

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Board Meeting  
December 6, 2023  
DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium  
7:03 PM

Present: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan,  
Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt,  
Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas,  
Ms. Wytovich, Mr. Urban, 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 7:03 PM by Board Secretary, Mrs. Lombel.

Mrs. Lombel read the following Board Statement:

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. If members of the public wish to make public comments, then they must do so in person. Public comments will follow School Board Policy 903 and public comment procedures. Members of the public who are residents and/or taxpayers of the school district who wish to comment shall identify themselves by indicating name, address, and topic upon which they want to address. If the subject matter is on the agenda, such persons shall be given priority over residents and/or taxpayers who want to comment on non-agenda items. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes. The public comment segment of each Board meeting shall be a maximum of one (1) hour per public meeting. Anyone who does not get the opportunity to speak because of the expiration of this one (1) hour time period shall be afforded a priority speaking position at the next public Board meeting. 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 will be forwarded to all Board members. The meeting will be available online.

Are there any public comments at this time?

There were no comments this evening.

Roll Call – 9 members present.

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 17, 2023.

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 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of accepting the Certificates of Election of the School Directors who were elected in November 2023; and for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; and also for general purposes.

Ms. Wytovich nominated Mr. Thomas as Temporary President, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, nominations were closed for Temporary President. Motion carried.

On the motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved Mr. Thomas as the Temporary President. Mr. Thomas, Temporary President, proceeded with the Reorganization Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas accepted the Certificates of Election from the new Directors.

The Oath of Office was administered to the new Board Directors by Schuylkill County President Judge Jacqueline Russell. The new Directors are: Mr. Kerry Ansbach, Mrs. Ashley Dewitt, Mrs. Rachael Hobbs, Mr. Craig Shields and Ms. Linda Wytovich. The new Directors will serve for a four (4) year term.

Congratulations were extended to the new Board of Directors.

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

Mr. Urban nominated Ms. Wytovich to serve as President of the Board for a term of one year, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields, nominations for President were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Ms. Linda Wytovich was elected to the office of the President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

Congratulations were extended to Ms. Wytovich on her election as President of the School Board.

Ms. Wytovich proceeded with the election of a Vice President.

Mrs. Dewitt nominated Mr. Ciavarella to serve as Vice President of the Board for a term of one year. Mrs. Buchanan seconded.

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Shields the nominations for Vice President were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Mr. Ciavarella was elected to the office of Vice President for a term of one year. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Ciavarella as Vice-President of the school Board.

Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan nominated Mr. Shields to serve as Temporary Treasurer for the fiscal year beginning December 6, 2023 and ending the last day of June 30, 2023.

On motion of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Thomas the nominations for Temporary Treasurer were closed.

The Secretary cast the ballot and Mr. Shields was elected as Temporary Treasurer of the Pottsville Area School Board. Motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban and Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt approved a bond in the amount of \$50,000 with approved surety; premium of the bond will be paid by the Pottsville Area School District. Motion carried.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Shields as Temporary Treasurer.

On the recommendation of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Board Meeting dates for 2024:

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2024

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

\*\* WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 - due to timing of final budget approval

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

\*\* WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 - Reorganization Meeting

\*\* Please note date change

ALL MEETINGS AT 7:00 P.M. IN

THE DHH LENGEL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the November 8, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes, and the November 15, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. 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 Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of November 2023:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of November 30, 2023 - \$5,911,255.66. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of November 30, 2023 - \$254,445.28.
2. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Revenue Report
3. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Expenditure Report
4. Cafeteria Condensed Board Summary Report
5. Payment Summary – General Fund, Food Service
6. Budget Transfers – Approved Budget Transfers in the amount of \$120,100.00 to reallocate funds due to coding changes. This will bring the chart of accounts into compliance with PDE requirements.

Motion carried.

Solicitor, Atty. Reid congratulated the new Board Members: Ms. Wytovic, Mr. Ciavarella and Mr. Shields.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, 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  
Michel Germán - 6 Credits  
Nicole Kutsmeda - 3 Credits  
Kaitlin Leffler - 11 Credits  
Anne Murray - 3 Credits  
Rebecca Oakill - 3 Credits  
Elaina Prestileo - 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 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:

Erin Blozusky - \$300.00  
Nicole Kutsmeda - \$300.00  
Mary McGinley - \$300.00  
Katelynn Miller - \$300.00  
Anne Murray - \$300.00  
Amy Rubinkam - \$300.00  
Kara Ryan - \$300.00  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban seconded by Mr. Ansbach, the Board approved the following salary adjustment were approved and made retroactive to the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year:

Erin Blozusky - Master's + 15  
Mary McGinley - Master's + 15  
Amy Rubinkam - Master's + 15  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the 2023-2024 Pottsville Area School District Organization Chart. Motion carried.

Informational Item under Superintendent's report:

We are thankful for the partnership with Pressed Coffee and Books and appreciate everyone who submitted nominations for the Third Annual Thanks-A-Latte.

The winners of the Pressed Coffee and Books gift card raffle are...

- Tontiana Arthur - Paraprofessional at JSC Elementary
- Amy Babcock - Teacher at Pottsville Area High School
- Ronald Brennan - Van Driver
- Derek Derenzo - Teacher at JSC Elementary Center
- Melissa Focht - Teacher at DHHL Middle School
- Molly Kleeman - Teacher at JSC Elementary Center
- Julie Leiby - Teacher at DHHL Middle School
- Nikki Lukach - Cafeteria Staff at DHHL Middle School
- Crystal Pugh - Teacher at Pottsville Area High School
- Brad Ross - Head Custodian at JSC Elementary Center and Pottsville Area High School

We are grateful for our AMAZING faculty, staff, volunteers, and administration!!

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

- approved the following Assistant Swim Coaches:
  - Edward Hampford - retroactive to November 20, 2023
  - James Lotz - effective December 7, 2023

Motion carried.

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

- approved the advertisement for an RFP for the Auxiliary High School Gymnasium. This project will be funded through ARP ESSER.
- approved the advertisement for an RFP for the Sports Medicine and Healthcare Agreement. Our current agreement with St. Luke's expires on June 30, 2024.
- approved Forecast 5 Budget Management at a cost of \$6,500.00.
- approved the agreement with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 as a sub-recipient of IDEA B allocation in the amount of \$496,164.

- approved the Sub-grant agreement for IDEA Section 619 Pass Through Funds between the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and the Pottsville Area School District for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$15,057.00.

Motion carried.

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

- approved Beth Bauers - JSC for the After School Tutoring Program.
- accepted the resignation of Joanne Matina as a van driver, retroactive to October 12, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- accepted the letter of retirement from Patricia Lombel, Assistant Business Manager for the Pottsville Area School District. Mrs. Lombel's last day will be March 29, 2024. We wish her well in her retirement.
- approved an increase of \$5.00 per day per crossing guard to \$30.00 per day, effective January 1, 2024. There are currently 15 crossing guards, and the cost is split between the City of Pottsville and the PASD. We are thankful for the collaboration with the City of Pottsville.
- approved the resignation of Dawn Leigh, transportation aide for the Pottsville Area School District, retroactive to November 6, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- approved Amy Beadle as a full-time secretary for the Pottsville Area School District at an annual salary of \$25,000.00, retroactive to December 4, 2023.
- approved Elizabeth Martinko as a lifeguard for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$9.00/\$10.00, effective December 7, 2023.
- approved the following Leave of Absence as per Board Policy 335:
  - Employee #1107- beginning March 24, 2024
  - Employee #1196 - beginning December 18, 2023
  - Employee #78 - beginning January 12, 2024
- accepted the letter of resignation of Mr. Christopher Kovaleski, PAHS Special Education Teacher, effective November 16, 2023.

- approved Mr. Bo Rogers as a Special Education Teacher at PAHS for the 2023-2024 School Year - Step 14 - Master's + 15 - \$74,301, pending release from his current employer.

- approved Shawn Westwood as a full-time custodian at the JSC Elementary Center at an hourly rate of \$13.00, retroactive to December 4, 2023 and a substitute van driver at an hourly rate of \$13.50.

- approved Kim Malis as a twelve (12) month cafeteria receiver/custodian employee, effective January 1, 2024. Ms. Malis is currently a ten (10) month employee.

- approved Sage Noll for a Business Office Internship at an hourly rate of \$11.00 with a maximum of 29 hours per week, effective January 3, 2024 through August 31, 2024. Mr. Noll is currently a senior at Penn State Schuylkill Campus. There is a potential for a partial subsidy from Penn State Schuylkill for this internship.

Motion carried.

Under **Promotion, Public Relations and Social Media**, Mrs. Buchanan read the following:

1. Congratulations to the PAHS students who participated in the Senator for a Day even at Penn State Schuylkill:

Bella Chaklos  
Roman DiRenzo  
Nick Englert  
Kelly Goodman  
John Kushwarra  
Brenna McGowan  
Vincent Prestileo  
Madison Shrift  
Dugan Szeliga  
Ash Webb

2. Congratulations to the 17 Pottsville Area High School Band members on a successful audition for the 2023-2024 Schuylkill County Band Festival! The following students will be participating in this year's festival, which is being hosted at Pine Grove High School with the concert taking place on Saturday, March 2, 2024:

Vincent Prestileo (Senior - Trumpet)  
Tyler Sibbett (Sophomore - Percussion)  
Evrett Walters (Sophomore - Percussion)  
Jillian Horvath (Junior - Tuba)  
Jake Powers (Freshman - Euphonium)  
Michael Prestileo (Sophomore - Trombone)



Cole Hoak (Sophomore - Alto Sax)  
Autumn Fermaintt (Sophomore - Alto Sax)  
Hunter Chescavage (Senior - Tenor Sax)  
Madison Thomas (Senior – Clarinet)  
Ava Orłowsky (Sophomore – Clarinet)  
Madison Eroh (Senior – Clarinet)  
Kiera Bolkovich (Senior – Clarinet)  
Miranda Seiger (Sophomore – Clarinet)  
Emma Seiger (Senior – Flute)  
Gabrielle Davis (Senior – Flute)  
Emily Steidle (Sophomore – Flute)

3. Thank you PAHS coaches, wrestlers, and all who attended the Annual Charity Match - Nearly \$2,000 was raised to benefit PAHS wrestling alumnus Mike Zawaski!

4. Thank you to the PAHS students and staff who organized and delivered food to 35+ families in Pottsville Area School District and Saint Clair Area School District! We are grateful for all of our students, staff, and community across the district for donating thousands of items to share with families!

5. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month:

K - Violet Van Stone

1 - Finley Reilly

2 - Liam Figueroa Canela

3 - Ebby Upton

4 - Bria Prestileo

6. Congratulations PAHS Artist of the Month, Kaitlyn Schwenk.

7. Congratulations PAHS Rotary Students of the Month, Armonia Paniagua and Vincent Prestileo.

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

-approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pottsville Area School District Education Association and the Pottsville Area School District for classroom coverage. Term of agreement: January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Motion carried.

**Under New Business:**

**Upcoming Events**, Madison Eroh, Jr. Board Member, read the following:

December 7, 2023 - PAHS Holiday Choir Concert (7:30pm)

December 12, 2023 - DHHL Winter Concert (6:00 pm)

December 14, 2023 - PAHS Holiday Band Concert (7:30 pm)

December 19, 2023 - JSC Joy through the Halls (5:00 pm)

December 22, 2023 - Holiday Early Dismissal

December 23, 2023 - January 2, 2024 - Christmas Recess

January 3, 2024 - School resumes

**Committee of the Whole Meeting** - Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the PAHS Planetarium.

Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

An Executive Session was held from 6:00 pm to 6:48 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

 1/17/24

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary