

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting March 9, 2022 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:10 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; Atty. Reid, Solicitor; Mrs. Zimerofsky
	Absent:	Mrs. Lombel

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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:

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

"What is the largest classroom in a school? It's the school library. And the district libraries sit unused or barely used. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money is languishing behind closed doors in the largest classroom in the schools.

Dr. Mary Ann Bell, professor of library science, says a certified teacher librarian is like an iceberg. Visitors get a glimpse of what a certified teacher librarian does when they visit the library, but that's just the tip. The biggest piece — the important work that only a certified teacher librarian can do properly — is hidden under the surface.

What does a certified teacher librarian do, and what difference do we make for teachers, staff, and, most importantly, for students?

What does someone with a master's degree in library science know that others probably won't? Todd and Kulthau identified eight areas that a certified teacher librarian strategically incorporates in the school library. In addition to serving as agents of resources, skillful certified teacher librarians know how to support students in developing literacy and lifelong learning interests. Experienced certified teacher librarians talk to students about what they're reading and what they should read next. We sell students on ever-widening materials and deepening complexity of texts. As agents of information literacy, we are equipped to ground today's students in information resources and the wise and ethical use thereof. We serve as agents of knowledge construction and the consequent, research-confirmed increase in test scores.

A certified teacher librarian is actually a teacher, technology guru, researcher, and collaboration expert (Hartzell, 2002). Not only does the certified teacher librarian provide students with access to a multitude of resources for information, we also provide an opportunity for learners to experience emerging technologies.

Think about the following devices and web applications: digital cameras, document cameras, tablets, tablet PCs, and e-readers, wikis, MOOCs, and webcasts. What are the advantages of one over another? What are the most cost-effective devices on the market when it comes to operating costs, maintenance, and versatility? You might want to ask your certified teacher librarian. We will know the answers to technology questions, and how to calibrate them to the school's staff and students' level of technical competence. We are responsible for keeping abreast of the latest tech tools, web sites, and electronic devices.

As research specialists, we are leaders in educating teachers and students in how to access information, use it ethically, and create new knowledge from a variety of sources, in multiple media formats, as responsible digital citizens. Books are still a part of what the certified teacher librarian has to offer, but we can so much more.

The greatest learning sometimes comes through unstructured just-in-time learning opportunities to which the ever-ready and knowledgeable certified teacher librarian can respond. The most elusive goal of education — individualized learning — can be a certified teacher librarian's strongest agency. Todd and Kulthau's study revealed that students recognize and care about having a certified teacher librarian available. They state, "Personal engagement . . . to initiate and enable learning and achievement is a critical component of an effective school library".

Is there any evidence that students learn more in schools that have school librarians?

Longitudinal research on certified teacher librarians and their association with student test scores is remarkably consistent in its findings: Regardless of how rich or poor a community is, students tend to perform better on high-stake standardized testing where and when their library programs are in the hands of certified teacher librarians. Researcher Deb Kachel, notes,

"Having a certified, highly qualified teacher librarian has repeatedly correlated to increased student achievement in decades of studies of both quantitative and qualitative measures". Furthermore, at schools where library programs gain or maintain a certified teacher librarian when school budgets get tight, students tend to excel. At schools where library programs lose or never had a certified teacher librarian, students suffer as a result according to a study by Lance & Hofschire. , 2012).

Research, technology, professional development, and collaboration may be important pieces of a certified teacher librarian's work, but testing and accountability are the name of the game when it comes to state funding. Other than being a leader in literacy, how can the school library help when it comes to the PA Core Standards?

As quintessential lifelong learners, certified teacher librarians are reading and digesting research regularly. The standards themselves are complicated and extensive. The standards contain detailed plans for the type of literacy instruction and texts to be used. One example is the standards require teachers and students to use more nonfiction texts. We maintain the best collections of nonfiction available, and they carefully choose the best books based on reviews. Furthermore, we apply criteria to evaluate whether a particular book is a good choice for inclusion in the school library and whether it could be used to meet the standards.

Certified teacher librarians can also help by collaborating with staff to raise student reading proficiency. There is no other single individual more strategically positioned to provide such assistance than us. When teachers are implementing the standard regarding mastering complex texts, we can provide examples and help teach them by providing lessons in the library.

Certified teacher librarians keep the doors open to the largest classroom in the building for 24-hour student access. How so? By providing digital resources such as subscription databases, carefully vetted websites, and ebooks. We can provide teachers with resources for any and all lessons and be a go-to person for professional development.

Learning today is information-fueled. Certified teacher librarians are great filling stations to provide that fuel to students, teachers, and families. We instruct students to evaluate and apply information in ethical ways to build knowledge. The resources that supply the information are managed, explained, and made accessible by certified teacher librarians who apply instructional strategies for effective learning. Without a certified teacher librarian, the information-fuel is drying up, leaving our students desperately trying to run on empty.

As I've previously remarked, Harold Howe, former federal commissioner of education stated, *"What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education."*

Ladies and gentlemen of the board of directors, what is **your** measure of how you feel about education?"

Dr. Cardamone thanked Mrs. Hobbs for her public comment.

On motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the February 9, 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. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of February 2022:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of February 28, 2022- \$12,703,970.96; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of February 28, 2022 - \$384,211.52.
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.

Under Donations, a thank you to Lowe's Home Improvement Center for donating four (4) pallets of sanitizing wipes. There are 120 buckets to a pallet, and each bucket holds 300 wipes. We are grateful for Lowe's generosity to our school community.

On the recommendation of Atty. Reid and on motion of Mr. Urban seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following Discipline Waiver, effective March 9, 2022: #267993. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban, 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:

Tracy James – 3 credits

Kayla Kurtz – 3 credits.

Motion carried.

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

Jennifer Brant - \$2,286.00

Tracy James - \$300.00

Heather Jenkins - \$8,100.00 (9 credits)

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following Internship Site Experience Placement

take place for the 2022-203 school year: Miranda Angelo (Kutztown K-12 Counseling Licensure Program) to intern in the High School with Cooperating Educator, Mrs. Mary Beth Conville. Motion carried.

An Information Item: The Crimson Tide Foundation is once again offering Venture Grants for Teachers. This is the eleventh year of the program. Complete applications should be submitted to Mrs. Lillian Hobbs, John S. Clarke Elementary Center, by March 21, 2022. Thank you to the Crimson Tide Foundation and donors for the support of our students, educators and community.

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 items:

- Approved the trip to Niagara Falls, New York (May 22-24, 2022). The Tide Tek S.T.E.M. Club will be visiting multiple educational sites near Niagara Falls. The field trip is for 8th grade club members who have remained highly active in club activities during their time at the DHH Lengel Middle School. This will include approximately 10 members of the club making the trip along with 4 chaperones (pending clearances). The trip will be funded by club fundraisers.
- Approved Alex Everly as Junior Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach at a stipend of \$2,200.00, effective 2021-2022 Baseball Season contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances.
- Retroactively approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Pepsi Bottling Company, effective March 1, 2022. This agreement shall expire on June 30, 2027.

Motion carried.

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

- Approved the 2022-2023 Schuylkill Technology Center Secondary Budget in the amount of \$6,183,330. Pottsville Area School District contribution is \$747,913; a decrease of \$38,887 from prior year. Each Director signed the ballots indicating their vote on the above motion and returned them to the Board Secretary. 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 the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 339, 439, 539:

- Employee #70 - paraprofessional - January 31, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 2022
 - Employee #537 - cafeteria aide - February 10, 2022
 - Employee #1228 - cafeteria aide - February 1, 2022
 - Employee # 1300 - cafeteria aide - February 18, 2022
 - Employee #1349 - cafeteria aide - March 7, 8, 2022, April 22, 2022
 - Employee #828 - cafeteria aide - February 24, 2022
 - Employee #1393 - cafeteria aide - February 16, 17, 18, 2022
 - Employee #1515 - cafeteria aide - February 23, 2022
 - Employee #930 - cafeteria aide - January 28, February 18, 2022
 - Employee #1115 - cafeteria aide - February 14, 2022
 - Employee #1018 - cafeteria aide - February 22, 2022
 - Employee #175 - cafeteria aide - March 3, 2022
 - Employee #1138 - cafeteria aide - April 12,13,18, 20, 2022
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Miss Aubrey Manmiller, School Counselor at the JSC Elementary Center, dated February 9, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
 - Terminated the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Jocelyn Oakill, DHH Lengel Middle School Psychologist covering the term of January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, retroactive to March 4, 2022.
 - Approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Acorns to Oaks Consulting, LLC to provide School Psychologist Services to the District. Term of Agreement retroactive to March 7, 2022 through March 7, 2023.
 - Accepted the letter of resignation for retirement from Ms. Louise Winkler, Life Skills Teacher at the Pottsville Area High School, effective last day of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Winkler has been in the Pottsville Area High School for 37 years. We are grateful for Ms. Winkler's dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish her well in retirement.
 - Accepted the letter of resignation from Mrs. Melissa Yoder, School Counselor at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective March 9, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
 - Approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Elizabeth Fisher, LMFT to provide Mental Health Services to students at John S. Clarke

Elementary, commencing on March 14, 2022. Services billed to the District will be paid for through ESSER funds. We are grateful for Elizabeth Fisher's collaborative partnership with the school district during this great time of need in our community.

- Approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Lehigh Valley Hospital to provide Mental Health Services to students at DHH Lengel Middle School, retroactively to March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023. Services billed to the District will be paid for through ESSER funds. We are grateful for Lehigh Valley Hospital's collaborative partnership with the school district during this great time of need in our community.
- Approved the agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Empower the Mind to provide Mental Health Services to students at Pottsville Area High School from March 10, 2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Services billed to the District will be paid for through ESSER funds. We are grateful for Empower the Mind's collaborative partnership with the school district during this great time of need in our community.
- Approved Miss Keegan White as a School Counselor at DHHL – Step 1 – Bachelor's + 15 - \$47,600 with a start date of March 10, 2022. Mrs. Mary Beth Conville will serve as a mentor for Miss White.
- Approved Mr. Mark Homa as a Maintenance and Grounds worker with the updated job description. Mr. Homa's hourly rate will be \$14 during his probationary period with a start date of March 10, 2022, pending completed paperwork.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Miss Taylor Header, Speech Therapist at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective July 31, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Ms. Laura Liszcz-Tranovich, Special Education Teacher at the DHH Lengel Middle School, dated March 9, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to Autumn Walchak, PAHS Artist of the month for February.
2. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month for March, Elena Martinko and Chase Fenstermacher.
3. Thank you to JSC, DHHL and PAHS PBIS teams for organizing the concession stand and 50/50 raffles for basketball playoff games.
4. The John S. Clarke Elementary Center and PTO would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations towards the fourth grade field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. The students are very excited for this amazing opportunity.
 1. The Bee Hive
 2. The Crimson Tide Foundation
 3. Murphy Jewelers
 4. Roma Pizza
 5. Sadowski Orthodontics
5. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month for March: Colin Bush (Grade K), Kayla Murphy (Grade 1), Adalyn Evans (Grade 2), Declan Hrichak (Grade 3), and Hollis McGinley (Grade 4).
6. Thank you to Mrs. Lisa Holobetz and our DHH Lengel PBIS team for arranging an awesome Reward day with DHHL and Saint Clair students. This day was filled with a movie, swimming, games and a concession stand on February 18, 2022.
7. Thank you to the DHHL PBIS Ambassadors who helped to get Martz Hall ready by lending a hand and cleaning for the upcoming District playoff basketball games.
8. Congratulations to the following PAHS STC students for placing in the District 6 Skills USA Competition held on February 7, 2022 and February 11, 2022 at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport.

Gold Medal Winners: Makayla Frick, Job Skill Demo A; Lea McDaniels, Basic Health Care

Silver Medal Winners: Tashanna Moore, Action Skills; Lydia Cholko, Medical Terminology; Caden Smith, Diesel

Bronze Medal Winners: Luci Ames, Esthetics Pottsville; Brady Teresavage, Industrial Motor Control

Upcoming Events:

March 7-11, 2022 - National Foreign Language Week

March 11, 2022 - PAHS MiniThon Event

March 12, 2022 - SAT @ PAHS

March 13, 2022 - Daylight Savings Begins

March 22, 2022 - 3rd Quarter Ends

March 29, 2022 - Report Card Posting

April 1-3, 2022 - Spring Musical - Anastasia

April 13, 2022 - Holiday Early Dismissal

April 14, 2022 - Easter Recess

April 15, 2022 - Easter Recess

April 18, 2022 - Easter Recess

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

- Approved a contract with Guyette Communication Industries as the vendor for the Fiber Tip Replacement Project, pending E-rate approval, not to exceed amount of \$15,000.00.

- Approved the contract with Bartush Signs to fabricate and install a three (3) sided sign pending solicitor's review. This will replace the electronic sign located at the entrance of the Martz Hall parking lot at 16th Street and Laurel Boulevard. The total cost for the sign, permit fees and additional extended 5-year warranty is \$167,958.00 (5% down payment), which will be subsidized by advertising.

Motion carried.

Under **Curriculum**, Mrs. Dewitt, Chairperson, read the following informational item: Pottsville Area School District has provided a written response to the first set of documents Gillingham Charter School has submitted for the charter renewal request process. The next step is for Gillingham Charter School to provide specified documentation to the School District on certain items not submitted and to provide follow up on submissions to clarify and support the charter school's renewal request. The topics of the requests are: Student Achievement, Curriculum, Special Education, Finance, Discipline/Safety, Operations and Staff.

On the recommendation by the **Policy and Procedure Committee** and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following policies:

- Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices

- Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities (*First Reading)
- Policy 104 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - Employment Practices
- Policy 111 - Lesson Plans
- Policy 113.1 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Policy 113.4 - Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- Policy 116 - Tutoring
- Policy 117 - Homebound Instruction (*First Reading)
- Policy 118 - Independent Study
- Policy 119 - Current Events
- Policy 121 - Field Trips

Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Policy and Procedure Committee** and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved to retire the following policies:

- Policy 113 - Special Education
- Policy 117 - Requests for Temporary Excuses from School
- Policy 120 - Human Development Program

Motion carried.

Under New Business the following were approved:

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

MS

1 Auditorium

PIAA Volleyball Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting
August 3, 2022 6:00pm-8:00pm

2 Top of Martz Hall

PAHS Cheer Practice
5/15, 5/17, 5/20/2022 4:15pm-6:45pm
5/15, 5/19/2022 3:15pm-6:45pm
5/23, 5/24/2022 4:15pm-6:45pm
5/25, 5/26/2022 3:15pm-6:45pm

3 Top of Martz Hall (Outside)

PAHS Football Boosters Spring Clothing Drive
5/21/2022 10:00am-2:00pm

4 Cafeteria

Girls Youth Basketball Pizza Party
3/19/2022 12:00pm-2:00pm

5 Martz Hall Gym and Concession

PAHS JV and Varsity Volleyball Tournament
9/10/2022 7:30am-7:00pm
10/8/2022 7:30am-7:00pm

HS

1 Cafeteria

PAHS Track and Field Boosters Meeting
3/16/2022 6:30pm

2 Cafeteria

PAHS Cheer Meeting
4/4/2022 5:30pm-7:45pm

3 Little Theatre/1st Floor Classrooms

Honors American History Night
5/11/2022 5:00pm-9:00pm

4 High School Stadium Track

City of Pottsville 2022 Fitness Challenge
6/1/2022 thru 8/1/2022 5:00pm-8:00pm

5 Band Room, Auditorium, Bathrooms

PAHS Small Ensembles Concert
3/10/2022 5:00pm-9:30pm

6 Cafeteria

PAHS Boys Soccer Fundraiser Pick Up
4/12/2022 3:15pm

JSC

1 Gym

Majorette Try Outs
March 6, 13, 20, 27/2022 1:00pm-3:00pm

2 Cafeteria

Title I Bingo
3/31/2022 5:00pm-8:00pm

AC

1 Alumni Field

PAHS Leo Club Easter Egg Hunt

4/16/2022 9:30am-12:00pm

2 Board Room

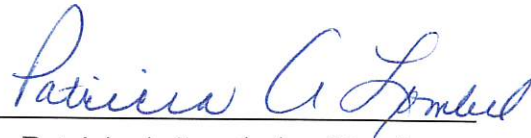
City of Pottsville Civil Service Commission Interviews

April 2, 2022 8:15am-12:30pm

Motion carried.

An Executive Session was held from 6:00 pm to 7:05 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

 4/13/2022

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary