

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting February 9, 2022 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 PM	Present:	Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Stair, Business Manager; Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary; Atty. Reid, Solicitor
	Absent:	Mr. Urban, Absent

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Michael Cardamone.

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.**

Public Comments:

Judith DiObilda, former librarian and furloughed staff member:

"I had been the librarian at JSC for the past 14 years before the library program was disbanded. Of the many employees furloughed in the Pottsville Area School District in June 2020, I am the only person who has not been recalled since our library program was terminated.

Laura Bush our former First Lady and school librarian states:

"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."

Everyone involved in education has many skills and wears many hats. I'd like to make you aware of the many jobs of school librarians that are rolled into one and the equivalent median salaries posted for each of those jobs from across the United States.

The information about these numerous roles is taken from an article entitled:

Certified School Librarians: A Districts Biggest Bargain!

One salary gets you all of this!

Written and researched by Arlene Kimmelman Ed.M., M.A., NBCT

- Reading Teacher: \$56,000 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Instructional Technology Specialist, i.e., Tech Coach: \$102,640 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Information Resources Specialist: \$81,710 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Professional Learning Facilitator: \$58,210 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Information Literacy Instructor: \$52,800 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Co-teacher: \$57,200 median per year (Bachelor's degree)
- Program Administrator: \$90,410 median per year (Master's degree)
- Curriculum Designer/Instructional Leader: \$62,270 median per year (Master degree)

The role of the school librarian looks deceptively singular but as anyone in this position will tell you "I am always tap dancing as fast as I can." Yet, you will also be told, there is no place school librarians would rather be dancing.

Librarians carry out most of the duties mentioned above in the course of a school year. My salary is \$58,000 and I am in no need of benefits. Aren't our students worth it? Thank you."

Mrs. Lillian Hobbs, Pottsville, taxpayer, former district teacher librarian for 17 years, currently a Reading Interventionist at John S. Clarke Elementary Center:

"Last month we concluded mid-year reading screenings in the John S. Clarke library. After testing one of the students I work with I told him that he needs to practice reading outside of school. Yet again, the student stated that he doesn't have any books at home. As were in the library, I offered to help him select a book. When he realized that he could read a very popular series, his face lit up like I have given him the best present ever. In fact, he was so excited by the book that he proudly informed me the next day "I finished it last night!" He continues to read the series and I exchange books for him regularly. Imagine how many other students would be just as excited to take a book home! Mrs. Hobbs noted that a school library is much more than a room with resources and merely circulating books does not constitute a library program. According to a 2017 study of first year college students by the Center of International Scholarship in

School Libraries: 75% of students have no idea how to locate the articles and resources they need for their research; 60% don't verify the accuracy or reliability of the information they find; and 44% don't know how to integrate knowledge from different sources. Schools with a strong school library program staffed by certified teacher librarians ensure their students have the best chance for academic success. Mrs. Hobbs said this is one of her favorite quotes about school libraries by Harold Howe, former federal commissioner of education, "What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education."

Dr. Cardamone thanked Mrs. DiObilda and Mrs. Hobbs for their comments.

There was presentation this evening by Laura Hoppes and Michelle Hendricks on the new CareerLink Youth Pilot Program at the Pottsville Area High School. This excellent PowerPoint discussed the school pilot program. This would give students work experience, learn work etiquette, promote attendance and earn income. Some of the benefits of this program would be professional development, valuable work opportunity, networking and work experience. This is a five (5) day per week program; two (2) hours per day. As a partner in this program, there are many incentives. Mrs. Hummel, High School Principal, said that students will be meeting next week. Students will be given the opportunity to rotate and gain experience in child care, landscaping, painting, custodial and cleaning. Ms. Hoppes and Ms. Hendricks thanked the Board for allowing them to present this exciting new program.

Dr. Cardamone thanked Ms. Hoppes and Ms. Hendricks for their presentation.

On motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the January 12, 2022 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. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of January 2022:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of January 31, 2022- \$11,898,480.24; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of January 31 2022 - \$344,546.70.
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 –

\$26,000 from Expense account 10-5230-932-000-00-000-000-0000 (Capital Reserve Account) to Expense Account 10-3250-762-000-30-FBL-BE-ATHL (Athletics) in the amount of \$26,000 for Football Uniforms.

Motion carried.

Under Donations, Thank you to Dr. Joseph Chipriano for completing 25 dental exams at no cost. Dr. Chipriano is currently completing his Community Service Fellowship.

On the recommendation of Atty. Reid and on motion of Ms. Wytovich seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Discipline Waiver, effective February 9, 2022: #272766. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Thomas, 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

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following professional employee(s) be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Cody Blankenhorn - \$1,548.00

Jeremiah Lynn - \$1,548.00

Gregory Schuettler - \$1,548.00

Motion carried by roll call vote: Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Wytovich, Aye. Dr. Blankenhorn, Abstain. Mr. Urban, Absent.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following salary adjustment and made effective in the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year: Gregory Schuettler – Master's +15. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the revision of the 2021-2022 School Calendar to reflect snow make-up days as follows:

<u>School Cancelled</u>	<u>Make-up Day</u>	
January 7, 2022	April 20, 2022	(Regular scheduled Make-up day)
January 20, 2022	April 19, 2022	(Regular scheduled Make-up day)

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the 2021-2022 school calendar.

The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, August 24, 2022, and tentatively the last day of school will be Friday, May 26, 2023. Tentative Teacher In-service days will be held August 17-18, 2022; October 10, 2022; and January 16, 2023. A tentative Act 80 day will be held November 7, 2022. Early dismissals will be held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022; Friday, December 23, 2022; Wednesday, April 5, 2023; Friday, May 26, 2023; and the last day of school. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following clinical experience placement (s) take place in spring 2022:

Gina Corson (Kutztown University - Dual) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Kimberly Jackson

Abigail Elsavage (Kutztown University - Dual) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teachers: Tracey Fidler and Karen Bertsch

Kelsey Frary (Kutztown University - Dual) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teachers: Kaycee Hess and Amanda Purcell

Chloe Katinas (Kutztown University - Dual) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Emily Kleeman

Jenna Kuzma (Kutztown University - PreK-4) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Courtney Reichert

Shad Murphy (Kutztown University - PreK-4) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Kelly Lombel

Emily O'Flynn (Kutztown University - PreK-4) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Tara Hess

Amanda Walker (Kutztown University - Dual) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teachers: Erin Blozusky and Ms. Kim Steigerwalt

Cassie Torres (Kutztown University - PreK-4) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Jennifer Brindle

Mandy Xu (Kutztown University - PreK-4) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Stacie Cromyak

Joshua Zelinsky (Alvernia University - Elementary Education) be placed in the JSC with Cooperating Teacher: Emily Earley

Motion carried.

Dr. Yoder thanked Kutztown University and Alvernia University for their collaboration in the clinical placements.

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

- The quote for Football Uniforms from Kampus Klothes Team Outfitters for 80 home jerseys, 80 away jerseys and 80 pants at a cost of \$25,680.00. Kampus Klothes is Co-Stars approved - #0000546779.

- The Spring Coaches for the 2021-2022 season contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances (as per contract):

BASEBALL

Michael Welsh, Head Coach

Michael Anthony, Jr. Varsity Head Coach

TBA Jr. Varsity Assistant

Ben O'Brien, Varsity Assistant

SOFTBALL

Charles Rinaldo, Head Coach

Thomas Mull, Varsity Assistant

Amy Oestreich, Jr. Varsity Assistant

Bruce Heffner, Head Junior Varsity

SPRING TRACK

Charles Schuster, Boys' Head Coach

Kelly Lombel, Girls' Head Coach

Marlin Vandermeer, Assistant

Lucas Bricker, Assistant

Peter McDonald, Assistant

William Rhoads, Assistant

Jennifer Brindle, Assistant

Jeff Dunkel, Jr. High Head Coach

Mark Laubenstein, Jr. High Asst.
Jed Dunkel, Jr. High Asst.

BOYS' TENNIS

Adrian Portland, Head Coach

- The following volunteer Spring Coaches for the 2021-2022 Season:

Baseball:

Tony Barone
James Spehrley

Softball:

Mike Kiehner
Bryanna Snowell

Track and Field:

Robert Brouse
Matthew Hirsch

Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Facilities and Grounds Committee** and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following items:

- The quote from Overhead Door Company of Berwick to replace torsion springs at the John S. Clarke Elementary Bus Garage at a cost of \$3,710.00.

- The repair work order from TK Elevator Corporation to replace the electric starter on the DHH Lengel Middle School Elevator at a cost of \$5,101.72 retroactive to February 7, 2022.

- The Stair Replacement Project at Martz Hall as part of the RACP Grant, authorizing Levkolic Associates to start the bidding process.

Motion carried.

