

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting November 15, 2023 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 PM	Present:	Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone Mr. Ciavarella, 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
	Absent:	Mrs. Dewitt

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Michael Cardamone.

Dr. Cardamone - 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 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 – 8 members present. 1 – absent (Mrs. Dewitt)

Dr. Ann Blankenhorn and Dr. Michael Cardamone , outgoing Board of Directors, were recognized for their service.

Dr. Yoder, Superintendent, read the following statement:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Pottsville Area School district, we want to express our deep appreciation for your many years of service and dedication. Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) honors school board directors for long-term service and dedication to their local districts and communities. When school directors reach eight years of service, they are presented with an honor roll certificate. PSBA’s Senior Director of Member Outreach Becky Dussinger shared, “School directors today have a more challenging job than ever before in our complex society. As unpaid volunteers, they give generously of their time all year long to help guide the education of our children. The Honor roll is the association’s way of thanking these dedicated leaders, who are committed to the success of our public schools and the students they service.” Dr. Blankenhorn had eight (8) years of service, and Dr. Cardamone had seven (7) years of service. Thank you to both of you for your commitment to the Pottsville Area School District. We wish you the best.”

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the October 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes, and the October 18, 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 Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of October 2023:

1. Treasurer’s Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2023 - \$6,025,102.39. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of October 31, 2023 - \$364,251.39.
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.

On the recommendation of the Solicitor, Atty. Reid, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Discipline Waivers, effective November 15, 2023: #26-4973 and #26-9923. Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, 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 -3 Credits

Christopher Kovaleski – 3 Credits

Kara Ryan – 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, 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:

Paula Heffner - \$1,440.00

Nicole Kutsmeda - \$300.00

Anne Murray - \$300.00

Amanda Purcell - \$1,662.00

Anya Wood - \$1,662.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following affiliation agreement/student – teacher placement:

- approved the Lebanon Valley College Health Science Department's Clinical and Practicum Experience Agreement. This agreement shall remain in effect for a three-year period beginning on November 16, 2023.

- approved Reagan Little, Lebanon Valley College Speech and Language Pathologist student with cooperating Speech and Language Pathologists, Molly Hook (JSC) and Amy Withelder (PAHS).

- approved Katrina Pakalinsky, Kutztown University Art Education student with cooperating Art Teacher, Sara Arnold (PAHS).

We are grateful for the partnerships we have with Lebanon Valley College and Kutztown University.

Informational Item

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Gerace sent an email to PASD staff and families inviting interested stakeholders to join us for a meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6 PM in the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center. We are in the process of applying for a federal grant to increase support for our students, faculty, staff, and community, so we are seeking input. Please RSVP to Dr. Gerace if you plan on attending.

Donations

Thank you to Mr. Michael Lazarchick for his donation to the James K. Steidle Memorial fund.

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

- approved Michael Peleschak as Junior High Wrestling Coach for the 2023-2024 season.
- approved Leah Zerbe as a volunteer for Junior High Girls Basketball for the 2023-2024 season.

Motion carried.

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

- approved the use of DHHL Middle School by Learning on Laurel, LLC Preschool and Daycare center in the case of an unforeseen emergency.
- approved the Pottsville Area School District decommission inventory.

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 2023-2024 Special Education Service Agreement.
- approved the Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- approved Energy Contract - IGS - at a 3 year rate 0.08459 (estimated). Market rate subject to change at time of signing contract.
- approved a One (1) year Maintenance Program with Edwin L. Heim Company at a Cost of \$135,492.00.
- approved the 21st CCLC Data Sharing Agreement and School District Letter of Agreement with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit.

- approved the reinvestment of \$500,000.00 with PSDLAF into a T-Bill for six (6) months at 5.35%, retroactive to November 10, 2023.

- approved JMAC Realty, LLC. - real estate assessment appeal - agreement for one time payment of \$5,194.26 owed to the District for the 2023-2024 real estate taxes.

-approved the ReDCo Group Behavioral Health Services Agreement, effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Personnel Committee** and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, 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 #1300 - Lunch Aide - November 3, 2023
- Employee #1114 - Library Aide - November 8, 2023 through January 3, 2024 (revised)

- approved the following Leave of Absence as per Board Policy 335:

- Employee #301- beginning November 15, 2023

- granted permission to advertise for an ESL teacher and a Special Education teacher.

- approved the following for the After School Tutoring Program:

Detrick Borden - PAHS

Michel German - JSC

Kelly Lombel - JSC

Leslie Salem – JSC

- accepted the resignation of Charles Toback, bus driver for the Pottsville Area School District. Mr. Toback's last day was October 27, 2023.

