

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting February 21, 2024 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:07 PM	Present:	Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/ Board Secretary; Mrs. Bevan, Asst. Business Manager
	Phone:	Mrs. Hobbs
	Absent:	Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Buchanan

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Lynda Wytovich .

President Wytovich - 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 public comments.

Roll Call - 6 members present, 1 member via phone. Mrs. Dewitt and Mrs. Buchanan were absent.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the January 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes and the January 17, 2024 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 Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of January 2024:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) - General Fund Balance as of January 31, 2024 - \$3,204,522.23. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of January 31, 2024 - \$186,176.40.
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.

On the recommendation of the Solicitor, Attn. Reid, and on motion of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Discipline Waivers, effective February 21, 2024:

#25 - 4295

#30 - 6692

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the Superintendent's pre-approval of credit hours indicated for the following professional employee(s) be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between PASD and the PASDEA:

Jill Chiccini - 3 Credits

Greg Hoak - 3 Credits

Nicole Kutsmeda - 3 Credits

Anne Murray - 3 Credits

Kara Ryan - 3 Credits

Amy Withelder - 3 Credits

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ansbach, the Board approved the following professional employee(s) be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of pre-approved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Greg Hoak - \$1,440.00

Nicole Kutsmeda - \$300.00

Kaitlin Leffler - \$2,064.00

Anne Murray - \$300.00

Rebecca Oakill - \$300.00

Motion carried.

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

- salary adjustments to be made effective for the 2024 - 2025 school year:

Amanda Purcell - Master's

Michael Roberts - Bachelor's + 15

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved the following:

- revision of the School Calendar to reflect snow make-up days as follows:

School Canceled	Make-up Day
January 16, 2024	April 5, 2024
February 13, 2024	April 4, 2024

Motion carried.

- the 2024-2025 School Calendar be approved. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 26, 2024, and tentatively the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Tentative Teacher In-service days will be held August 21-22, 2024; October 14, 2024; and January 20, 2025. A tentative Act 80 day will be held November 11, 2024. Early dismissals will be held on Wednesday, November 27, 2024; Friday, December 20, 2024; Wednesday, April 16, 2025; Friday, May 23, 2025; and the last day of school (tentatively Tuesday, June 3, 2025).

Motion carried.

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

- the trip to Niagara Falls, New York (May 19 - 21, 2024). The Tide Tek S.T.E.M. Club will be visiting multiple educational sites near Niagara Falls. The field trip is for 8th grade club members who have remained highly active in club activities during their time at the DHH Lengel Middle School. This will include approximately 10 to 15 members of the club making the trip along with 4 chaperones (pending clearances). The trip will be funded by club fundraisers.

Motion carried.

- the following Spring Coaches for the 2023-2024 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
Lucas Bricker, Assistant
Peter McDonald, Assistant
Anthony Kelly, Assistant
Jennifer Brindle, Assistant
Mark Laubenstine, Jr. High Head Coach
Jeff Dunkel, Jr. High Asst.
Jed Dunkel, Jr. High Asst.

BOYS' TENNIS

Adrian Portland, Head Coach

- the following volunteer Spring Coaches for the 2023 - 2024 Season:

Baseball:

Tony Barone
Ty Steidle

Softball:

Jeffrey Bowers
Michael Kiehner

Track and Field:

Robert Brouse
Marlin Vandermeer

Weight Room:

Ian Renninger
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 Guaranteed Energy Services (Ameresco) Agreement for energy conservation services and installations, effective February 21, 2024, pending solicitor's review. Motion carried.

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

- the Schuylkill Technology Center 2024-2025 Budget in the amount of \$6,532,499. Pottsville Area School District's contribution is \$891,622; an increase of \$88,399 from prior year. **Note: Each Director must sign the ballot indicating their vote on the above motion and return to the Board Secretary.**
 - the Intermediate Unit General Operating 2024-2025 Budget. Total Budget amount - \$2,787,063. **Note: Each Director must sign the ballot indicating their vote on the above motion and return to the Board Secretary.**
 - the Better Unemployment Compensation System BASIC Program (BUCS Basic) agreement between the PSBA Insurance Trust and Pottsville Area School District effective 24-25 school year. BUCS basic provides programs for public school entities within the State, including claims management and related services.
 - the Addendum to the Agreement between Pottsville Area School District and ESS Northeast, LLC for the services of Substitute Teachers and Staff, effective February 21, 2024.
 - the transfer of the matured Treasury Bill's funds from PSDLAF Max into PSDLAF Full Flex Account. Current interest rate - 5.24%
 - the request from the City of Pottsville to waive the minimum bid fee for a purchase of a city property.
- Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the **Personnel Committee**, spoken by Mr. Thomas on behalf of absent Board Member Mrs. Dewitt, on motion of Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following:

- accepted the letter of resignation from Kim Rismiller, musical director of the PAHS Drama Club, retroactive to January 12, 2024.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Robyn Green, paraprofessional at the JSC Elementary Center, retroactive to January 25, 2024.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Cindy Westwood, full-time

custodian at the DHHL Middle School and van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, retroactive to February 6, 2024.

- accepted the letter of resignation from Karli Blackwell, cafeteria aide at JSC Elementary Center, retroactive to February 7, 2024.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Erica Berger, van driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective March 1, 2024.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Shawn Westwood, full-time custodian/transportation driver for the Pottsville Area School District, effective February 26, 2024.
- accepted the letter of resignation from Wendy Masser, Occupational Therapist at JSC Elementary Center, effective April 20, 2024.
- approved Kole Laughlin as a part-time custodian at the DHHL Middle School at an hourly rate of \$11.25, effective February 22, 2024 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork.
- approved Katherine Encarnacion as a part-time paraprofessional at PAHS at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective February 22, 2024 contingent upon receipt of completed paperwork.
- approved Christine Trapani as a part-time paraprofessional at JSC Elementary Center at an hourly rate of \$18.57, retroactive to February 20, 2024.

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

- Employee #1583 - Cafeteria Aide - January 22, 23, 2024
- Employee #947 - Kindergarten Aide - February 1, 2, 2024
- Employee #471 - Cafeteria Employee - February 24, 2024 thru April 23, 2024
- Employee #1300 - Cafeteria Aide - February 2, 2024
- Employee #1235 - Van Driver - January 26, 2024 to TBD

Motion carried.

- approved Stacy Stair as the Business Manager of Pottsville Area School District for a term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 31, 2029 at an annual salary of \$110,316.15.

Motion carried by Roll Call, 7 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent: Aye's were Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Urban, Mr. Shields, Mr. Ciavarella, Mr. Thomas, Ms. Wytovich, and Mrs. Hobbs. Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Dewitt - Absent.

- approved the advertisement for a full-time ESL Paraprofessional (Bilingual preferred).

- approved Angelique Mundy for the After School Tutoring Program at JSC Elementary Center.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ansbach spoke in the absence of Mrs Buchanan for the Promotion, Public Relations & Social Media Committee to congratulate the following:

- Congratulations to PAHS Rotary of the Month Students, Brenna McGowan and Eily Painter.

- Congratulations to PAHS Student, Molly Hesse, for being selected as PAHS Artist of the Month.

- Congratulations to our outstanding mathletes who competed in the regional MATHCOUNTS competition held at Penn State Schuylkill on February 3, 2024. The 4-person team of Padraic Kerns, Najlaa Belkhoutout, Tai Kerns, and Blake Gaughan earned second place overall. Three Lengel competitors earned a spot in the top 10 speed round. Evan Halat earned 7th place, Najlaa Belkhoutout earned 4th place, and Padraic Kerns won the individual competition. Padraic and Najlaa are moving on to the state-level competition in Harrisburg on March 22-23, 2024. The Lengel MATHCOUNTS Team is led by Ms. Carolyn Wasilewski.

