

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting December 7, 2022 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. Kevin Reid, Solicitor
---	----------	--

---

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](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.**

The Board of Directors Roll Call – 9 members present.

There were no public 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 12, 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 Directors' Room in the Academic Center on Wednesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; and also for general purposes.

On the motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved Dr. Blankenhorn as the temporary President. Dr. Blankenhorn, temporary President, proceeded with the Reorganization Meeting.

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

Mrs. Dewitt nominated Dr. Cardamone to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year, seconded by Mr. Shields. On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, nominations for President were closed.

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

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, 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, Mrs. Dewitt, Dr. DiCello, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

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

The Board will continue to meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month for Regular Board Meetings except for the May meeting and December Meeting for Year 2023. The May meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023 due to timing of Final Budget approval and December 6, 2023 for the Reorganization Meeting.

On motion motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded Mrs. Dewitt, the Board authorized the Board Secretary to advertise the 2023 Board and Committee Meetings. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the November 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 Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of November 2022:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of November 30, 2022- \$6,782,568.90; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of November 30, 2022 - \$548,123.21.
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 – There were no budget transfers.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Atty. Kevin Reid, and on motion of Mr. Urban and seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Discipline Waiver, effective December 8, 2022 - #25-1364. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, 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  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, 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 PASDEA:

Suzanne Fredericks - \$300.00

Christopher Kovaleski - \$6,150.00

Crystal Pugh - \$300.00

Elizabeth Sophy - \$3,522.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following salary adjustments and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year:

Lisa Chistakoff - Master's Degree; Kayla Gaffron - Master's Degree

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, and Pursuant to Section 1108 of the School Code, having received a satisfactory rating for the second semester of the third year of teaching the following professional employees were Board approved and awarded a permanent contract and tenure:

Tracy James

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following salary adjustment and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year: Elizabeth Sophy – Master’s Degree. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following internship Placement: Tava Horning of Penn State University, Schuylkill Campus with Dr. Jared Gerace and PASD counselors. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following student teacher placements:

Justina Cahill of Kutztown University with cooperating teacher, Sara Arnold (PAHS Art), Kaitlynn Quillman of Bloomsburg University with cooperating teachers, Aprile Goehring (JSC Life Skills) and Kristyn Blum (JSC 1st Grade).

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved Mrs. Ashley DeWitt's Research Proposal. Mrs. DeWitt is a Doctoral Candidate in Education and Human Services through Neumann University. Motion carried. Mrs. Dewitt Abstained.

**The Crimson Tide Foundation is proud to announce the following Venture Grants which were awarded for the 2022-2023 school year.**

1. JSC Kindergarten Teachers (8 teachers) - Heidi Songs. Amount \$89.99/teacher - \$719.92.
2. 9th Grade Gettysburg Field Trip submitted by Mr. Charles Taronis. Amount - \$1,000.00.
3. 11th Grade Ellis Island and Liberty Island Trip submitted by Mr. Robert Kempsey. Amount - \$1,000.00.
4. High School Art Department submitted by Mrs. Katrina Greenawalt and Mrs. Sara Arnold for Glass grinding equipment. Amount - \$333.77.
5. 3D Molecular Modeling Kits submitted by Mrs. Melinda Diehl. Amount 10 @ \$60.00 - \$600.00.

Thank you to the Crimson Tide foundation and donors for the support of our students, educators and community.

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

- approved the following change order for the Stair Replacement Project - RACP:

- Change Order No. 4 - for time extension per agreement until January 31, 2023 due to material delays. No cost for this change

- awarded the Parking Lot Inlet Repair Project to Schuylkill Paving, Inc. in the bid amount of \$108,000.00. Bid opening was November 30, 2022. This project is funded by the RACP grant.

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 extension of the contract of RethinkEd, an online social and emotional wellness program, for all students in grades K-12. The program will be utilized until the 2024/2025 school year. The first year of the program (2022-2023) was paid for by Schuylkill County Mental Health, Developmental Services and Drug & Alcohol Programs. The cost of the program for the remaining years is \$20,125 per year. ESSER II and/or ARP ESSER Set Aside funding will be utilized for the purchase.
- approved supplies for the high school television studio from B & H photo-video-pro audio at a cost of \$632.09. These supplies will be funded by the Crimson Tide Foundation.
- approved the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Motion carried.

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

- approved Joseph Bickelman as an Outside Maintenance/ Assistant Electrician for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$19.50, retroactive to November 29, 2022.
- approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area Educational Support Professionals' Association and the Pottsville Area School District for a Health Insurance Benefit Waiver. This MOU will compensate full-time employees who waive their option to receive District-provided health care insurance.
- approved the extension of the 2022 Managerial Policy to June 30, 2023.
- approved the revised Act 93 Agreement to reflect the Elementary Assistant Principal (10 month) and Elementary Special Education Supervisor (12 month) positions.
- approved Mrs. Julie Saunders as Special Education Supervisor at JSC Elementary Center at a salary of \$84,000 (Act 93 - 12 months) with a start date of January 1, 2023. Mrs. Saunders is currently employed at the Pottsville Area School District as the Graduation Coach (ESSER funded).

