

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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| Board of Directors Board Meeting May 24, 2023 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 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 7:00 PM by President Michael Cardamone.

Dr. Cardamone read the following statement:

CHARTER LAW

We will start the meeting with a statement addressing the concerns noted by Gillingham Charter School (GCS). As a Board and District, we wholeheartedly agree that the PASD should not use taxpayer money to review GCS during this 5-year charter renewal process nor to review its annual paperwork submitted to the Department of Education (PDE). Unfortunately, the legislature determined this process in 1997. There have been no legislative changes to this process since 1997. Article XVII-A requires the Board of Directors of a school district in which charter school is located to approve or deny a charter application or its renewal. This Board is responsible to ensure that GCS is in compliance with its charter and all applicable laws. There is no funding mechanism for this oversight that is mandated by the General Assembly, so the District does not receive any funding for its administrators to delve into the factors mentioned in previous meeting.

FACILITY

The board has not added the charter renewal to this meeting's agenda for several reasons. A priority area of concern is that GCS has not provided a plan for students' physical education instruction. Due to the safety concerns since January, Gillingham Charter School has not used the building located at 315 Howard Avenue for Physical Education class and Extra-curricular activities. These safety concerns were brought to the attention of GCS by the District during its visit to the facility and affirmed by the City of Pottsville's inspection. The facility has been subsequently condemned. Prior to January of this year, students and staff had been using this building regularly since 2011.

STAFFING

The consultant selected by GCS AFFIRMED the District's statement from last month's meeting that GCS did in fact submit partially or completely inaccurate information regarding twenty (20) staff members on the PDE-414 form for the 2021-2022 school year. Moreover, GCS submitted 90.8% certification to the PDE, and the consultant determined the rate was 84.5%. The District still needs additional information regarding certain staff members since there are remaining discrepancies with respect to the legal threshold of having at least 75% of their teachers properly certified for their assignments. GCS has not yet addressed the fourteen (14) staff members who did not return for the 2022-2023 school year, nor the additional staff who left during this current year. You may notice on this evening's agenda that one of GCS's current certificated educators is being recommended for approval at the PASD.

There is a lack of clarity as to GCS staffing in general. GCS has portrayed on the "Alert" on its website and social media that they only have an Art teacher opening. Conflicting with this information is the FrontLine recruiting website that GCS maintains for open positions. The District downloads their open positions on a regular basis, and it is clear they have not filled several positions this year due to post and re-posts:

- Elementary teacher (posted 3/25/2022)
- 5th/6th grade teacher (posted 4/11/2023)
- Secondary Math teacher (posted 1/3/2023)
- Art Teacher (posted 11/14/2022)
- Music (posted 4/11/2023)
- Special Education teacher (posted 5/16/2022 as of 3/16/23 and reposted 4/11/2023)

These correspond to resignations, shifts in schedules, and positions with no certified individuals. GCS stated that PASD has far more open positions on its website, which is true because the District has more than ten (10) times the number of students that GCS enrolls. Contracting with the positions at GCS, PASD positions are not ones that are open consistently throughout the year, but they are **additional** positions such as Physical Education, Music, Library Media Specialist, and Assistant Principals as well as proactive hires for the 2023-2024 school year based on anticipated and submitted retirements/resignations.

One example of the unstable staffing at GCS is that 2nd graders have had three (3) different classroom teachers during this school year based on their board minutes and the information submitted to the District.

LEGAL COSTS

We have received information that there has been a mischaracterization about past and current dollar amounts spent by the Pottsville Area School District on the charter process:

- Two GCS employees posted statements (one verbal and the other in writing) on social media regarding Attorney fees. The board would like a citation of evidence for this dollar amount as well as the amount GCS spent.

- With respect to current legal fees from 7/1/22 through 4/30/23, GCS has spent \$88,427 in legal fees. This exceeds GCS's full year budgeted amount of \$50,000. PASD has ten (10) times the enrollment of GCS. During the same time period, the District's legal fees, which includes fees associated with contract and agreement reviews, meeting attendance, etc was \$56,793.50 **Proportionate to enrollment, GCS has outspent the PASD on legal fees by nearly sixteen (16) times through 4/30/23.** The District performs a significant amount of legwork before consultation, thus reducing the burden on the taxpayers.

