

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting October 18, 2023 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 PM	Present:	Dr. Blankenhorn, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella; Mrs. Dewitt, 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. Buchanan

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. Buchanan).

There was an excellent Presentation by Mrs. Stacy Stair, Business Manager, on the Solar Annual Report.

Actual Net Electric Bill with Solar Power

- School District's Annual Bills paid to PPL - \$197,895 (Expense)

- Solar Payments under solar contract - \$188,714 (Expense)
- *Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) income* - \$66,896 (Revenue)
- Excess Production payment from PPL - \$2,168 (Revenue)

Actual Net Electric Bill = \$317,545

Electric Bill if the District did not have Solar Power:

- School District's Annual Energy usage -4,300,255 kWh
- Energy Supply Cost = Multiplied usage (above) by \$0.0935/kWh = \$402,074 (Expense)
- Historical Distribution Cost = Multiplied usage (above) by \$0.016/kWh = \$68,804 (Expense)

Electric Bill if the District did not have Solar Power = \$470,878

***Solar energy produced is offsetting about 40% of annual energy usage**

Year 1 Energy savings with Solar Power = \$303,249 - \$292,867 = \$10,382 (Time period November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021)

Year 2 Energy savings with Solar Power = \$470,878 - \$317,545 = ~~153,333~~ (Time period November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022)

Since *Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC)* are sold after the Solar Power is generated, the PASD will provide a similar report in 2024 for Year 3 Energy savings for the time period of November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023.

Dr. Cardamone thanked Mrs. Stair for her Annual Solar Report.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the September 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes, and the September 20, 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. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of September 2023:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of September 30, 2023 - \$5,380,319.18 Cafeteria Checking Balance as of September 30 - \$289,108.07.
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 – There were no budget transfers.

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:

Katelynn Miller - 3 Credits

Kara Ryan - 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, 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 - \$2,343.00

Suzanne Fredericks - \$600.00

Christopher Kovaleski - \$6,150.00

Crystal Pugh - \$300.00

Michael Roberts - \$3,096.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following salary adjustment, effective 2023-2024 school year:

Suzanne Fredericks - Master's + 15

Christopher Kovaleski - Master's + 15

Crystal Pugh - Master's + 15

Motion carried,

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following student teacher placements as a part of the District's collaboration with Kutztown University:

Kaitlyn Johnson with cooperating teacher, Courtney Reichert (Grade K)

Kasey Favelle with cooperating teacher, Nicole Kutsmeda (Grade K)

Jessica Jones with cooperating teacher, Mary McGinley (Grade K)

Emily Sanceciz with cooperating teacher, Kristyn Blum (Grade 1)

Decontee Togba with cooperating teacher, Molly Kleeman (Grade 3)
Lauren Albrecht with cooperating teacher, Jennifer Brindle (Grade 4)
Makaela Letayf with cooperating teacher, Kelly Lombel (Grade 4)
Page Athey with cooperating teacher, Amanda Purcell (Grade 4)

We are grateful for our partnership with Kutztown University.
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the 2023 - 2024 Pottsville Area School District Organizational Chart.
Motion carried.

Informational Items:

PDE ESSER Monitoring for ARP ESSER has been completed. PDE Director of Compliance Julie Patton provided a letter stating in part, "We thank you for your cooperation and for ensuring that your entity and the Commonwealth continue to achieve compliance with federal requirements." No further action is required by the District.

Thank you to Federal Programs Coordinator Mrs. Maria Larish and Business Manager Mrs. Stacy Stair and the business office staff for their work on this extensive process. We appreciate the PDE's support to prepare for future audits.

The Crimson Tide Foundation is proud to announce the following Venture Grants which were awarded for the 2023-2024 school year:

October Awards

1. Mrs. Maria Malek, PAHS - PA Shakespeare Festival's Will Power Tour for workshops and performance - \$1,000.00
2. Ms. Kim Martinko, JSC Elementary Center -Headsets for language arts/ELA class Second Grade - \$516.18
3. Mrs. Beth Bauers, JSC Elementary Center - 4-H Chick Embryology Third Grade - \$720.00
4. Mr. Greg Hoak and Ms. Paula Heffner - DHH Lengel Middle School - Go sports water polo sets and Omnikin ultra ball - \$828.00
5. Ms. Leah Zerbe - DHH Lengel Middle School - Gardyn Subscriptions, water treatments, plant food and Gardyn grow tower - \$440.00

Total awards for October 2023 - \$3,504.18

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

Thank you to **Capital Blue Cross** for selecting the Pottsville Area School District to receive a 2023 Live Healthy School Grant in the amount of \$2,500. We are grateful for the partnership with Capital Blue Cross.

Thank you to **Jersey Mike's** for giving a food donation with a value of approximately \$1,700 to our football team. We appreciate their generosity in support of our student athletes.

Thank you to our local partners for sponsoring Pottsville Area High School Crimson Cash. We appreciate **Fresh Hair Company** for their generous donation of \$350 and the **Law Office of Thomas J. Pellish** for their generous donation of \$465 in support of our PBIS Program to reward students' positive behavior. We are grateful for our partnerships with Fresh Hair Company and the Law Office of Thomas J. Pellish.

Thank you to **Miller's Distribution** for sponsoring our Aevium campaigns again this year. Miller's Distribution donated items with a value of \$275 in the December Campaign and \$275 for the February Campaign. All donations are in goods. We appreciate their generosity in supporting our Aevium Program.

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

- approved the following Youth Swim Coaches, at an hourly rate of \$11.00:

- Neil Johnson - effective November 29, 2023
- Margaret Palladino - retroactive to October 10, 2023
- Mya Smith - effective October 19, 2023 pending completed paperwork

- approved Sandy Englert as Varsity Swim Coach for the Pottsville Area School District at a stipend of \$5,800.00 as per the PASDEA agreement, effective October 19, 2023.

Motion carried.

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

- approved Victor E. Muncy Inc. to furnish and install Insulated Glass with Bronze Tint at the DHH Lengel Middle School. Total cost is \$5,595.00. Mr. Urban noted the insulated glass will replace two panels in the cafeteria.

- approved McNulty's Building Supply, Inc. to install carpeting at the Planetarium at a total cost of \$3,350.00.

Motion carried.

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

- approved the revision to the Rohrer Bus lease as of October 19, 2023 in order to take possession of two Ford Transit 3500 vans on October 19, 2023. The new annual rate will be \$604,158.17 for July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026, which is an annual increase of \$4,669.42 for a total increase of \$14,008.26 over the lease.

- approved the 2023-2024 Contract for the Transportation of School Pupils between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Technology Center, retroactive to September 11, 2023.

- approved the Intergovernmental Agreement between The Pottsville Area School District and The City of Pottsville Bureau of Police regarding the enforcement of violations of school bus stop arm signals.

- approved the Intergovernmental Agreement between The Pottsville Area School District and The Police Department of Port Carbon regarding the enforcement of violations of school bus stop arm signals.

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 Repository Sale - Parcel No. 68-34-0128.000 located at 904 Sillyman Street. Pottsville City. Repository Price - \$1,609.00

- approved the establishment of a minimum bid on property (house, building, garage and land) sales of \$15,000 and a minimum bid on land (vacant, no improvements) repository sales of \$10,000, effective October 19, 2023. Mr. Shields Abstained.

- approved the bank change for the ebay account from Truist Bank to Mid Penn Bank. Mr. Shields Abstained.

- approved the reinvestment of \$500,000.00 into a 6 month T-Bill at a rate of 5.42%, retroactive to October 16, 2023.

Motion carried. *Noted – two (2) abstentions from Mr. Shields.

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

- approved Janelle Starr as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$13.50, retroactive to September 26, 2023.

- accepted the resignation of Janelle Starr, van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, retroactive to October 17, 2023.

- approved Alyssa Goodman as a substitute elementary cafeteria aide (\$10.00/hour) and a substitute cafeteria worker (\$11.25/hour), retroactive to October 4, 2023.

- approved the following lifeguards at the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$9.00/\$10.00, effective October 19, 2023 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork: Noah Bevan and Logan Strauss.

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

- Employee #1349- Lunch Aide - September 18, 2023
- Employee #947 - Kindergarten Aide - November 20, 21, 22, 2023
- Employee #1114 - Library Aide - November 28, 2023 through January 5, 2024
- Employee #815 - Cafeteria Aide - October 25, 26, 27, 30, 2023
- Employee #25 - Cafeteria Aide - October 6, 2023
- Employee #1483 - Lunch Aide - October 13, 2023

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

- Employee #1249 - beginning January 8, 2024 (tentative)
- Employee #1614 - beginning January 29, 2023 (tentative)
- Employee #1378 - beginning September 20, 2023
-

- accepted the letter of resignation from Mrs. Jessica Coyle, Social Worker at PAHS, effective October 22, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- accepted the resignation of Crystal Segilia, District Office Secretary, retroactive to October 10, 2023.

- approved Brenda Schoeneman, owner of Yoga-B-Yoga, Orwigsburg, to offer In-Person Yoga Sessions on October 16, November 6 and December 11, 2023.

- approved Alyssa Urban as a substitute part-time paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$12.00, retroactive to October 10, 2023.

- approved Gail Newton as a substitute nurse for the Pottsville Area School District at a daily rate of \$125.00, effective October 19, 2023 and pending required clearances on file.

- accepted the resignation of Cindy Westwood as a substitute cafeteria worker and lunch aide, retroactive to October 9, 2023.