- rescinded the September 20, 2023 motion for Sharon Rozetar, part-time paraprofessional.

- approved Lisa Krammes as a full-time paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$14.00, retroactive to November 13, 2023.

- approved Sharon Pogar as a part-time paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$14.00, retroactive to November 13, 2023.

- approved Leslie Barringer as a part-time van driver (\$13.50/hr.) / transportation aide (\$11.25/hr.) for the Pottsville Area School District, effective December 4, 2023.

- approved Mrs. Jill O'Toole as School Social Worker at Pottsville Area High School for the 2023-2024 School Year - Step 10 - Master's - \$61,186, pending release from current employer.

- approved Mrs. Mickey Gunoskey as School Social Worker at JSC Elementary Center at Step 12 - Master's - \$65,886 as of November 16, 2023 to transition to PASDEA due to the PDE School Social Worker certification.

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to PAHS senior Vincent Prestileo, who has been accepted into the PMEA District 10 Chorus!
2. The Induction of PAHS National Honor Society members was held in the auditorium on Wednesday, November 1st. The speaker, chosen by the members, was Mr. Sterner. Congratulations to the top 5% of juniors (11 students) and the top 10% of seniors (22 students) for this prestigious honor!
3. Congratulations to PAHS Artist of the Month for November, Madison Munley.
4. Thank you DHHL Middle School and Title I teachers for organizing the Trunk or Treat event that was held on October 23, 2023. 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!!
5. Congratulations to the following PAHS September Students of the Month at the Schuylkill Technology Center:
 - Chloe Azbell - Diesel Technology
 - Brendan Melochick - Welding
 - Robert Lewis - Residential & Industrial Electricity
6. Congratulations to PAHS Students, Campbell Albertini and Madison Eroh, Rotary Students of the Month.
7. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month:
 - K - Thomas McGeoy
 - 1 - Anthony Generella
 - 2 - Darkiel Ayala-Resto
 - 3 - Jamar Williams

4 - Kaindra Joy

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

- approved the following Kajeet renewals:

- Home WiFi devices - \$4,456.57
- Mobile Hot spot devices - \$2,878.78
- Bus WiFi devices - \$16,861.85

- approved the three (3) year agreement for a Google Education License. The cost for the three (3) Year agreement for students is \$11,250.00. There is no charge for staff licenses. There is a savings of \$3,750.00 over the three-year agreement.

- approved the advertisement for an E-Rate eligible RFP for a potential cabling/network improvement project in the District.

Motion carried.

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

- approved the following policies:

Employees

- 308 - Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- 309 - Assignment and Transfer
- 311 - Reduction of Staff
- 312 - Performance Assessment of Superintendent
- 313 - Evaluation of Employees
- 314 - Physical Examination
- 314.1 - HIV Infection

- retired the following policies:

Administrative Employees

- 310 - Abolishing a Position
- 316 - Nontenured Employees

Professional Employees

- 408 - Employment Contract/Board Resolution
- 409 - Assignment and Transfer
- 410 - Abolishing a Position
- 411 - Suspension and Furloughs
- 412 - Evaluation of Professional Employees
- 413 - Evaluations of Temporary Professional Employees

414 - Physical Examination
414.1 - HIV Infection
416 - Nontenured Employees

Support Employees
508 - Employment Contract/Board Resolution
509 - Assignment and Transfer
511 - Suspensions and Furloughs
512 - Evaluation of Support Employees
514 - Physical Examination
514.1 - HIV Infection
Motion carried.

Dr. Balnkenhorn attended the Delegate assembly for PASBO. Discussions were on operation, language, equity and accountability and charter schools.

Under New Business:

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

November 17-19, 2023 - Six the Musical Teen Edition (PAHS Wachter Auditorium)

November 22, 2023 - Holiday Early Dismissal

November 23-27, 2023 - Thanksgiving Recess

December 2, 2023 - PAHS Christmas Prom

December 4 - 8, 2023 - JSC Holiday Gift Shop

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the **Use of Facilities** Calendar for November 2023.

MS

- 1 – Cafeteria & Auditorium
Pottsville Football Boosters Annual Banquet
December 3, 2023 11 am - 4 pm

Motion carried.

Reorganization Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengle Middle School Auditorium.

An Executive Session was held from 6:30 pm to 6:46 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Patricia A. Lombel 12/4/23

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)
Board Secretary