- approved Mr. Stanley Sabol as Assistant Principal at John S. Clarke Elementary Center at a salary of \$75,000 (Act 93 - 10 months), pending release from his current employer.
- approved Mrs. Beth Bauers as the JSC 3rd Grade Lead Teacher in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA, effective January 1, 2023.
- approved Stephen Messina as a teacher with the DHH Lengel Middle School Achieve Program, effective December 8, 2022.
- approved Eric Sterner as a full-time Security Police Officer at his current hourly rate, retroactive December 5, 2022. Mr. Sterner is currently a part-time School Police Officer. School Police Officers' salaries and benefits are paid by PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) grant funding through June 30, 2023.
- approved Jacob Witalec as Athletic Trainer for the Pottsville Area School District at an annual salary of \$48,000, effective January 1, 2023.
- approved Crystal Segilia as a Special Education Secretary at an annual salary of \$20,000.00 per the Pottsville Area Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 1, 2023. Mrs. Segilia is currently employed by the PASD as a paraprofessional.
- approved a Family Medical Leave (FMLA) for employee #37, retroactive to December 2, 2022.
- rescinded the October 12, 2022 motion of Mr. Rodney Snowell as a Behavioral Interventionist. It is further recommended that the Board approve Mr. Rodney Snowell as a Behavioral Interventionist at a salary of \$60,000.000 (Prorated), retroactive to October 24, 2022. This position will be partially funded through PCCD grant funds.
- accepted Leigha Keitsock's letter of resignation as DHH Lengel Middle School Drama Advisor effective December 23, 2022.
- approved Jennifer Brant as the DHHL Middle School Drama Advisor for the Pottsville Area School District at an annual stipend of \$700.00 (Prorated), effective January 1, 2023.

- approved Ms. Bailey Nagle as a 3rd Grade Teacher – Step 1 – Bachelor’s - \$41,000, pending release from current employer. Mrs. Beth Bauers will serve as a mentor for Ms. Nagle.

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to the PMFL B-Team for winning the Tri-County Championship by defeating Tamaqua 22-6.
2. A special thank you to our DHHL PBIS Team led by Mrs. Holobetz, PBIS Ambassadors, Tide Tones, and Symphonic Band for planning, preparing, and producing a stellar tribute to our PASD military family members on November 11, 2022.
3. Congratulations to Emma Seiger, Brenna McGowan, and Alaina Bartashus on representing PAHS in the Winter Carnival this year.
4. Congratulations to the PAHS Math team for earning 6th place out of 56 teams at the Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania competition!
5. Thank you to the PTO at JSC for doing an amazing job running the Book Fair. All proceeds from the Book Fair go directly back to JSC students.
6. Thank you to all DHHL PBIS Ambassadors and PAHS students for assisting in the Thanksgiving Food Drive and Basket Delivery.
7. Congratulations to PAHS students and alumni for their outstanding performance in MadCAP on November 26, 2022.
8. Thank you to DHHL PBIS for honoring and celebrating our amazing cafeteria workers on November 18, 2022.
9. Congratulations to PAHS students, Angelina Madonna and Maya Golden, who were chosen as December Rotary Students of the Month.
10. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month for December:
  - K – Cash Huntzinger
  - 1 – Abigail Reedy
  - 2 – Harper Dewitt
  - 3 – Noel Knight
  - 4 – Lila Hollen

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

- approved the Office 0365 Migration with Global Data Consultants, LLC not to exceed the amount of \$30,000.00. COSTARS ID: 199069.



- approved a 60 month hardware lease on 3 Sharp copiers from Fraser Advanced Information Systems at a monthly lease cost of \$699.24. The new copiers will replace the expiring contract on the three (3) Xerox D95 copiers.

- approved the Door Access Control/Alarm Solution from Dauphin DataCom with Verkada, not to exceed the amount of \$205,000.00. The project is being funded \$93,407.00 from budgeted funds and \$111,593.00 from PCCD Safety and Security Grant funds pending approval of grant.

Motion carried.

**Under Upcoming Events**, Jr. Board Member Angelina Madonna read the following:

December 5 - 9, 2022 - JSC Holiday Shop

December 10, 2022 - Crimson Academy's A Winter's Fairytale Performance

December 13, 2022 - DHHL Band and Choir Concert (6:00 PM)

December 14, 2022 - PAHS Choir Performance at Crimson House (12:00-1:30 PM)

December 15, 2022 - PAHS Holiday Band Concert (7:30 PM)

December 16, 2022 - DHHL PTO Winter Dance

December 17, 2022 - Breakfast with Santa at JSC (9 AM-Noon)

December 20, 2022 - Joy through JSC Halls

December 22, 2022 - JSC Winter Fun Day

December 23, 2022 - Holiday Early Dismissal

December 24 - January 2, 2023 - School Closed/Holiday Recess

January 3, 2023 - School Reopens

January 11, 2023 - End of 2nd Marking Period

January 11, 2023 - 90th Day of School

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

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the Use of Facilities for December 2022.

Motion carried.

**Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 2022 at 7:00 PM. (Executive Session - 6:00 PM) at the DHHL Middle School Auditorium.**

An Executive Session was held from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Patricia A. Lombel 1/18/2023  
Patricia A. Lombel (Date)  
Board Secretary