, which was established in 1966 through Federal Title I funding. We are excited to now possess the largest and most modern School District Planetarium in Pennsylvania with a library of expanded options for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) topics. Pottsville Area High School continues to be one of only four (4) schools in Pennsylvania with both a planetarium and an observatory, which is where our telescope is housed.

The Board appreciates **Mr. Portland** for teaching Astronomy and serving as Lead Science Teacher. We appreciate his dedication and research with Spitz Inc. as well as **PAHS Principal Mrs. Hummel** for her commitment and planning around this construction to support Astronomy and science programming. Furthermore, we are grateful to numerous administrators and staff for (1) identifying the Planetarium for ESSER II funds before it became completely inoperable and (2) the perseverance to ensure the plan was properly executed:

- **Federal Programs Coordinator Mrs. Larish** for her initiative, oversight, and reporting for ESSER funding and all federal funds
- **Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds Mr. Ditzler** for balancing his typical responsibilities with this construction and numerous other facilities projects on campus at any given time this past summer and fall
- **Business Manager Mrs. Stair** for creating the Request for Proposal and ensuring we are in compliance with regulations and timelines
- **Director of Curriculum Dr. Gerace** for organizing professional development for our Science educators to provide our students an edge in college and career
- **Head Custodian Mr. Ross** for the work of his staff before, during, and after the Planetarium was assembled
- **Superintendent Dr. Yoder** for spearheading this team of professionals with her leadership and having the foresight to preserve history and prioritize immersive learning experiences that are second to none

Recommendations by the Superintendent for approval at the January 17, 2024, Board Meeting.

1. Pre-Approval of Credits

Paula Heffner - 3 Credits

Brent Hinkle - 6 Credits

Elizabeth Grow - 6 Credits

Rachelle Price - 3 Credits

Michael Roberts - 7 Credits

Anyah Wood - 3 Credits

Leah Zerbe - 6 Credits

2. Credit Reimbursements

Emily Earley - \$1,548.00
Elizabeth Grow - \$3,036.00
Brent Hinkle - \$3,888.00
Tiffany Hummel - \$3,495.00
Kaitlin Leffler - \$3,612.00
Rachelle Price - \$1,662.00
Michala Zembas - \$3,051.00
Leah Zerbe - \$6,471.00

Recommendations by the Facilities and Grounds Committee for approval at the January 17, 2024 Board Meeting:

1. Leaks in the Art Room and Little Theatre at the High School – Roof's are under warranty. There is still an identified issue with the leak in the art room. Bo Ditzler and his staff are working on this issue.
2. Ameresco – The ARP Esser Grant and Budegetary Reserve will finance this HVAC Project. The elementary center and academic center will be completed in the first year and the high school and middle school will be completed in the second year.

Recommendations by the Transportation Committee for approval at the January 17, 2024 Board Meeting:

1. Buses - Selling 15 buses, keeping 3 buses and scrapping 3 buses.
2. Permission to advertise to sell 2005 72 passenger bus with 100,000 plus miles for \$5,000 or best offer.

Recommendations by the Finance Committee for approval at the January 17, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Comparison reports - Expense and Revenue
2. Summary Report – There were no questions on the Summary Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Approval to purchase **Time Clock Plus - First Year total cost \$31,238.64**

- Enterprise License Annual Charge - \$12,187.50
- Hardware Support & Maintenance - \$1,403.46
- One time costs for Set up, Implementation services, prepaid hours and hardware - \$17,647.68

5. Approval for CSIU Migrant Education Program School District Partnership Agreement

Recommendation by the Technology Committee for approval at the January 17, 2024 Board Meeting:

1. Approval to purchase the Monsido product tool to assist with website compliance, accessibility, content quality, SEO and other monitoring areas.
 - 50% discount first year - \$2,262.00
 - Annual recurring estimate - \$4,524.00
 - Smoother transition to new website.
2. Permission to advertise for Districtwide Security Camera upgrade.

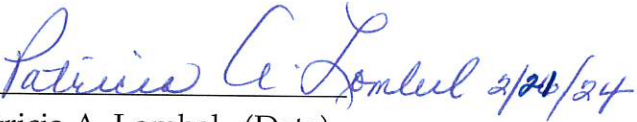
Recommendation by the Curriculum Committee for approval at the November 15, 2023 Board Meeting:

1. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services website, the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. However, The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEA's to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. Since no significant changes have occurred pertaining to Covid-19, our recommendation is to affirm the current plan.
2. Approval to participate in a pilot program with Playbl, a Behavioral Health program for Middle and High School students. Playbl is the result of research by Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine and Yale School of Medicine funded through the National Institutes of Health Office of Disease Prevention in conjunction with partners including CVS Health, Schell Games, and Play2Prevent. The pilot will commence on January 18, 2024 and end on June 30, 2027. Total cost of \$10,000 will be funded through grant funding and/or budgetary reserve.
Middle School administration will send a letter to parents; this is if the parents do not want their child to participate in the program.
3. Approval to purchase to StoryMaker, an animation program through Wonder Media. The program will be utilized at DHHL Middle School. Maximum cost of \$30,000 will be funded through grant funding and/or budgetary reserve.

An Executive Session was held from 6:47 pm to 8:12 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Motion by Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan. Motion carried.

 2/26/24

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary

What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

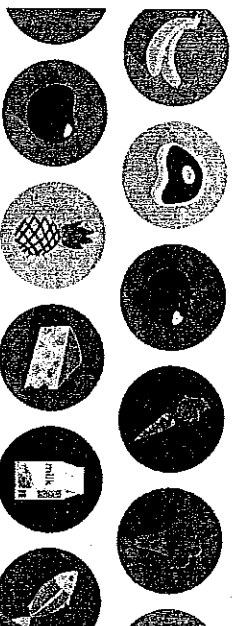
— The Community Eligibility Provision —

CEP

Serving Up Success

Allows schools and local educational agencies (LEAs)

with high poverty rates
to provide free breakfast and lunch
to all students.

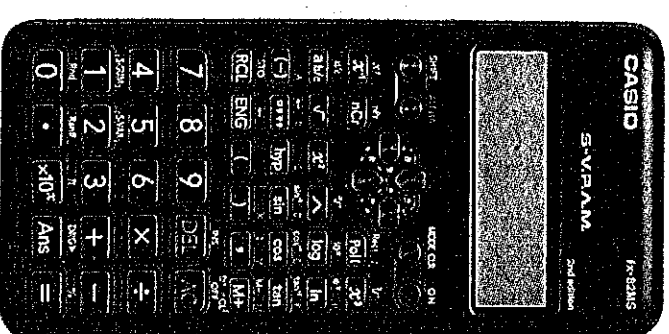


Claiming Percentages – Refresh on definitions

- **Identified Students** are students who are approved for free meals and are not subject to verification through Direct Certification.
- Identified Students ÷ Enrolled Students x 100 = Identified Student Percentage (**ISP**).
- The **ISP** is multiplied by a factor (currently 1.6) set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish the percentage of meals to be reimbursed at the free rate.
- The multiplication factor compensates for the reduced price eligibility category and students who would have been eligible for free meals through the household application process.
- The remainder of students are claimed in the “paid” category.
- There is no reduced price eligibility category in CEP

Calculating an estimate for PASD CEP reimbursement for the 2023-2024 school year.

- **1373** (Identified Direct Certified students as of April 2023) divided by **2434** (Total enrollment as of April 2023) x 100 = **56.41 %** X 1.6 (ISP)
- **90.2%** reimbursed at the Free Federal Reimbursement Rate
- **9.8%** reimbursed at the Paid Federal Reimbursement Rate.
- Meal costs in excess of the total Free and Paid Federal Reimbursement Rate must be covered by non-federal sources.



1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Estimate

Free and Reduced Data

October Data	2024**		2023		2022		2019	
	Free/Red	Direct Cert	Free/Red	Direct Cert	Free/Red	Direct Cert	Free/Red	Direct Cert
John S. Clarke Elementary	76.83%	65.26%	75.32%	63.98%	70.81%	62.75%	64.69%	55.15%
D.H.H. Lengel Middle School	65.26%	55.78%	63.98%	54.69%	62.54%	50.16%	49.94%	38.09%
Pottsville High School	70.93%	63.76%	69.54%	62.51%	66.33%	57.04%	61.92%	47.03%
Total	70.78%	61.60%	69.39%	60.39%	66.43%	56.65%	58.19%	46.75%

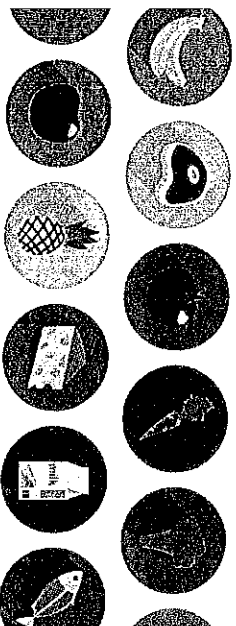
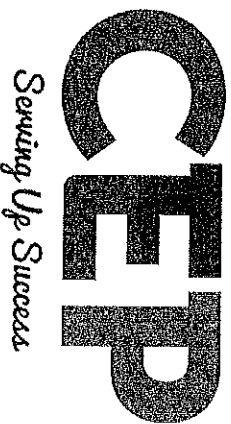
**Estimated 2% Increase

Schuylkill County Data

	Mahanoy Area	Minesville	North Schuylkill	Pine Grove	Pottsville	Schuylkill Haven	Shenandoah Valley	Saint Clair
Do you use a contractor/food service management company?	No	Yes – Nutrition Group	Yes – Nutrition Group	Yes – Metz Culinary Management	No	No	No	No
Direct Certification Percentage?	57.31%		50.60%	44.70%	60.39%	51%	77%	
Free/Reduced Percentage?			54.30%	46.30%	69.39%			
CEP?	Yes	Yes	No	No	No – considering for 2024-25	Yes	Yes	Yes
Daily Participation rate for lunch?	71.35%		58.10%	73%	75%	67%	86%	
Daily Participation rate for Breakfast?	41.43%				31%		64%	

* Not all districts provided information

Next Steps



- Mrs. Stair will build estimates into the budget for 2024-2025.
- If there is a recommendation to approve applying for CEP, it will occur in June, 2024 after the Board approves the final budget in May, 2024.
- Mrs. Schu will contact the PDE for process information, so she is ready to submit if recommended.