FINANCIAL

The board is concerned about GCS's fiscal operations. Based on GCS reports, there has been a reduction of cash balance from 93.7 days of cash on hand as of 2/24/23 to 77.7 days of cash on hand as of 3/31/23 to 74.7 days of cash on hand as of 4/30/23. The PASD has 213.9 days of cash on hand to meet its fiduciary and facility responsibilities. During this timeframe, GCS paid out \$42,800 in bonuses that were not budgeted for.

LENGTH OF RENEWAL PROCESS

The length of renewal process between GCS and the PASD is directly correlated with:

- GCS requested extensions for submitting information in the first year as well as recently, which were all granted by the PASD.
- GCS provided inaccurate and incomplete documentation, which resulted in additional research by the District.
- The significant amount of work placed on the district from its visit to 315 Howard Avenue and the lack of planning by GCS for Physical Education due to the condemned building has significantly impacted the process.
- The District has specified its request for redacted special education programming information (not personally identifiable). Due to the lack of collaboration and non-submission by GCS, the District is gathering information utilizing other avenues.

INSTABILITY OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT

As has been stated in previous Board meeting...

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 forty-eight (48%) during the four (4) school years in the review. Based on information submitted by GCS, students from twenty-two (22) School Districts across seven (7) counties have been enrolled at GCS during the time period of the current charter.

Going one step further, less than 3% of students who reside within the PASD attend GCS. The board is supportive of School Choice when the playing field is even, and the District has assisted students and their families in non-public school, cyber school, GCS, and homeschool. Although the District continues to meet its statutory requirements, it

is not equitable for the PASD to bear the fiscal and programmatic responsibility to review the GCS charter when less than 3% of PASD resident students attend GCS.

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. 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.

There were several public comments.

1. Michelle Santonastaso , Pottsville – Ms. Santonastaso has three daughters who are attending GCS. She says they are getting a good education at GCS. She likes having a choice of choosing what school her daughters attend.
 - Sadie had struggled in school for a few years. Sadie knew this is where she belonged and is doing a lot better at GCS. Sadie said it is not perfect. Often times there are students who are out of hand and nothing is done about it.
 - Reese was struggling with her classes but is doing a lot better since going to GCS.
 - Kairi is a special education student but is thriving with a smaller class size. She is so proud of GCS; they are like family.
2. Ashley Rivera, Pottsville – Ms. Rivera said that her children now attend PASD. She felt her children were not treated equally at GCS. Ms. Rivera says the teachers do not see the educational deficits of the student. Ms.

- Rivera said one of her children needed extra help; she sees a difference with her child who is now enrolled in PASD.
3. Kelly McGeever, Pottsville – Ms. McGeever has 5 children (2 in Pottsville and 3 in GCS). Her children that are enrolled in Pottsville are doing well in school. She is also happy with the children who are enrolled GCS; GCS diagnosed child with ADHD. She likes the idea that parents have a right to choose.
 4. Caleb –student at GCS. He said that GCS opens your mind to opportunities; it is like an outside voice. School means so much to me. Everyone knows each other at GCS.
 5. Deidra Herbert, Pottsville – Mrs. Herbert taught for almost 30 years. Mrs. Herbert said that students come to GCS to do better in school. Students become comfortable when speaking with students and adults. As stated “just let us have our charter school.”
 6. Lariah – student at GCS. Has been a student at GCS for over 4 years. She has had amazing opportunities at GCS.
 7. Gavin – student at GCS. He enjoys going to school at GCS. He thanked GCS for giving him the opportunity to learn more.
 8. Adam Webber, Pottsville – Mr. Webber has 4 children. He has a daughter in 2nd grade and a son that just graduated; he also has a child who is a student in Blue Mountain. Mr. Webber said each child has his or her own abilities and not every student learns the same way.
 9. Steve Wehner, Pottsville – Mr. Wehner works part time as an aide at GCS. He said every child is different. He said the teachers are great listeners and very caring. He has two children at GCS.
 10. Joan Huey, grandmother to her grandchildren who attend both GCS and PASD. She is a volunteer at GCS and enjoys working with the students. She said the teachers are very caring.
 11. Scott Herbert is the Board President at Gillingham Charter School. He said that his youngest son went to GCS and did very well. He would like to see both schools work together. Mr. Herbert would like to set up a meeting between both schools.

Roll Call – 9 members present.

Dr. Cardamone recognized Angelina Madonna and Zowie Zokuskie with plaques for serving two (2) years as Jr. Board Members. We wish them well in their new endeavors. They will graduate as members of the Class of 2023.

Mrs. Stacy Stair presented a PowerPoint on the upcoming adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget.

Mrs. Stair discussed the following that was updated since the April 12, 2023 meeting:

- Local Real Estate Tax Levy decreased \$721 due to increase in Property Tax Relief subsidy from the state
- Participation Fees removed from Revenues due to Board voting to eliminate this fee for our student athletes. Local Revenues reduced by \$14,000
- State sources – Property Tax Relief Subsidy increased \$104 from \$887,697 to \$887,801
- Impacting Revenue in 2023-2024 which include Local (35%), State (54%) and Federal (11%) Sources
- The Local Real Estate Assessment Value increased to \$295,530,550
- Impacting Expenses in 2023-2024 – Overall Expenses increased 3.76%
- General Liability Insurance increased 0.844% (\$2,006)
- Worker’s Compensation decreased by 13.25% (\$11,549). Savings applied to the total insurance package
- Salary and Benefits make up 61% of the Budget
- District continues to successfully mitigate the cyber charter and Gillingham Charter school costs
- Additional funding in Budgetary Reserve due to the volatility of charter (brick & mortar-Gillingham and cyber) enrollment
- Proposed Budget Revenue to Expenses Comparison
 - Revenue \$48,814,422
 - Expenditures \$48,814,422
- Recommendation
 - There has been 0% increase in 10 of the last 16 years
 - The recommendation of no tax increase for the 2023-2024 fiscal year will be 11 years with no tax increase out of the last 17 years
 - Recommendation: **No tax increase this year**
- Presentation is on the District’s website

Dr. Cardamone thanked Mrs. Stair for her informative PowerPoint presentation.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes, and the

April 30, 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 Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of April 2023:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of April 30, 2023- \$4,920,242.82. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of April 30, 2023 - \$483,683.10.
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

Motion carried.

There was a motion for an election of a Treasurer for year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024)

On a motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved to proceed with the election of a Treasurer for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Motion carried.

On a motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, Ms. Linda Wytovich was nominated for Treasurer of the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year beginning the first day of July 2023 and ending the last day of June 2024. Motion carried.

On a motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Nominations for Treasurer were closed. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

Mrs. Lombel, Board Secretary, cast the ballot electing Ms. Linda Wytovich as Treasurer of the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

On the motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved that the Treasurer be required to provide a bond in the amount of \$50,000.00, with approved surety, the premium of the bond to be paid by the Pottsville Area School District. Motion carried.

Under Donations:

1. Thank you to Hadesty's Ace Hardware and Rental Place for providing gardening gloves for our 3rd graders and teachers and Leah Zerbe from Potter's Farm for the gardening guidance and donating the plants/flowers. The group kicked off the Schuylkill United Way Captain Jason B. Jones Day of Caring.

2. Thank you to the following donors In Memory of Nikki Hedeman-Melusky. As per the family's request, all donations will benefit the Pottsville Area School District's Athletic Department.

- Don and Peggy Butler
- Cynthia and William Corson
- Lisa Enders Derbes (Logan and Jordan)
- Tony and Mary Jane DiCello
- Chrissy and Jacquie Dormer
- Jim and Lori Guzick
- Michael and Angela Holobetz
- Michael and Tom Schaeffer
- Robert Klinger Insurance
- Lorraine Enders and Michael Lazarchick
- Marina Piccioni
- Mary and Robert Piccioni
- Tom Piccioni
- Robert Bricker and Dr. Mary Lou Rainone
- Barbara Wollyung
- Robert and Lynn Sinko
- Grant and Sarah Yoder
- Mary and Raymond Yost

3. Thank you to the following donors In Memory of James K Steidle. As per the family's request, all donations will be put into "The James K. Steidle Memorial Fund" at the Pottsville Area School District.

- Christine Barone
- Scott and Gail Buffington
- Michael Ciavarella and Dorthea Stevens
- Gary and Catherine Cortese
- Don and Cathy Cuff
- Paul and Joanie Dimmerling
- Michael and Mary Dwyer
- Thomas and Michele Eroh

- Kathleen Eves
- Anne Fecenko
- Frank and Mary Ann Fetterolf
- Ronald and Beth Flannery
- William and Nancy Gallagher
- Robert and Janet Gronski
- James and Lori Guzick
- Edward and Mary Hauck
- James and Janis Heller
- John and Joan Holden
- John and Carol Homovich
- Robert and Marilouise Hoppe
- Scott and Fiona Jacoby
- John and Joanne Keating
- Yongcheol and Soonae Kim
- Joan Kitsock
- Richard and Susan Laubach
- Anne Leininger
- Robert and Mary Lipton
- Andrew and Charlene Makara
- Darren and Carolyn March
- Thomas and Jean Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Mogel
- Charles and Judith Naradko
- Thomas and Paula Ney
- Thomas Piccioni
- Donalene Platts
- Karl and Barbara Reed
- Joseph and Barbara Reichert
- Lisa Roberts
- Pamela Roberts
- David and Larissa Russell
- Donald Schneider
- David and Andrea Sekellick
- Sherrill Siberling
- Donna Strohecker
- Francis Tamburelli
- Charles and Barbara Wagner
- Patricia Weber

- Louise and Elizabeth Welikonich
- Edward and Sandra Wentz
- Harold and Sally Yoder
- Grant and Sarah Yoder
- Raymond and Mary Ann Yost
- Joanne Yuengling

There was a moment of silence.

On the recommendation of Solicitor Atty. Reid, and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved the following Discipline Waivers, effective May 24, 2023: #26-9608 and #25-7858. Motion carried.

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

Suzanne Fredericks - 6 Credits

Kaycee Hess - 3 Credits

Mary McGinley - 9 Credits

Rachelle Price - 3 Credits

Amy Rubinkam - 9 Credits

Anya Wood - 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Thomas, 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

Kendra Boris - \$1,614.00

Emily Earlley - \$1,548.00

Suzanne Fredericks - \$300.00

Rachelle Price - \$1,614.00

Gregory Schuettler - \$1,548.00

Anya Wood - \$1,614.00

Motion carried.

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

Julie Drummer – Bachelor +15

Tayah Moore – Bachelor +15

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved Antonia Marion Anna Schafers as an exchange student from Germany at Pottsville Area High School for the 2023-2024 school year. The Scott family will host Miss Schafers for the school year.

Motion carried.

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

April Awards

1. Mrs. Lisa Holobetz, DHH Lengel Middle School - Iron Pigs Tickets - \$1,000.00
2. Mr. Jonathan Hughes, DHH Lengel Middle School - 8th grade Tide-Tek STEM Club trip to Niagara Falls - \$1,000.00

May Awards

1. Mr. Christian Selinko, DHH Lengel Middle School - Tide-Tek Club STEM trip to the Franklin Institute - \$1,000.00
2. Mrs. Donna Skosnick, PAHS - Set of classroom calculators \$444.47

Astrology II Course and Planetarium

1. Mr. Adrian Portland, PAHS - Astrology II Course and Planetarium Equipment - \$9,654.00

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

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 Independent Petroleum Service in the amount of \$925.00 for fuel tank certifications at John S. Clarke Elementary.

- approved Eastern Lift Truck Co., Inc. to remove existing dock pad seals and metal and install new dock pad seals at John S. Clarke Elementary Center rear loading dock. Total cost - \$4,429.00.

Motion carried.

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

- reappointed the Schuylkill County Recorder of Deeds to administer and collect the Realty Transfer Tax within the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

- approved the Seltzer Group Partners Renewal for 2023-2024 school year:

- Property/Liability/Auto/Educators Liability - \$134,065
- Commercial Umbrella - \$17,478
- Cyber Liability - \$10,878 * estimated

- approved the Seltzer Group Partners Workers Compensation Renewal for 2023-2024 - \$75,611, which is a decrease from \$87,160 in 2022-2023.

- approved the 2022-2023 TITLE I Revised Letter of Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit. Term of Agreement - August 22, 2022 through June 2, 2023.

- approved the request to move \$750,000 from Mid Penn Checking Account (2.75%) to PSDLAF Capital Reserve Account (4.733%).

- approved a request to rollover a 3 Month Treasury Bill at 5% (in PSDLAF) in the amount of \$511,000.00, retroactive to May 18, 2023.

- approved a Single Static Advertising from HYDRO, Cressona, PA. Term of Agreement: \$1,500.00 (\$500/year) for three (3) years.

- approved the request to invest \$500,000.00 from PSDLAF Flex into 3 or 4 Month Treasury Bill depending on interest rate.

- approved the Letter of Agreement for the provision of Student Assistance Program (SAP) and Elementary Student Assistance Program (ESAP) Services between the Pottsville Area School District and Child and Family Services Inc., effective August 1, 2023.

- approved the Renewal Agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) Computer Service for the 2023-2024 school year at an annual cost of \$19,366.

Motion carried.

- designated the following institutions as depositories for the Pottsville Area School District for the 2023-2024 school year and to continue under presently existing depository agreements:

- Mid Penn Bank , Minersville, PA - General Fund, Payroll Account, Federal Funds, HS Athletic Fund, Activities Fund, Auxiliary Account, Booster Club Account, Cafeteria Account
- Gratz/Link Bank, Pottsville, PA - Award Funds, Technology Account
- Truist Bank (formerly BB & T Bank), Pottsville, PA - Ebay Account
- PSDLAF - Capital Reserve Fund

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye. Mr. Shields, Abstain.

The **Committee on Finance** reports that the tentative budget notice and the adoption of the budget this evening was published in the Republican Herald on April 21, 2023 stating that the budget for the fiscal year commencing the first day of July 2023 would be adopted as of May 24, 2023. The budget herewith presented has been carefully considered by the Board of Directors and is now submitted by the Committee on Finance for action at this meeting.

The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board of Directors adopt the following budget resolution authorizing the expenditures of the amounts indicated in the various classifications for the general fund budget totaling \$48,814,422 and appended to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Pottsville Area School District, Schuylkill County, hereby authorize expenditures of \$48,814,422 set forth in the school budget, as appended, during the school year 2023-2024 and levies a tax of 44.4025 mills (\$44.4025 per thousand dollars) of the County assessed valuation on real estate; a per capita tax of five dollars (\$5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a per capita tax of five dollars (\$5.00) per person under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an earned income tax of one-half percent (1/2%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an occupation tax of 339.4493 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of \$125.84 also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; a business privilege tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the school district except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill,

and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; a local services tax at the rate of \$5.00, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; and a realty transfer tax of one percent (1%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of 1986; to provide the necessary revenue for the expenditures hereby authorized.

The above taxes will be levied and collected in each of the following political subdivisions included in the Pottsville Area School District as follows: City of Pottsville, Borough of Port Carbon, Borough of Mechanicsville, Borough of Mount Carbon, Borough of Palo Alto, and Township of Norwegian.

On the recommendation by the **Finance Committee** and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved to adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board authorize and direct the following to collect the amount due on the 2023 taxes, real estate and personal, in the respective political subdivisions indicated:

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| Pottsville City | Taryn Dagna |
| Port Carbon Borough | Mary Jo Ferraro |
| Mechanicsville Borough | Mary Jo Ferraro |
| Mount Carbon Borough | Linda Marchalk/Sch. County Treasurer |
| Palo Alto Borough | Anna Cook |
| Norwegian Township | Krista Schaeffer |

On the recommendation by the **Finance Committee** and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved to authorize and direct the collection of taxes.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board confirm the rates of compensation to tax collectors in the respective political subdivisions for the 2023 duplicates:

Pottsville City - School District's 1/3 share of tax office salaries, with the City of Pottsville and County of Schuylkill to pay the other two-thirds

Port Carbon Borough \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & \$1.00 per bill mailed

Mechanicsville Borough \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & \$1.00 per bill mailed

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| Mount Carbon Borough | \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & \$1.00 per bill mailed |
| Palo Alto Borough | \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & \$1.00 per bill mailed |
| Norwegian Township | \$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & \$1.00 per bill mailed |

4% Increase - City of Pottsville

On the recommendation by the **Finance Committee** and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved to confirm rates of compensation. Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the resolution imposing a Per Capita Tax of five dollars (\$5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a Per Capita Tax of five dollars (\$5.00) on each resident of Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the 1980-1981 school year and subsequent years. No additional resolution is required to continue these taxes which are currently in force.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the resolution imposing an Earned Income Tax of one-half of one percent (1/2%) under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the period beginning July 1, 1966 and ending December 31, 1966 and thereafter, during each successive calendar year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax which is currently in force.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Realty Transfer Tax of one percent (1%) on the transfer of titles on real estate in the Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of 1986, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2023-2024 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Local Services Tax of \$5.00, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2023-2024 school year.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Business Privilege Tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the School District except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill, and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently

in effect, will continue during the 2023-2024 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Occupation Tax of 339.4493 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of \$125.84 under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, will continue during the 2023-2024 school year.

The Committee on Finance reports that proper notification of the continuance of Per Capita Tax (Section 679), Per Capita Tax (Section 511), Earned Income Tax, Realty Transfer Tax, Local Services Tax, Business Privilege Tax, and Occupation Tax for the fiscal year 2023-2024, will be forwarded to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Center for Local Government Services, by certified mail, as required.

**POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TAX STRUCTURE -2023-2024**

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Real Estate | 44.4025 | |
| Per Capita – Section 679 | \$ 5.00 | |
| Per Capita – Act 511 | \$ 5.00 | |
| Earned Income Tax | 1/2% | |
| Realty Transfer Tax | 1% Shared with City - .5% | |
| Local Services Tax | \$ 5.00 | |
| Business Privilege Tax | 1 mill | Wholesale |
| | 1 1/2 mills | Retail |
| | 4 1/2 mills | Other/Service |
| Occupation Tax – Act 511 | \$125.84 | |

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Pottsville Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2023:
 - a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$ 887,801.
 2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:
 - a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 4,232.
 - b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 0.
 - c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 4,232.
3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(a) aggregate

amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$ 887,801 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 4,232, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$209.78.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$209.78 by the School District real estate tax rate of 44.4025 mills (.444025), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$4,725 and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$0.00.

5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$4,725. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$0.00. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

On the recommendation by the **Finance Committee** and on motion of Dr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the resolution.

Motion carried by roll call vote: Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shields, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye.

On the motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban, an error was corrected on number 4 of the resolution. Motion carried.

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

- approved the following teachers to plan and/or teach for the DHHL School Summer Tutoring Program/Summer School, at an hourly rate of \$35.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and PASDEA.

Angela Altemose

Kimberly Edling

Lisa Holobetz

Stephanie Maroukis

Philip Tenaglia

Patricia Zimmerman

- approved the following for the Extended School Year Program (ESY) at an hourly rate of \$35.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and PASDEA, effective June 20, 2023:

Suzanne Heiser (nurse)

Haley Pappacena (teacher)

John Guzick (teacher)

- approved the following summer employees for cleaning at an hourly rate of \$12.00: Crystal Major and Joanie Williams.

- approved Ms. Paula Heffner as an ESY paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$14.35, effective May 24, 2023.

- approved the Family Medical Leave (FMLA) for the following employees:

- #172, retroactive to March 19, 2023
- #1187, retroactive to May 8, 2023
- #280, effective June 2, 2023
- #404, retroactive to May 10, 2023

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

- Employee #1235 - Van Driver - May 1, 2023 to TBD
- Employee # 930 - Cafeteria Worker - April 14, May 12, 24, 2023
- Employee # 70 - Paraprofessional - May 3, 2023

- approved the 2023-2024 Operating Hours Calendar for 12 month personnel.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Gloria Bartol, paraprofessional at the Pottsville Area High School, effective May 31, 2023. We wish her well in her retirement.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Renee Duncan, cafeteria employee at the DHHL Middle School, effective May 19, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Mr. Robert Shaffer, 5th Grade Teacher at the DHHL Middle School, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We wish him well in his new endeavors.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Ms. Rylee Bosch, Science Teacher at the DHHL Middle School, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- approved Shawn Snyder as Head Custodian at the DHHL Middle School at an hourly rate of \$24.04, retroactive to May 15, 2023.
- approved the revised Act 93 Agreement to reflect the positions of Middle School Assistant Principal (10 months), High School Assistant Principal (10 months), and High School Special Education Supervisor (12 months).
- approved Mr. Jeromy Guistwite as the Assistant Principal at the Pottsville Area High School at a salary of \$79,000 (Act 93 - 10 months) with a July 1, 2023 start date.
- approved Mrs. Elly Aschman as the Special Education Supervisor at the Pottsville Area High School with a July 1, 2023 change in title from Assistant Principal/Special Education Supervisor at the Pottsville Area High School.
- approved Mrs. Casey Shoopack as a 1st Grade Teacher at the JSC Elementary Center for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 4 – Bachelor’s + 15 - \$50,600.
- approved Miss Karrison Dubbs as a 4th Grade Teacher at the JSC Elementary Center for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 1 – Bachelor’s - \$43,000. Mrs. Jennifer Brindle will serve as a mentor for Miss Dubbs.
- approved Miss Haley Pappacena as an Autistic Support Teacher at the JSC Elementary Center for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 1 – Bachelor’s - \$43,000. Mrs. Kim Steigerwalt will serve as a mentor for Miss Pappacena.
- approved Ms. Paula Heffner as a Physical Education Teacher at the DHHL Middle School for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 1 – Bachelor’s - \$43,000. Mr. Mike Welsh will serve as a mentor for Ms. Heffner.

- approved Mr. Jamie Gunoskey as a Title I Teacher at the DHHL Middle School for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 10 – Master’s - \$61,186.

- approved Mrs. Emma Libby as a Music Teacher at the Pottsville Area High School for the 2023-2024 School Year – Step 3 – Bachelor’s - \$43,500.

- approved Mr. Garrett Lineaweaver, Penn State Schuylkill Student, as a Business Office Intern (May 25, 2023 - August 4, 2023) at an hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour, approximately 25 hours per week, contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances and completed paperwork.

- approved the Addendum to the 2021 - 2025 Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and ESS Northeast, LLC for the purposes of hiring Mr. Phil Kissinger as Assistant Principal at the DHHL Middle School.

- accepted the resignation of Kaier Trovato, paraprofessional at the JSC Elementary Center, retroactive to May 11, 2023.

- accepted the letters of resignation from the following bus drivers for the Pottsville Area School District:

- Mr. David Andrews - retroactive to May 11, 2023 (last day of work).
- Mrs. Linda Andrews - retroactive to May 11, 2023 (last day of work).

Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to Softball Coach Chuck Rinaldo for achieving his 200th Win in the game against Tamaqua.
2. Congratulations to Connor Demcher for being named PAHS District XI Wrestling Scholar Athlete.
3. Congratulations to Maya Golden for being named PAHS Female Scholar Athlete.
4. Congratulations to the following Schuylkill Scholars who were recognized at the 40th Annual Schuylkill County Academic Achievement Awards: Chloe Heintz, Gwen Biddle, Kyler Bowers, Zowie Zokuskie, Angelina Madonna and Maya Golden.
5. Congratulations to PAHS student Michael Hoysock for achieving Eagle Scout.
6. Congratulations to PAHS student Genesis Harrison for receiving the Delin Award at Penn State Schuylkill.

7. Congratulations to PAHS students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on April 26, 2023: AJ Serrano, Max Ilsley, Jordon Steidle, Grace Huff, McKayla Tobin, Lily Kreisler, Kamrynn Carroll, James Bosefski, and Julie Ulrich.

8. Congratulations to PAHS students Zoe Holden and Adrianna Reiner for being selected as Rotary Students of the Month for May.

9. Congratulations to DHHL Students & Teacher of the Month: 5th Grade - Aidan Leddy, 6th Grade - Tommy Welsh, 7th Grade - Kylah Stewart, 8th Grade - Anna Luckenbill, and Teacher - Mrs. Holobetz.

10. Thank you to North Schuylkill School District for hosting the Spartan Games, which was an amazing day for students with disabilities! We are grateful for the PASD teachers and student volunteers as a part of this team. Thank you to JSC Special Education teacher Tina Seiger for organizing the parade in advance of this day.

11. Congratulations to the PAHS students who were recognized for their achievements in earning their YES certifications from the NEPA MAEC! The students had to meet goals in grades, attendance, and pass a drug test. Guest speaker PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity and local legislators spoke to the group. Sponsors provided a breakfast, and Penn State Schuylkill granted scholarship money for these graduates of the Your Employability Skills program.

- Amaree Bainbridge
- Chase Yeich
- Elizabeth Murton
- Emily Moyer
- Jacob Mattera
- Justin Matukewicz
- Macey Matlock
- Mason Major
- Maura McDonald
- Nate Turolis
- Nick Chivinsky
- Nick Giuffre
- Noah Stevenson
- Rylee Spotts
- Tejay Allen
- Tyler Shappell

12. Congratulations to the PAHS Aevium Club and Advisors Social Worker Jessica Coyle and Math Teacher Rita Sponenburg for receiving a PA Prevention Award! Maura McDonald and Hannah Atkinson accepted the award at the RISE Center in Reading on behalf of the Club.

13. The PAHS dome is lit red and white in recognition for the Class of 2023 Commencement on Friday evening.

14. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month:

K - Taylor McDonald

1 - Darkiel Ayala

2 - Shrija Patel

3 - Lauren Ambrose

4 - Mana Kerns

15. Thank you to JSC PTO Members for organizing a successful basket auction.

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

- approve the Service Agreement with Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) for professional development and ongoing instructional coaching in concurrent hybrid learning.

Motion carried.

Informational:

Pottsville Area High School applied for and has been selected as one of the 100 PA schools to receive Dual Enrollment grant funds from the PA Department of Education. PAHS received the highest amount possible - \$75,000 - to ensure students have access to in-person and online Dual Enrollment. The Board approved an agreement with Penn State Schuylkill in April and will be voting on an agreement with Kutztown University in June. There have been discussions with Alvernia University Pottsville CollegeTowne throughout the school year regarding an agreement. The District has also been working with Lehigh Carbon Community College and will continue to do so in the future. We are thankful for the funding and the partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education.

On the recommendation of the **Labor Relations Committee** and on motion of Mr. urban, seconded by Ms. Wytovich, the Board approved the following:

- approve the agreement between the Pottsville Area Educational Support Personnel Association, ESPA/PSEA/NEA and the Pottsville Area School District. Term of Agreement - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

Motion carried.

Under the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, and on motion of Ms. Wytovich, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board elected the following:

- elected the following Board members to serve on the Intermediate Unit and/or Schuylkill Technology Center Boards of Directors for a three (3) year term - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026:

- Dave Frew - Pine Grove Area - Both
- Scott Jacoby -Schuylkill Haven Area - Both
- Trina Schellhammer - Tamaqua Area - Both
- John Mika - Williams Valley - Both

- Christopher Bowers - Minersville Area - Unexpired term through June 30, 2025 - Both
- Glenn Weist - North Schuylkill - Unexpired term through June 30, 2024 - Both

The ballots were completed and returned to the Board Secretary

Motion carried.

Under PSBA Representative, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following:

- approved Dr. Ann Blankenhorn as the 2023 PSBA Delegate Assembly Voting Delegate which will be held on November 4, 2023.

Motion carried.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, Jr. Board Member Angela Madonna read the following:

May 26, 2023 - Holiday Early Dismissal/PAHS Commencement/Last Day for Students

May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day

June 12 - July 30, 2023 -Achieve Summer Program

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

MS

1 – MS Parking Lots Rear/Top

Safety Night Out

Pottsville Fire Department

6/19/2023 4:30pm-8:00pm

6/20/2023 4:30pm-8:00pm (Rain Date)

2 – Martz Hall/Practice Field

Genesis Drum Corps International

Competition Rehearsal

8/3/2023 11:45pm Arrival
8/4/2023 6:00pm Departure

HS

1 – HS Stadium Track

Pottsville Fitness Challenge
June 1, 2023-August 1, 2023 5:00pm-8:00pm

Motion carried.

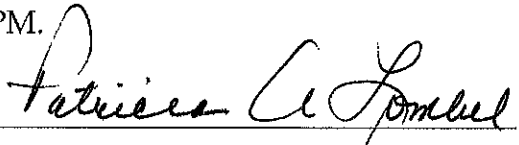
Meeting Dates for June 2023:

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School.

An Executive Session was held from **6:00 pm to 6:33 pm** to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Shields, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.


Patricia A. Lombel (Date) 6/21/23
Board Secretary