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

- The Notice of the following Parcels and Bid Amounts as required by the Real Estate Tax Sale Law:

- Parcel No. 68-06-0030.001 located at 728 North Centre Street. Bid amount \$10,240.00
- Parcel No. 68-07-0116.000 located at 453 Nichols Street. Bid amount \$3,520.00
- Parcel No. 68-11-0025.000 located at 505 Peacock Street. Bid amount \$3,379.00
- Parcel No. 68-12-0017.001 located at 304 West Railroad Street. Bid amount \$1,952.00
- Parcel No. 68-13-0017.000 located at 687 North Second Street. Bid amount \$2,112.00
- Parcel No. 68-19-0140.000 located at 508 Fairview Street. Bid amount \$5,969.03
- Parcel No. 68-19-0331.000 located at 621 Harrison Street. Bid amount \$3,820.00
- Parcel No. 68-20-0116.000 located at 411 Harrison Street. Bid amount \$3,580.50
- Parcel No. 68-21-0290.000 located at 520 E. Norwegian Street. Bid amount \$2,782.00
- Parcel No. 68-26-0067.000 located at 710 Laurel Street. Bid amount \$6,940.00
- Parcel No. 68-26-0127.000 located at 723 Laurel Street. Bid amount \$2,116.00
- Parcel No. 68-27-0371.000 located at 623 W. Norwegian Street. Bid amount \$5,820.00
- Parcel No. 68-27-0410.000 located at 313 W. Norwegian Street. Bid amount \$1.00
- Parcel No. 68-29-0020.000 located at 312 S. Jackson Street. Bid amount \$4,397
- Parcel No. 68-35-0012.000 located at 9 South Eighth Street. Bid amount \$6,197.00
- Parcel No. 59-01-0029.001 located at 231 Third Street. Bid amount \$8,648.00

- The Repository Sale for Parcel No. 68-56-00093.000 located at North Side of Timber, Pottsville City for a purchase price of \$1,345.00.

Motion carried.

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

- Approved Ashley Neidlinger as a substitute cafeteria aide (\$9.10/hour) and a substitute cafeteria worker (\$11.25/hour), retroactive to January 11, 2022. All required documents on file.

- Approved Linda Andrews as a substitute cafeteria aide (\$9.10/hour), retroactive to January 18, 2022. Ms. Andrews is also a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District. All required documents on file.

- Approved Brandin Andrews as a transportation aide (\$10.00/hour) and a van driver (\$10.70/hour), retroactive to January 19, 2022. All required documents on file.

- Retroactively approved Melissa Focht as a teacher with the DHH Lengel Middle School Achieve Program, effective February 10, 2022.

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

- Employee # 1127 - cafeteria aide - December 22, 2021
- Employee #1346 - cafeteria aide - December 13, through 23, 2022; January 10, 2022
- Employee #1228 - cafeteria - January 6,7,10,11,12,13,14, 2022
- Employee #1300 - cafeteria aide - January 19, 2022
- Employee #828 - cafeteria aide - January 21, 2022
- Employee # 25 - cafeteria aide - January 18, 2022
- Employee #1472 - cafeteria aide - January 28, 2022
- Employee #216 - cafeteria aide - January 10,11,12,13, 2022

- Approved Kathy Shipton as a paraprofessional with the DHH Lengel Middle School Achieve Program, effective February 10, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$17.00.

- Approved an FMLA for employee #434, retroactive to January 3, 2022.

- Approved an FMLA for employee #1455, retroactive to January 15, 2022.

- Rescinded the January 12, 2022 resignation motion of Clarence Rich.

- Accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Clarence Rich, outside crew employee for the Pottsville Area School District, retroactive to January 29, 2022. We are grateful for Mr. Rich's dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish him well.

-Accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Deborah Weber, breakfast/lunch aide at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective last day of the 2021-2022 school year after 25 years of service with the District. We are grateful for Ms. Weber's dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish her well in retirement.

-Approved the following permanent part-time cafeteria workers, effective March 1, 2022:

- Francine Davis - Hourly rate \$11.25 - previously a substitute lunch aide
- Carolyn Potts - Hourly rate \$16.45 - previously a permanent lunch aide

- Accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Doris Hoopes, Accounts Payable Manager for the Pottsville Area School District. Ms. Hoopes' last day is June 30, 2022 after 28 years of service with the District. We are grateful for Ms. Hoopes' dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish her well in retirement.

- Accepted the letter of resignation from Krista Dullard, paraprofessional at the DHH Lengel Middle School. Ms. Dullard's last day will be February 15, 2022.

- Approved Mr. John Gradwell as a School (Guidance) Counselor at PAHS – Step 8 – Master's + 15 - \$59,193, pending release from his current employer and contingent upon submission of all required paperwork.

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to JSC January Students of the Month: Adam Mckeown (Grade K), Olivia Noll (Grade 1), Ella Frankenstein (Grade 2), Avery Trout (Grade 3), and Myla Hengen (Grade 4).

2. Congratulations to PAHS Freshman Class Officers selected: President, Maya Johnson; Vice-President, Shaina Schmitt; Secretary, Lainey Dusel; and Treasurer, Cullen Clarke.

3. Congratulations to PAHS Students, Vanessa Biddle and Emily Lucas on a fabulous performance at the PMEA District 10 Band Festival Concert on Saturday, January 29th.

4. Congratulations to PAHS Students, Michael Sukeena and Zoe Tidmore as February's Rotary Students of the month.

5. Thank you to PAHS MiniTHON for their "Gold Out" event at the Varsity Basketball game on January 21st to raise awareness for the Four Diamonds Fund, which donates money to pediatric cancer patients at Penn State Children's Hospital. MiniTHON members also conducted a fundraiser with Missy's Cookies for this cause.

6. Thank you to Mrs. Gretchen Witman and PAHS junior AJ Serano for their Schuylkill Technology Centers Presentation on January 12, 2022. DHH Lengel 8th graders learned about different paths as they look ahead to their high school careers.

7. Congratulations to the DHH Lengel Featured Artists for the 2nd Marking Period.

8th Grade

Josie-Ann Tamin
Olivia Krasnitsky

7th Grade

Jo Barnhart
Charlie Hemerly
Zelda Ellis

Molly Beltz

6th Grade

Jesse Butt
Nasiah Jones
Karlee Kalovcak
Grace O'Brien

5th Grade

Elias Rivera
Wyatt Weimert
Kelly Kintzel
Cole Daubert

8. Congratulations to PAHS Quiz Team on their Senior Night victory over Mahanoy Area and North Schuylkill on January 25, 2022.

Upcoming Events:

February 8-12, 2022 - Schuylkill County Choir Festival (Williams Valley High School)
February 21, 2022 - President's Day (School Closed)
February 22, 2022 - PSAT 10 Testing (PAHS)

On the recommendation by the **Curriculum Committee** and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the Paid Work Experience Worksite Agreement between Pennsylvania CareerLink and Pottsville Area School District, effective February 9, 2022. The District appreciates the collaboration between Pottsville Area High School and Schuylkill County CareerLink for the School Pilot Program. Motion carried.

Under **Schuylkill County IU 29**, Ms. Wytovich noted that Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget for year 2022-2023 was approved.

On the recommendation by the **Saint Clair Committee** and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Saint Clair Area School District for the provision of proportional ESSER funds. Motion carried.

Under New Business the following were approved:

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

MS

1-Cafeteria, Auditorium, Bathrooms

PTO 8th Grade Farewell Dance

Friday 5/6/2022 5:00pm-10:00pm

Saturday 5/7/2022 5:00pm-10:00pm

2-Auditorium

Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing Graduation

Thursday 6/9/2022 3:00pm-10:00pm

3-Cafeteria, Pool Hallway, Cafeteria Hallway, Restrooms

Age Group Swimming

3/26/2022 7:00am-5:00pm

4- Martz Hall, Upper and Lower Levels

Schuylkill County Career Fair

April 25, 2022 4:00pm-8:00pm(Set Up)

April 26, 2022 7:30am-2:30pm

5-Cafeteria

Boys Basketball Banquet

March 13, 2022 12:00pm-3:00pm

6-Cafeteria

PAHS Swim Booster Meeting

March 15, 2022 5:30pm-7:30pm

7-Martz Hall, Concession Stand

Wrestling Freestyle Qualifier

March 26, 2022 7:00am-5:00pm

8-Cafeteria

Youth Basketball Pizza Party

6:00pm-8:00pm

Martz Hall

Senior Charity Bowl

March 25, 2022 6:00pm-9:00pm

HS

1-Football Field

Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing

Thursday 6/9/2022 3:00pm-10:00pm

2-PAHS Weight Room, Track& Restrooms, HS Shower

Pottsville Police Physical Fitness Training

3/12/2022 7:30am-9:30am

ISC

1-Bus Circle, Library, Cafeteria

PTO Meetings, Fundraiser Pulls/Pick Up

2/22/22 6:00pm-9:00pm

3/1/22 6:00pm-7:30pm

3/8, 3/22, 3/29, 2022 6:00pm-9:00pm

2-Gym, Cafeteria

PTO Annual Basket Auction

5/11/22 5:00pm-10:00pm

5/12/22 4:00pm-9:00pm

5/13/22 4:00pm-9:00pm

5/14/22 8:00am-5:00pm

5/15/22 9:00am-12:00pm

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approve the revised 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 revised Health and Safety Plan was reviewed by the Pandemic Planning Team including parent representatives on February 1, 2022. A survey link was sent to families and staff to invite public comment. On the discussion, Mrs. Dewitt made a motion to amend the motion which would extend the mask mandate until the next Board Meeting. The motion did not pass. Mrs. Dewitt noted that now is the time that we keep pushing through and do the right thing and we'll get through this. Mrs. Dewitt said that she didn't think this was the time to let our guard down.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Wytovich, Aye. Mrs. Dewitt, Nay. Mr. Urban, Absent. (Vote count -7 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Absent).

An Executive Session was held at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 7.43 p.m.

Patricia A. Lombel 3.9.22

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary