

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors

Board Meeting

November 9, 2022

DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

7:06 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 7:06 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.**

The Board of Directors Roll Call – 9 members present.

There were two public comments this evening.

Mrs. Judith DiObilda

Hello, my name is Judith DiObilda

I had been the librarian at JSC for the past 14 years before the library program was disbanded in 2020. I have been furloughed since. I am a property owner in Pottsville. I recently let Dr. Yoder know I continue to retain my name on the district Callback List. As teacher librarians, we believe the foundation of a good education begins with literacy, and that libraries underpin the path to reading mastery. John S. Clarke library had a state standard curriculum and has a high-quality curated age-appropriated collection. This calls for us to continue to advocate for the students of this district to have all the advantages of a high-level education by reopening this resource with a certified teacher librarian.

Today marks the approximately one-year anniversary of our commenting monthly (Lillian Hobbs and myself) at the Pottsville Area School District school board meetings. Quite frankly, it has felt to me like we have been whistling in the wind. We have presented data that supports our requests to open at least one library, specifically the John S. Clarke library, to support our emerging readers and young researchers. Recently we have offered the current data that is being presented, even on a national level that backs our premise that librarians are essential to overcoming the learning loss that has occurred specifically among our youngest students.

Our data has now come full circle. On October 10th you had an In-Service at Martz Hall conducted by a well-known, national Educational Motivational Speaker, Adam Welcome, attended by Schuylkill County teachers and administrators. At this county wide workshop, Mr. Welcome reinforced how essential librarians are to this current learning environment and the importance of their role working with students, teachers and administrators. He asked the librarians of the county to identify themselves so he could acknowledge them.

Currently, we are asking for just ONE library to be opened: The John S. Clarke Elementary Library. We have heard it is a budgetary issue.

I grew up in locally owned and run family businesses where, as a teen-ager, I worked after school and weekends throughout high school; since, I have worked in non-profit; I have been a sales manager in a Fortune 5 Company and I was a partner in a highly successful restaurant. I understand budgets; spreadsheets can be my middle name, if need be. I ran the JSC library both as a teacher-librarian and a business person. There is discretion that can be used with the available funds of a budget and I am asking you to use your discretion to spend the small amount that is necessary for our emerging learners to be made whole in their Pottsville Area School District education by opening the JSC library. Thank you

Robert and Hiroko Kerns

As parents of children in the District, they would like to see the library open. The library provides books, technology, available resources that would reinforce understanding of classroom learning and good collaboration. The library also reinforces reading skills, research skills, good and bad information, helps with reading and writing and learning about plagiarism. There are numerous schools in the county who have library programs. There should be helping hands to run the library. Some children don't know what a library is. Libraries are very important.

Dr. Yoder said that there are planning and discussion committees during the year. Parents can get involved with this planning and discussion.

Dr. Cardamone thanked Mrs. DiObilda and Mr. and Mrs. Kerns for their comments.

Dr. Cardamone read the following proclamation:

Pottsville Area School District
Proclamation
Honoring
100 Year Anniversary of the
Pottsville Free Public Library

- Whereas,** on January 11, 1911, the Women's Civic club met with the Pottsville School Board seeking cooperation to organize a Library.
- Whereas,** on January 23, 1911, a public meeting was held at the YMCA and the Pottsville Library Association was formed. Dues were \$1 a year.
- Whereas,** on May 8, 1911, the charter was granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Schuylkill County.
- Whereas,** on November 9, 1911, the Library was open in a one-room store front on Market Street.
- Whereas,** on January 1914, A.W., Henry and Louise Sheaffer purchased the lot for \$23,500 at the corner of Third and Market Streets for the sole purpose of erecting a Library.
- Whereas,** on May 4, 1914, the buildings on the lot at Third and Market Streets were demolished. Plans were delayed due to World War I. The architectural firm of Harris & Richards of Philadelphia was hired to design the building for the Library to resemble Independence Hall in

Philadelphia. The book capacity of the facility would be 25,000 but could be extended to 50,000.

Whereas, on May 1, 1922, the Pottsville Free Public Library, Third and Market Streets, opened its doors to the public. Hundreds of people visited the Library to see the impressive site.

Resolved, on November 9, 2022, the Pottsville Area School Board of Directors congratulates and recognizes the Pottsville Free Public Library as an outstanding provider of library services in Schuylkill County for 100 years. Our community is grateful for the programs that build foundational skills for toddlers, grow the love of literacy throughout school-aged years, and support life-long learning for everyone in the City of Pottsville and beyond.

Mr. Edward Hauck, President of the Pottsville Free Public Library, was present. Mr. Hauck and the Board of Directors thanked the Pottsville Area School District for their support. The library provides services of all ages.

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

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2022- \$14,627,701.34; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of October 31, 2022 - \$560,673.35.
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.

Thank you to Bob Weaver Chevrolet for their donation of \$100.00 to the PAHS Aevidum Club's Keystone Motivator Campaign. We are grateful for Bob Weaver Chevrolet's generosity to help support this cause.

Thank you to Miller Distributing for their donation of \$250.00 to the PAHS Aevidum Club's Christmas Care Campaign. We are grateful for Miller Distributing's generosity to help support this cause.

Thank you to Schlitzer Allen Pugh for their donation of school supplies to the DHH Lengel Middle. We are grateful for Schlitzer Allen Pugh's generosity.

On the recommendation of Atty. Reid, Solicitor, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approve the following Discipline Waivers, effective November 10, 2022:

- * #25-4469
- * #25-6499
- * #23-8541

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:

Emily Earley - 6 Credits
Suzanne Fredericks - 3 Credits
Amanda Purcell - 3 Credits
Gregory Schuettler - 3 Credits
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(s) be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Jennifer Brant - \$4,572.00
Lisa Chistakoff - \$1,614.00
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 Mrs. Buchanan, 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:

Kendra Boris

Kelly Boyer

Emily Earley

Melissa Focht

Jeremiah Lynn

Anya Wood

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following the following internship Placement: Kassandra Kuperavage of Bloomsburg University with Mary Beth Conville (High School Guidance). Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved Ms. Kayla Kurtz's Research Proposal. Ms. Kurtz is a Masters in Music Education Candidate through Lebanon Valley College. Motion carried.

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

- approved new lane lines for the natatorium in the amount of \$10,702.86. This expense will be paid from budgetary reserve.

- approved the following coaches for the 2022-2023 season contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances:

- Tony Boris - Freshman Boys' Basketball Coach
- Edward Hampford - Assistant Swim Coach

Motion carried.

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

- approved the purchase of a used snow plow for an existing vehicle in the amount of \$4,000.00. Three (3) quotes were received.

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

- Change Order No. 2 - change in new sidewalk along 16th Street due to existing site conditions and new stair fabrication in the amount of \$3,100.00.
- Change Order No. 3 - for time extension per agreement until November 30, 2022 due to material delays. No cost for this change.

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 movement of funds from PSDLAF Flex Fund to purchase the following Treasury Bonds:

- 2 - 6 Month at \$250,000 each
- 2 - 9 Month at \$250,000 each
- 2 - 12 Month at \$250,000 each

Total Treasury Bonds - \$1,500,000

- approved the transfer of \$7,000,000 in the General Fund from Mid Penn Bank to the PSDLAF account for investment purposes - \$7,000,000 (Flex 2.13% - Weekly Liquidity). Balance in the PSDLAF Flex as of October 31, 2022 - \$5,009,788.01. (Mr. Shields abstained).

- approved the opening of an interest bearing capital reserve checking account with Mid Penn Bank. (Mr. Shields abstained).

- appointed Renee Scharadin, Benefits Specialist, as a Notary for the Pottsville Area School District pending certification with the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries.

- approved the linkage agreement between Keystone/Red Rock Job Corps and Pottsville Area School District. This agreement provides education and training appropriate to students' needs and educational objectives at no cost to the school district.

- approved a Repository Sale for Parcel No. 59-04-0226.000 located at 208 Valley Street Port Carbon Borough at a purchase price of \$1,130.00.

Motion carried.

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

- accepted the letter of resignation from Mrs. Deneen Reese, Assistant Principal/Special Education Supervisor at JSC Elementary Center, dated October 24, 2022. Mrs. Reese's last day will be December 31, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

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

- Employee #1228 - cafeteria aide - October 17 - 21, 2022
- Employee # 1300 - cafeteria aide - November 3, 2022
- Employee #538 - paraprofessional - November 2, 3, 4, 8, 2022
- Employee #25 - cafeteria aide - November 20, 2022
- Employee #1472 - cafeteria aide - December 2, 2022
- Employee #1585 - cafeteria aide - December 12, 2022 through January 13, 2023
- Employee #1580 - paraprofessional - October 31, 2022 through November 4, 2022

- accepted the resignation of Thomas Taylor, outside maintenance crew member. His last day of work was November 4, 2022. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

- approved Hunter Chescavage as a lifeguard for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$9.00/\$10.00 effective November 10, 2022 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork.

- approved an FMLA for employee #872, effective January 3, 2023.

- approved John Zelwalk as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$10.70, effective November 10, 2022 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances.

- approved Shelly Lyn Hoban as a part-time paraprofessional for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$11.25, effective November 10, 2022 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Teresa Stonelake, bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective October 26, 2022.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Katie Porrino, Third Grade Teacher at the JSC Elementary Center, letter dated November 1, 2022. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- approved Linda Andrews as a bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$16.20, effective November 10, 2022. Ms. Andrews is employed by the District as a van driver.

Motion carried

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

1. Congratulations to retired PAHS Baseball and Basketball Coach, Jim Steidle, and Saint Clair Area basketball phenom, Michelle Swantner, for being inducted into the District XI Hall of Fame on October 16, 2022.
2. Congratulations to Brent Hinkle, our former Technology Department intern and current part time Technology staff member, on receiving the Exceptional Intern Award and Andy Diehl, our Director of Technology, on receiving the Exceptional Mentor Award, from Penn State Schuylkill! We are grateful for the collaboration with PSU Schuylkill's CO-OP program.
3. The induction of PAHS National Honor Society members was held in the auditorium on Wednesday, November 2nd. The speaker, chosen by the members, was Mr. Andrew Smink. Congratulations to the top 5% of juniors (12 students) and the top 10% of seniors (19 students) for this prestigious honor!
4. Congratulations to PAHS Volleyball player, Eily Painter, for being the first player in school history to surpass 1,000 career digs.
5. Congratulations to PAHS Artist of the Month for November, Grace Cromyak.
6. Congratulations to the Girls' Soccer Team for winning the District XI 3A Championship! This is the 1st District XI 3A title for the team.
7. Congratulations to the Football team for winning the Eastern Conference 4A title!
8. Thank you DHH Lengel Middle School and Title I for organizing the Trunk or Treat event. We appreciate the businesses, teachers & staff, students in clubs & athletics, and

community members for their creative trunks as well as the hundreds of families for attending!!

9. Congratulations to Schuylkill Technology Center Student of the Month for September, McKayla Cassel (Social Studies).

10. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month, Zowie Zokuskie and Kyler Bowers.

11. Congratulations to JSC Students of the month for November:

Kindergarten: Lilly Jalonski

Grade 1: Rayonna Zettlemoyer

Grade 2: Alexia Greene

Grade 3: Zoey Ketterer

Grade 4: Jayden Jeune

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

- Policy 231 - Social Events and Class Trips
- Policy 232 - Student Involvement in Decision Making
- Policy 233 - Suspension and Expulsion
- Policy 234 - Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
- Policy 235 - Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Policy 235.1 - Surveys
- Policy 236 - Student Assistant Program
- Policy 237 - Electronic Communication Devices
- Policy 238 - Parent of Record
- Policy 239 - International Exchange Students

Motion carried.

Dr. Blankenhorn, **PSBA Representative**, attended the PSBA Conference as a Delegate.

Dr. Blankenhorn said the PSBA Platform committee reviewed the survey results and recommended the following issues as priorities:

- Provide significant, continued state and federal financial investments for school districts.
- Prioritize the mental health and safety needs of students.
- Enact comprehensive and meaningful charter school reforms that reduce the financial burden on school districts and require the same high standards of academic performance and accountability.

- Oppose efforts to provide direct financial aid to students who would use those funds to enroll in non-public schools or efforts that would divert state or federal funding away from school districts in order to fund such programs.

Upcoming Events: Zowie Zokuski, Jr. Board Member

November 11, 2022 - DHHL Veterans Day Program

November 18, 2022 - Winter Sports practice begins

November 19, 2022 - Designer Purse Bingo at JSC (12 - 7 PM)

November 23, 2022 - Holiday Early Dismissal

November 24-28, 2022 - Thanksgiving Recess

November 26, 2022 - Crimson Players Drama Club Basket Raffle at PAHS (10 - 6:15 PM)

November 26, 2022 - Crimson Players Drama Club MadCAP Performance at PAHS

December 5 - 9, 2022 - JSC Holiday Gift Shop

Under New Business the following were approved:

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

An additional item: Crimson Academy – High School Auditorium

11/29/2022 5:00-8:00 Rehearsal

12/1/2022 5:00-8:00 Rehearsal

12/5/2022 5:00-8:00 Rehearsal

12/7/2022 5:00-8:00 Rehearsal

12/10/2022 4:00-8:00 Recital

12/11/2022 12:00-4:00 Recital

Motion carried.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT THE ACADEMIC CENTER:

Facilities and Grounds Meeting - Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 7:00 AM

Technology Meeting - Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

Policy and Procedure Committee – NO meetings in November and December

Athletics and Extracurriculars Meeting – NO meeting in December.

Finance Meeting – NO meeting in December

Board Meeting – Reorganization Meeting, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM. (Executive Session - 6:00 PM) at the DHHL Middle School Auditorium,.

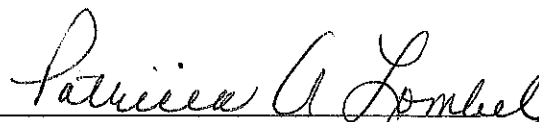
An Informational Item: A letter of resignation was received by Debra K. Witmer, Mechanicsville Borough Tax Collector, effective December 31, 2022.

The Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Directors should be held during the beginning of December for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year and for general purposes.

Reorganization Meeting Date - Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM .

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 Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

12/7/2022

Board Secretary