- Congratulations to 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Julia Leiby, who was recognized by IXL as an Elite 100 Teacher for 2023. The Elite 100 are selected from over 1,000,000 teachers worldwide for exceptional use and progress with IXL during the school year.

- Congratulations to JSC Elementary Center Students of the Month:

K - Mila Greene

1 - Serenity Berger

2 - Elizabeth Lauderman

3 - Camilo Leonardo

4 - Lilah Barnhart

- Congratulations to PAHS Students, Keegan Frew and Jason Hoffman. They are advancing to State Competition in Carpentry and Automotive Technology.

- Congratulations to PAHS Student, Luke Kruss who won the Skills USA District 6 Competition in Automotive Technology. Luke will now advance to the State Level Competition.

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

- the district wide security camera project with KIT Communications at a not to exceed amount of \$707,000.00 per PEPPM contract #533902-115. This project will be funded through PCCD and/or budgetary reserve.
 - the PEPPM Mini-Bid proposal from KIT Communications for structured cabling for \$194,525.00 pending final E-Rate approval. E-Rate to fund 80% of this project.
 - the PEPPM Mini-Bid proposal from ePlus Technology for network switches for \$85,143.00 pending final E-Rate approval. E-Rate to fund 80% of this project.
 - the PEPPM Mini-Bid proposal from ePlus Technology for battery backups for \$19,297.80 pending final E-Rate approval. E-Rate to fund 80% of this project.
 - the Skyward renewal to lock in the rate for 3 years at \$9.08 per student. Estimated annual cost is \$23,000.00 pending student enrollment.
- Motion carried.

On the recommendation by the **Policy and Procedure Committee** and on the motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following:

- adoption of the following employee policies:
 - 317 - Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
 - 317.1 - Educator Misconduct
 - 318 - Penalties for Tardiness
 - 319 - Outside Activities
 - 320 - Freedom of Speech in Nonschool Settings
 - 321 - Political Activities
 - 322 - Gifts
 - 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
 - 324 - Personnel Files HIV Infection
 - 325 - Dress and Grooming
- retirement of the following Professional Employee policies:
 - 417 - Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
 - 418 - Penalties for Tardiness
 - 419 - Outside Activities
 - 420 - Freedom of Speech in Noninstructional Settings
 - 421 - Political Activities
 - 422 - Gifts
 - 423 - Tobacco Use
 - 424 - Personnel Files
 - 425 - Dress and Grooming
- retirement of the following Support Employee policies:
 - 517 - Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures

518 - Penalties for Tardiness
519 - Outside Activities
523 - Tobacco Use
524 - Personnel Files
525 - Dress and Grooming

Motion carried.

Spoken by Ms. Wytovich for ease of hearing the information since Mrs. Hobbs was present via telephone, it was announced that PSBA Trust student scholarship applications will be accepted through March 15. The Student Leader Scholarships have been established by the PSBA Trust to provide a one-time \$2500 or \$5,000 scholarship to each recipient. The scholarships recognize graduating seniors from PSBA member districts who have demonstrated ongoing leadership and meet criteria for one of four available scholarships. Encourage your students to apply! Applications are due March 15, 2024, by 5:00 PM. The website to apply is psbatrust.org.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, Pat Lombel, Board Secretary, read the following:

March 2, 2024 - Schuylkill County Band Festival at Pine Grove Area High School

March 2, 2024 - Schuylkill County Regional Spelling Bee at DHHL Auditorium

March 4-8, 2024 - Read Across America Week

March 4-10, 2024 - National Foreign Language Week

March 9, 2024 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 16, 2024 - St. Patrick's Day Parade (Pottsville)

March 22-24, 2024 - PAHS Spring Musical - The Little Mermaid

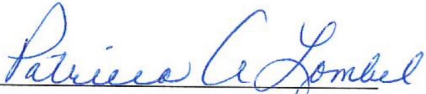
Meetings for March 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Academic Center

Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

An Executive Session was held from 6:32 PM to 6:49 to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM


Patricia A. Lombel
Board Secretary