- approved Cindy Westwood as a full-time custodian at the DHH Lengel Middle School at an hourly rate of \$13.00 retroactive to October 10, 2023 and a substitute van driver. Ms. Westwood is currently a part-time van driver for the Pottsville Area School District.

- approved Mary Matulevich for the DHHL Middle School Achieve Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

- approved Debbie McClelland as a part-time lunch aide at an hourly rate of \$10.00, retroactive to October 16, 2023.

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to PAHS student, Kaniya Dumas, Artist of the Month for October.
2. Congratulations to the newest additions to the Pottsville Sports Hall of Fame. The following were inducted on October 8, 2023 at the Pottsville Zone.

David Scott Reichert (Honorary, accepted by son Zachary Reichert)

Donna Lowthert Knight (Class of 1982)

Diana Legear McGoey (Class of 1987)

Sean Holden (Class of 1995)

Nate Lipton (Class of 1996)

Shane Hobbs (Class of 1998)

Jessica Moser Craig (Class of 2001)

Tyler Heffner (Class of 2012)

3. Congratulations to the ten choir members who have been accepted into the Schuylkill County Chorus.

Sophia Rulavage (Alto 2)

Annabella Chaklos (Alto 2)

Hannah Hohman (Soprano 2)

Robert Rulavage (Bass)

Vincent Prestileo (Tenor)

Michael Prestileo (Bass)

Maya Johnson (Alto 1)

Sarah Malek (Alto 1)
Anna Luckenbill (Alto 2)
Tabitha Rauch (Alto 1)

4. Congratulations to PAHS Students, Samarra Reedy and Faith Toothaker, Rotary Students of the Month.

5. Congratulations to DHHL Student, Pierre Mercius, for receiving the first Ducky Award as a standout swimmer.

6. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month:

K - Jaxson Cardinal
1 - Elliot Reichert
2 - Kingston Baker
3 - Shrija Patel
4 - Julian Dreisbach

7. Thank you Pottsville Fire Department Chief Jim Misstishin for teaching JSC Elementary students about Fire Safety during Fire Prevention week (October 10-13, 2023).

8. Congratulations to Lady Tide Volleyball on an undefeated regular season. The team finished 18-0.

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

- approved the Pottsville Area School District 2023-2026 Comprehensive Plan. The The Pottsville Area School District Comprehensive Planning Committee met in April, 2022; June, 2022; January, 2023; and June, 2023 to discuss and provide input regarding the Pottsville Area School District 2023-2026 Comprehensive Plan.

Motion carried.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, Mrs. Lombel, read the following:

October 18, 2023 - St. Clair Halloween Parade

October 21, 2023 - Drama Club Craft and Vendor Event

October 23, 2023 - DHHL Middle School Trunk or Treat (6:00pm - 7:30pm)

October 24, 2023 - Pottsville Halloween Parade

October 26, 2023 - Achieve Lights on Program

October 30, 2023 - Winter Sports Physical (2:00 - 7:00pm)

October 31, 2023 - Pottsville Trick or Treat
November 1, 2023 - End of First Marking Period (tentative)
November 1, 2023 - National Honor Society Induction
November 2, 2023 - Start of Second Marking Period (tentative)
November 6, 2023 - Act 80 Day (No School for Students)
November 6, 2023 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 6, 2023 - Food Truck Fest (2:00 - 7:00pm)
November 7 - 10, 2023 - JSC Book Fair
November 8, 2023 - Report Cards upload to Skyward (tentative)

On the recommendation of Mrs. Lombel, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the **Use of Facilities** Calendar for October 2023:

MS

1 - Cafeteria

DHHL PTO Winter Dance
12/16/23 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

2 - Parking Lot Rear

Title I Trunk or Treat
10/23/23 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

3 - Auditorium

Schuylkill County Regional Spelling Bee
March 2, 2024 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

4 - Parking Lot Rear

PPL Live Line Electrical Safety Exhibit
10/30/23 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

HS

1 - Veterans Memorial Stadium

Pottsville Alumni 5K Race
November 11, 2023 8:30 am - 11:00 am

2 - Classroom

EMT Class
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm on the following dates:
11/14, 11/28, 11/30, 12/12, 12/14, 1/9, 1/11, 1/23, 1/25,
2/6, 2/8, 2/20, 2/22, 2024

AC

1 - Front Conference Room

Family Literacy Program
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Beginning on October 24, 2023 - Ending on May 30, 2024

ISC

1 - Library

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Schuylkill County

Every Monday 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm on the following dates:
First semester: October 30 – December 18, 2023
Second semester: February 5 – April 15, 2024

Motion carried.

Meeting Dates for November 2023:

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room of the Academic Center.

Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

An Executive Session was held from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm to discuss personnel matters.

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

Jr. Board Members Absent – Hunter Chescavage and Madison Eroh.

 11/15/23

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary