

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting October 12, 2022 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:04 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
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The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 were present.

There were no public comments this evening.

**PowerPoint Presentation – Clinical Outcomes Group, Inc.** presented by Ms. Kaitlyn Herndon and Ms. Courtney Tamagini.

**The Strengthening Families Program is for Parents and Youth 10-14.**

Some of the features of the program:

- Prepares families for the transition to the teen years
- Parents and youth learn together
- Videos portray parent-child interaction
- User friendly materials
- Fun, interactive projects and activities
- Use cross-culturally
- Rigorously evaluated

The format is developed for parents and youth 10-14. There are two-hour sessions. Some of the program activities are short lectures, videos, discussions, skills practice, learning games and family projects.

Parental Risk and Protective Factors and Youth Risk and Protective Factors are addressed by SFP 10-14.

The website is [www.extension.iastate.edu/sfp10-14/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/sfp10-14/)

Dr. Cardamone thanked Ms. Herndon and Ms. Tamagini for their excellent presentation.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the September 14, 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 Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of September 2022:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of September 30, 2022- \$17,310,649.19; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of September 30, 2022 - \$549,228.82.
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.

Dr. Yoder, Superintendent, thanked Weis Markets Weis Markets for their donation of \$400.00 to the DHH Lengel Middle School, which was generated by our school supporters while shopping at Weis Markets using their Weis Preferred Shopper Club card. We are grateful for this partnership with Weis Markets.

Dr. Yoder, Superintendent, thanked Rite Aid (Centre Street Location) for their generous donation of school and art supplies to the DHH Lengel Middle School. We are grateful for Rite Aid's generosity to our school.

Dr. Yoder, Superintendent, thanked Capital Blue Cross for awarding DHH Lengel Middle School with \$2500.00 for their grant proposal of Girls on the Run. This will be used to educate students about the value of lifelong physical activity and healthy eating.

On the recommendation by Atty. Reid, Solicitor, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following Discipline Waiver, effective October 13, 2022: #260141. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, 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:

Anya Wood - 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, 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 PASDEA:

Crystal Pugh - \$300.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the following student teacher placement as a part of the district's collaboration with Alvernia University:  
Mahzee Zerbe with cooperating teachers, Beth Bauers and Lisa Chistakoff (Grade 3)  
Motion carried.

**Informational Item from the Crimson Tide Foundation**

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

1. Kristyn Blum/First Grade JSC Teachers for a planting and farming project. Amount - \$346.66
2. Maria Malek, PAHS, PA Shakespeare Festival "Will Power Tour" for up to 120 students. Amount \$1,000.00
3. Jessica Coyle, PAHS, Aavidum Club (mental health). Amount \$409.10

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 Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following items:

- approved the change of hire date for Guiseppe Giuffre as Assistant Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach. The hire date is retroactive to August 15, 2022. Mr. Giuffre was hired as an Assistant Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach at the September 14, 2022 Board Meeting.

- accepted the resignation of John M. Toomey, Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach, effective September 26, 2022.

- approved the additional Winter Coaches for the 2022-2023 season contingent upon satisfactory clearances and required mandated training. Winter coaches were approved at the June 8, 2022 Board meeting.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tyler Heffner, Assistant

Open Position - Freshman Coach

Jed Dunkel, 8th Grade

Pat McCord, 7th Grade

WRESTLING

Matthew Peleschak, Assistant Jr. High Coach

SWIMMING

Open Position - Assistant Coach

- approved the additional volunteer Winter coaches for the 2022-2023 season contingent upon satisfactory clearances and required mandated training:

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tate Clark  
Jordan Melochick

WRESTLING

Cal Schoffstall

- approved the additional Athletic Game Event Workers for the 2022-2023 school year:

Paula Jones  
Maria Malek  
Kelly Miller  
Leslie Salem  
Christina Seiger  
Motion carried.

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

- approved the Planetarium Maintenance Agreement Spitz A3P between ASH Enterprises International, Inc. and Pottsville Area School District for a one year period at a cost of \$4,350.00. Term of agreement: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

- approved the five (5) year agreements for the following advertisers for the new Electronic Sign outside Martz Hall at the intersection of 16th Street and Laurel Boulevard. Total cost for the five (5) years is \$13,500.00.

- GreenWorks Development
- Lehigh Carbon Community College

Thank you to the Crimson Tide Foundation for your sponsorship in support of the Pottsville Area School District.

- approved the 2022-2023 contract for the Transportation of School Pupils between the Schuylkill Technology Center and the Pottsville Area School District.

- approved the agreement with Mazzitti and Sullivan EAP Services for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), pending solicitor's review. This employer-sponsored program offers services and referrals for employees at an annual cost of \$8,448.00.

- approved the affiliation agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and The Pennsylvania State University to provide students in the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing on-site clinical and /or non-clinical educational experiences in the nursing field, effective October 1, 2022.

- approved the Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit for the 2021-2022 ARP Supplemental IDEA allocation, in the amount of \$113,008, to supplement the provision of special education and related services for eligible school aged children.

- approved the 2022-2023 Special Education Services Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. Agreement Cost - \$982,488 payable in four (4) scheduled installments.

Motion carried.

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

- approved Aleksandra Williams as a substitute nurse for the Pottsville Area School District at a daily rate of \$125.00, effective October 13, 2022 and pending required clearances on file.

- approved the following part-time cafeteria aides (\$9.10/hr.) and substitute cafeteria workers (\$11.25/hr) contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances:

- Elizabeth Lenosky - retroactive to October 11, 2022
- Sandra Murton - retroactive to October 3, 2022
- Desiree Weikel - retroactive to September 19, 2022

- accepted the resignation of Paula Heffner, paraprofessional at Pottsville Area High School, retroactive to August 15, 2022. Ms. Heffner is employed at DHHL Middle School through ESS.

- accepted the resignation of Mary Ann Dragna, cafeteria aide at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective September 16, 2022.

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

- Employee #1228 - cafeteria aide - September 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 2022

- Employee #1472 - cafeteria aide - October 7, November 29, 30, December 1, 2022
- Employee #1483 - cafeteria aide - September 22, 30, 2022, October 5, 2022
- Employee #1349 - cafeteria aide - September 27, 2022

- approved Leigha Keitsock as the DHHL Middle School Drama Advisor for the Pottsville Area School District for the 2022-2023 school year, at an annual stipend of \$700.00.

- approved Ms. Melissa Sheetz as an ELA Teacher at DHHL Middle School for the 2022-2023 School Year - Step 4 - Bachelor's + 15 - \$49,100, pending release from current employer and required clearances on file.

- approved Mr. Brett Reed as an ESL Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year - Step 1 - Bachelor's + 15 - \$47,600, pending release from current employer and required clearances on file.

- approved Mr. Rodney Snowell as a Behavioral Interventionist for the 2022-2023 School Year at a salary of \$52,000 with a start date of October 24, 2022 and pending required clearances on file. This position will be funded through PCCD grant funds through the 2023-2024 school year.

- approved Oral Kramer as a full-time custodian for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$9.63, effective October 13, 2022 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances.

Motion carried.

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

1. Special thanks to Mr. Diehl, Mrs. Eckley, Dr. Gerace, Mr. Krause, Mrs. Larish, our administrative team, and their staff members for taking on the extraordinary task of preparing for and welcoming nearly 1,500 educators to the Pottsville Area School District with professional development and food for the Schuylkill County In-Service day held on October 10, 2022! We appreciate the DHH Lengel faculty and staff as well as everyone else who assisted with setting the stage for this collective effort!
2. Congratulations to all of our students at JSC who completed the summer reading challenge! Students celebrated with Bingo and ice cream! Thank you to our reading center teachers (Mrs. E. Prestileo, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Drenzo, Mr. Anderson), Mrs. Larish, and Dr. Gerace, for making this event possible.

3. Congratulations to PAHS Golfers Roman DiRenzo and Rylen Matlock for placing in the Top 20 in the Schuylkill League Championships.
4. Congratulations to PAHS Artist of the month for September, Ella Adams and for the month of October, Kaitlyn Cicero.
5. Congratulations to the newest additions to the Pottsville Sports Hall of Fame! The following were inducted on October 2, 2022 at the Pottsville Zone.
  - Keith Armson (Class of 1989)
  - Gretchen Ebling (Class of 1981)
  - Morgan Halsey Englert (Class of 2008)
  - Dave Mullaney (Honorary)
  - Elizabeth Puddu (Class of 2008)
  - Ron Rux (Class of 1989)
  - Stephanie Sweat (Class of 2012)
  - Jenny Price Wagner (Class of 1983)
6. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the month, Gwen Biddle and Chloe Heintz.
7. Congratulations to JSC Students of the month for September:
  - Kindergarten - Bryce Rivera
  - Grade 1 - Blake Harrison
  - Grade 2 - Parker Reeve
  - Grade 3 - Charlotte Welsh
  - Grade 4 - Aubrey Deiter
8. Thank you Pottsville Fire Department Chief Jim Misstishin for teaching JSC Elementary students about Fire Safety during Fire Prevention week (October 9-15, 2022).
9. Congratulations to Lily Hale, Sarah Malek, and Hannah Martician for winning 2nd place in the Renaissance Faire Theater Competition on October 5, 2022.

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



- approved 21 LG 65" Commercial TV's which include TV Mounts and Panel Stands from Moyer Electronic Supply, retroactive to September 13, 2022. This purchase is being paid through ESSER I funds at a cost of \$38,165.61. Motion carried.

Under **Curriculum**, Mrs. Dewitt read the following informational item:

Update on the Gillingham Charter School renewal process: After the Pottsville Area School District granted a 30-day extension requested by Gillingham Charter School in the 2021-2022 school year, the District reviewed and provided feedback on the charter application and follow-up documents. While a substantial number of additional submissions were provided by Gillingham Charter School to clarify and support the charter school renewal request, the District has concerns. The topics of concern based on the data submitted by Gillingham Charter School are: Teacher Certification, Teacher Turnover Rate, Student Achievement, Curriculum, Special Education, Finance, and Discipline/Safety. Of particular concern to the District is the number of students withdrawing from Gillingham Charter School. The Student Retention Rate, calculated as the percent of students enrolled for a full year who return for the following school year (excluding graduates), was an average of 48% during the four (4) school years in the review. The District is currently attempting to negotiate the charter renewal without going through the court system and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to reduce the burden on taxpayers. More specifics will be provided in a future meeting.

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

- Policy 218.3 - Discipline of Student Convicted / Adjudicated of Sexual Assault (\*Second Reading)
- Policy 221 - Dress Code
- Policy 222 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- Policy 223 - Use of Bicycles and Motor Vehicles
- Policy 224 - Care of School Property
- Policy 226 - Searches
- Policy 227 - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- Policy 228 - Student Government
- Policy 229 - Student Fundraising
- Policy 230 - Public Performances by Students

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the **Policy and Procedure Committee**, and on motion by Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following retired policy:

- Policy 225 - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

Motion carried.

Under **Food Services**, Mr. Shields read the following Informational Item:

The Pottsville Area School District will receive Supply Chain Assistance funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Food and Nutrition to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products. These funds are designated to assist with the challenges with administering the Child Nutrition Programs in the 2022-2023 School Year.

Under **New Business**, Junior Board member, Ms. Madonna, read the following Upcoming Events:

October 11-14, 2022 - JSC PBIS Spirt Week

October 14, 2022- District Wide Pep Rally

October 16, 2022 - New Philadelphia Fall Festival Parade

October 17, 2022 - Lengel PTO Meeting

October 18, 2022 - DHHL Picture Retake Day

October 19, 2022 - St. Clair Halloween Parade

October 21, 2022 - PAHS Picture Retake Day

October 22, 2022 - DHHL PTO Halloween Dance

October 24, 2022 - DHHL Middle School Trunk or Treat (6:00pm - 7:30pm)

October 24-28, 2022- DHHL/PAHS Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week

October 24-28, 2022- JSC Red Ribbon Week

October 25, 2022 - Pottsville Halloween Parade

October 27, 2022 - End of First Marking Period (tentative)

October 28, 2022- Start of Second Marking Period (tentative)

November 2, 2022 - Report Cards upload to Skyward (tentative)

November 2, 2022 - National Honor Society Induction

November 7, 2022 - Act 80 Day (No School for Students)

November 7, 2022 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (11:00am - 7:00pm)

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the Use of Facilities for October 2022. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board granted permission to Learning on Laurel (formerly Lacie's Little Ones) located on 15th and West Laurel Boulevard for use of DHH Lengel Middle School Cafeteria or Auditorium in the event of an emergency. Motion carried.

**UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT THE ACADEMIC CENTER:**

Technology Meeting - Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

Policy and Procedure Committee - Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Facilities and Grounds Meeting - Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:00 AM \*\*Please note date change.

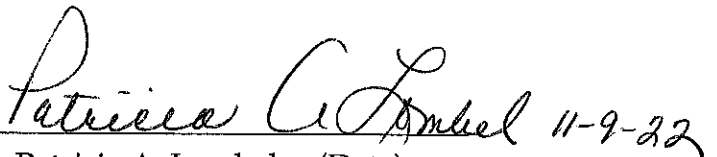
Athletics and Extracurriculars Meeting - Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 AM

Finance Meeting - Friday, November 4, 2022 at 7:00 AM

**Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM (Executive Session - 6:00 PM)**

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

There being no further new business, on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

 Patricia A. Lombel 11-9-22

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary