

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting February 15, 2023 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:02 PM	Present:	Dr. Blankenhorn, Mrs. Buchanan, Dr. Cardamone, Mr. Ciavarella Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Stair, Business Manager; Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary; Atty. Kevin Reid, Solicitor
	Absent:	Mr. Shields

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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. 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 not comments this evening.

Roll Call – 8 members present; 1 member absent

On motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the January 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes and the

January 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 Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of January 2023:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of January 31, 2023- \$5,860,147.99; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of January 31, 2023 - \$576,952.39.
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 – Approve Budget Transfers in the amount of \$64,125.00 for reallocation of funds due to coding changes; Budget Transfers in the amount of \$2,700.00 for reallocation of funds in Athletics.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Solicitor, Atty. Reid, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following Discipline Waivers, effective February 16 2023: #27-1833 and #25-2174. 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:

Angela Altemose - 1 Credit
Kendra Boris - 3 Credits
Aprile Goehring - 9 Credits
Kelly Lombel - 6 Credits
John Pettit - 9 Credits
Rachelle Price - 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following professional employee(s) be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Emily Earley - \$1,548.00

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approve the revision of the 2022-2023 School Calendar. This reflects the snow make-up days:

<u>School Canceled</u>	<u>Make-up Day</u>
November 12, 2022	April 12, 2023
December 16, 2022	April 11, 2023
January 25, 2023	April 6, 2023

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved 2023-2024 School Calendar. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 28, 2023, and tentatively the last day of school will be Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Tentative Teacher In-service days will be held August 23-24, 2023; October 9, 2023; and January 15, 2024. A tentative Act 80 day will be held November 6, 2023. Early dismissals will be held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023; Friday, December 22, 2023; Wednesday, March 27, 2024; Friday, May 24, 2024; and the last day of school.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Dr. Blankenhorn, the Board approved the following Internship placement: Kacey Harper of Penn State University, Schuylkill Campus with Curriculum Director Dr. Jared Gerace and Technology Director Mr. Andrew Diehl. Motion carried.

Informational Item under Federal Programs

The PDE provided the annual Maintenance of Effort letter, which reviews our Annual Financial Reports (AFR). Federal funds are supplementary and cannot supplant local and state funds. Since our aggregate 2020 vs 2021 expenditures from state and local sources were within the allowable reduction rate of 10%, the Pottsville Area School District has maintained fiscal effort. We will file the letter for auditing and monitoring purposes.

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

- approved the Spring Coaches for the 2022-2023 season contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork and satisfactory clearances (as per contract):

BASEBALL

Michael Welsh, Head Coach
Ben O'Brien, Varsity Assistant

Gary Keener, JV Head Coach
Stephen Messina, JV Assistant

SOFTBALL

Charles Rinaldo, Head Coach
Thomas Mull, Varsity Assistant
Bruce Heffner, JV Head Coach
Serenity Allen, JV Assistant

SPRING TRACK

Charles Schuster, Boys' Head Coach
Kelly Lombel, Girls' Head Coach
Marlin Vandermeer, Assistant
Lucas Bricker, Assistant
Peter McDonald, Assistant
William Rhoads, Assistant
Jennifer Brindle, Assistant
Jeff Dunkel, Jr. High Head Coach
Mark Laubenstine, Jr. High Asst.
Jed Dunkel, Jr. High Asst.

BOYS' TENNIS

Adrian Portland, Head Coach

- approved the following volunteer Spring Coaches for the 2022-2023 Season:

Baseball:

Tony Barone

Softball:

Mike Kiehner
Bryanna Snowell
Brian Spotts

Track and Field:

Matthew Hirsch

Motion carried.

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

- approved the quote with Victor E. Muncy Inc. for furnishing and installing 85 locks on interior classroom doors in John S. Clarke Elementary Center. The replacement of the locks will be paid for through the use of funds from the 2022-23 Pennsylvania

Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grants.

- approved the quote with Custom Sign Source for furnishing and installing of flag mounted classroom numbers in the DHH Lengel Middle School and PAHS. The classroom numbers will be paid for through the use of funds from the 2022-23 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Mental Health & Safety and Security Grants.

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 following repository sales:

- Parcel No. 59-02-0176.000 - 501 Second Street Port Carbon Borough - Purchase Price \$1.00
- Parcel No. 59-04-0226.000 - 208 Valley Street Port Carbon Borough - Purchase Price \$1.00
- Parcel No. 68-27-0357.000 - 10 North Third Street Pottsville City - Purchase Price \$1,323.00
- Parcel No. 68-07-0099.000 - 456 Nichols Street Pottsville City - Purchase Price \$1,177.00

- approved the Affiliation Agreement with Commonwealth University Of Pennsylvania (formerly Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield University). This agreement includes field experiences and student teaching placements.

- approved the King Spry Services Agreement for a three year period effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. The current agreement expires June 30, 2023.

- approved the investment of \$1.5 million in T-Bills in the Flex Account at PSDLAF. (Rates subject to change based upon date of investment.)

Each T-bill would be at \$250,000.

Maturity	# of bills	Amount	Interest Rate
6 month	2	500,000	4.64%
4 month	2	500,000	4.54%
12 month	2	500,000	4.51%

- approved the EBS Healthcare Agreement through Stepping Stones Group for contracted services (Speech Language Pathologist) pending solicitor's review.

- approved the following Single Static Advertising Sponsorship. The cost for the three year agreement is \$1,500.00.

- Alvernia University

Thank you to Alvernia for their sponsorship in support of the Pottsville Area School District. We welcome Pottsville CollegeTowne to our community.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. The Mid Penn Bank loan for the roof project at Schuylkill Technology Center was paid off on January 20, 2023 in the amount of \$218,030.22. This was approved by Board on January 18, 2023.

2. A letter received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on January 25, 2023 stated, "the Department is pleased to inform you that with respect to the federal financial assistance programs funded by this agency, your Single Audit Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, is approved as being substantially in compliance with 2 CFR, Part 200, Subpart F, and other relevant federal and Commonwealth policy."

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

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

- Employee #795 - kindergarten aide - February 14, 2023 to TBD
- Employee #1160 - paraprofessional - February 10, 2023 to February 24, 2023
- Employee #216 - Cafeteria Aide - February 2, 2023
- Employee #1115 - Cafeteria Aide - February 14, 2023 1/2 day

- approved an Intermittent FMLA for employee #7, retroactive to January 30, 2023.

- approved Andrew Diehl, Director of Technology, to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE & C). Dates of Conference - February 12 through February 15, 2023.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Kelly Miller, paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center, effective February 17, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- approved Mary Hooper as a part-time paraprofessional at the John S. Clarke Elementary Center at an hourly rate of \$11.25, retroactive to February 6, 2023. All paperwork was completed.

- approved Talia Breisch as a full-time paraprofessional at the DHH Lengel Middle School at an hourly rate of \$11.25, effective February 16, 2023. Ms. Breisch is employed by the Pottsville Area School District as a part-time paraprofessional.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Geraldine Ebert, part-time custodian at DHH Lengel Middle School, effective February 17, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- accepted the resignation of Ricky Krause, Head Custodian at the DHH Lengel Middle School.

- approved Thomas Taylor as an Outside Maintenance Crew member at an hourly rate of \$18.00, retroactive to February 13, 2023. All paperwork was completed.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Mrs. Amy Schneider, Social Studies/Digital Citizenship Teacher at the DHH Lengel Middle School, letter dated January 31, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- accepted the resignation of Jack Botto, Assistant Football Coach for the Pottsville Area School District, retroactive to November 15, 2022.

- accepted the resignation of Kelsey Marx, van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective February 10, 2023. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

- approved Cindy Westwood as a transportation aide for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective February 16, 2023. All paperwork was completed.

- approved Shawn Westwood as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, at an hourly rate of \$10.70, effective February 16, 2023. All paperwork was completed. Motion carried.

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

1. Congratulations to Mr. Kraft and the DHHL Mathcounts Team for winning the Schuylkill County Competition AND for earning 4 of the top 7 individual awards! They will participate in the State Competition on March 17-18. Padraic Kerns, Abby Mendofik, Jamison Walsh, and Jo Barnhart earned the team's 1st Place finish.

Individually, the following students placed:

- Padraic Kerns - 2nd
- Abby Mendofik - 3rd
- Jamison Walsh - 4th
- Ryan Beltz - 7th

2. Congratulations to Queen of Snows Hannah Leskin (2019 PAHS graduate) and Snowflake Princess Brenna McGowan (Current PAHS 11th grader) for being crowned at the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival! Also, congratulations to fifth runner-up Alaina Bartashus (Current PAHS 11th grader) for Snowflake Princess and third runner-up Lily McDonald (2021 PAHS graduate) for Queen of Snows!
3. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month for February:
K: Finley Reilly
1: Lillian Humphrey
2: Eliza Fontanez-Marchetti
3: Mi'lana McBall
4: Nathan Fisher
4. Congratulations to Ashlea Brew for being named PAHS Artist of the Month for February.
5. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month Youssef Amin and Nicholas Horvath.
6. Congratulations to PAHS senior clarinet player, Emily Lucas, on auditioning and being selected to perform in the 2023 PMEA District 10 Orchestra Festival.
7. Thank you to the PAHS Key Club for organizing the Team Schuylkill vs the Crimson Tide basketball game at Martz Hall. We appreciate the players from the Special Olympics and PAHS teams for participating as well as the fans who attended the event to raise over \$1,000.00.
8. Congratulations to STC Students of the Month, Zachary Eiler (Residential/Industrial Electrical) and Kamryn Carrol (Social Studies).
9. Congratulations to retired PAHS Science teacher Tom Guzick for authoring the children's book "Mary's Adventure with the Stars".
10. Congratulations to Emily Lucas and Nicholas Horvath on auditioning and being selected to perform in the 2023 PMEA District 10 Band Festival.

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

- approved the Linkage Letter/Referral Agreement with RHA Health Services.
Motion carried.

Informational Item:

Update on the Gillingham Charter School ("GCS") renewal process: Due to safety concerns since January, Gillingham Charter School has continued to not use the building located at 315 Howard Avenue for Physical Education class and Extra-curricular activities because of the certain concerns brought to the attention of GCS by the District during its visit to the facility and affirmed by the City of Pottsville's inspection. Additional topics of concern registered by the District throughout this process: Teacher Certification, Teacher Turnover Rate, Student Achievement, Curriculum, Special Education, Finance, and Discipline/Safety. Of particular concern to the District is the continuation of the number of students withdrawing from GCS. The Student Retention Rate, calculated as the percent of students enrolled for a full year who return for the following school year (excluding graduates), was an average of 48% during the four (4) school years in the review. The District is currently attempting to negotiate the charter renewal without going through the court system and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to reduce the burden on taxpayers. More specifics will be provided in a future meeting about when a vote by the Pottsville Area School Board will be scheduled.

Under Legislation, Mrs. Buchanan read the following:

Legislative Update:

1. Last week the Commonwealth Court issued a long-awaited opinion in the school funding lawsuit. The Court found that the state is not meeting its constitutional obligation to provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of education.

Judge Jubelier wrote that the funding disparity between poor and affluent districts is unjustified, violating both the state's obligations to educate students and the equal protection rights of students.

However, the court did not dictate a remedy and instead, pushed the responsibility back to the Governor and lawmakers.

2. The Commission on Education and Economic Competitiveness is scheduled to be organized and convene later this month. The Commission is a bipartisan and bicameral group of leaders that will bring together stakeholders from education, business, labor, and government to create a long-term vision to redesign Pennsylvania's education system.

The Commission's creation could not be more timely with the recent school funding ruling which indicated that the state must not only look at funding but also whether the system is meeting the economic and labor needs of the Commonwealth. Currently, it is not.

Over the next 18 months, the Commission will work with stakeholders to create a report that will serve as a guiding document, with legislative recommendations, in the effort to build a world-class education system in the Commonwealth.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, Jr. Board Member Zowie Zokuski read the following:

February 15-18, 2023 - Schuylkill County Choir Festival

February 20, 2023 - President's Day (School Closed)

February 17, 2023 - Random Act of Kindness Day

February 27, 2023 - JSC PTO Meeting at 6:00 PM

February 27 - March 3, 2023 - Read Across America

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

-High School - High School Auditorium - Da Linda Dance – various dates in June 2023

-High School – Girls Gym/classroom – EMT Clinical –May 17, 18 2023

-Middle School - Cafeteria – 8th Grade Farewell Decorating/ Dance – April 28, 29, 2023

-Middle School – Martz Hall – Sch. County Regional College Fair Set up/Fair – October 4, 5, 2023

-Middle School – Martz Hall - Sch. County Mental Health Presentation – May 8, 2023

-Alumni Field - Pottsville Leo's Community Easter Egg Hunt – April 8, 2023

-Middle School Auditorium – NGA Mr. Anthracite Natural Body Building

Championship – July 15, 2023

-Middle School – Martz Hall – Annual Sch. County Career Fair – Set up/Fair – April 19, 20, 2023

Motion carried.

Meeting Dates for March 2023:

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 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 Dr. Blankenhorn, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

 Patricia A. Lombel 3/15/2023

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary