

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting June 19, 2024 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:00 PM	Present:	Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Dewitt (via zoom) Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Mrs. Buchanan Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Ms. Kevin Ried, Attorney at Law;
	Absent:	Mr. Shields, Mrs. Bevan

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 kbevan@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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments.

Roll Call - 8 members present, 1 absent

On motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the May 15, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes and the May 22 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. Ansbach**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of May 2024:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) - **General Fund Balance as of May 31, 2024 - \$7,662,773.46. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of May 31, 2024 - \$518,795.18.**
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

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mr. Ansbach**, the Board approved the anticipated donation of a pole building for the purposes of a concession stand from the Pottsville Midget Football League for placement at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Conditional approval dependent upon communication with District Administrators regarding placement and timeline; and the Board approved the anticipated donation of materials and labor for the purposes of improving the DHHL locker rooms from the Pottsville Housing Authority. Conditional approval dependent upon communication with District Administrators regarding placement and timeline.

No discussion, motion carried.

Informational item was read by Dr. Yoder: Thank you to the following donors In Memory of William J. Lecher Jr. As per the family's request, all donations will be put into "The Bill Lecher Underdog Scholarship Fund" at the Pottsville Area School District.

- TOWNE DRUGS
- ERROL & CAROL STROUSE
- KEVIN & MARY ANN DEMBITSKY
- RICHARD & DONNA DANDO
- JOHN & AMANDA ALBERTINI
- GRANT & DR SARAH YODER
- ROBERT & DENISE KLINGER
- JEFFREY & MARY ANN ANGELO
- KEITH & HELEN MASSER
- BARBARA MURRAY
- JAMES & CHRISTINE PFEIFFENBERGER
- PATRICIA LORD HEFFNER
- THOMAS & STEPHANIE WOOD
- MARIE WANCHICK
- JAMES & ANN MARIE RIOTTO
- THOMAS & CATHERINE HALPIN
- MICHAEL & MAUREEN GOLDEN
- COREY & LISA HOLOBETZ
- JOHN & HELENE COYLE
- BRIAN & COLLEEN BRENNAN

- GEORGE & JANET LIPSHAW
- JOSEPH DRASDIS
- PAT KELLY
- HELEN SMELTZ
- BOB & DIANE GREENE
- KEVIN DICELLO
- CHRISTINE MACADAMS
- AL BUEHNER & JOAN KOZLOSKY
- TYLER HENRY
- JONATHAN & TANYA HUGHES
- NANCY LESCAVAGE
- HELEN SCHINKEL
- EDWARD HAHNER
- CRAIG & JODY STINE
- DENISE & FRAN PURCELL
- MARY HOLOBETZ
- THERESE HOHMAN
- BOB & STACY EVANS
- MICHELLE MASSARI
- SUSIE & DAVE STERNER
- MARK & MICHELLE RIOTTO
- JEFF & ELIZABETH SPONENBURG
- ROBERT & MARY PORTER
- KATHLEEN HUGHES
- EDWARD & MADELINE WELSH
- MARTIN & LINDA CERULLO
- BAC LOCAL NO 5 PA
- GREG & TOINETTE HESS
- KATHLEEN HAAS
- MICHAEL & PATRICIA KUTCH
- ANNE AREGOOD
- JOHN & BETH JONES
- MARY STAGLIANO
- NESTOR & MARGARET CINTRON
- CHRISTINE DEEGAN
- ELAINE RISKIS
- MICHAEL & STEPHANIE MILLER
- BEN & MICHELLE DARHUN
- ANNE LEININGER
- STEVE & MARJORIE COTTER
- JOSEPH & MARY MODESTO
- BRIAN & MARY HALLICK
- JOHN & DEANNA HIGGINS
- RAYMOND & MARY ANN YOST

- SHERRY ASHMAN
- ALEXANDER & LAUREN BARBADORO
- JAMES & LORI GUZICK
- JOHN & KIMBERLY LECHER
- JOSEPH & JOYCE CUTLER
- CATHERINE ZIMMERMAN & FAMILY
- GERALD & KATHLEEN TONE
- TOM & PAULA NEY
- DAVID & MAUREEN DERBES
- DAVID & TAMMY MEALIN
- ROBERT & DIANNE KOVAL
- MAUREEN WELSH
- JOANNE YUENGLING
- PETER & JOYCE BUCKLEY
- EDWARD & GERALDINE SCHWARTZ
- BRIAN & JOY LEHMAN
- TROY & WENDY JOCHEMS
- CAROLYN SULLIVAN
- EDWARD & NANCY MADY
- WILLIAM & BERNADETTE LECHER
- FRANCES LORENZ & HEDY STUMP
- MICHAEL MELLON & HEATHER WEISACOSKY
- JOHN & SUSAN MONTECALVO
- ROBERT & MARILOUISE HOPPE
- JOSEPH KURTEK
- ROBERT BRICKER & MARYLOU RAINONE
- EDWARD & SANDRA CAPELL
- NANCY EISENHUTH
- TOM & JULIE FIORILLO
- TOM FLYNN
- MOMMA MILLIES BAKERY
- MASONRY CONTRACTORS
- DOLORES MAWROCKI
- SHERRILL JEAN SILBERLING
- ALVIN & ANN MARSHALL
- JEFF & LINDA ZWIEBEL
- CARETTI RESTORATION
- PAUL & JOAN DIMMERLING
- GREGORY & LISA BRENNAN
- CHRISTOPHER & DR ELIZABETH ROBISON
- TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- MARY MOEDER
- JOSEPH & DEBORAH FERHAT
- TIM TWARDZIK

A moment of silence was observed.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, it was recommended to approve the revised Discipline Waiver #27-0076 .

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mrs. Hobbs**, 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:

Paula Heffner - 3 Credits
Nicole Kutsmeda - 3 Credits
Anne Murray - 3 Credits
Rachelle Price - 3 Credits

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mrs. Buchanan**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, 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:

Jill Chiccini - \$300.00
Lisa Holobetz - \$1,548.00
Michael Roberts - \$3,612.00
Megan Sirkot - \$1,911.00

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Ansbach**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, the Board approved the following salary adjustments as per the agreement:

Greg Hoak - Master's + 15
Paula Heffner - Bachelor's + 15
Kaitlin Leffler - Bachelor's + 15
Tayah Moore - Master's Degree

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Ansbach**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, the Board approved the following student teacher

placement as a part of the District's collaboration with LVHN Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing Student Placements:

Mumira Alston
JoAnn Bleiler
Anjali Chacko
Ashley Cherapan
Sadie Chikotas
Tarin Currier
Sarah Deitz
Kerra Dempsey
Becca Fisher
Hannah George
Megan Griffin
Brooke Hallock
Sylvia Herman
Caitlyn Herndon
Katrina Hoppes
Rachael Hoy
Jocelyn Hysock
Lydia Inns
Jennifer Kennedy
Grace Kessler
Paige Laudenslager
Marissa Levan
Darla-Sue Lloyd
Jessica Nagle
Kiara O'Mara
Shaquanna Owens
Taylor O'Brien
Dawn Phillips
Sabrina Pratt
Donna Rania
Jena Reilly
Raquel Rodriguez Lopez
Nicole Sacco
Brielle Saukynas
Emily Shappell
Vanessa Soto
Kierstyn Strausser

Dr Yoder stated "We are grateful for our partnership with LVHN Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing". No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, the Board approved the 2024 - 2025 Pottsville Area School District Organizational Chart. No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Ciavarella**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, the Board approved Anabelly Valdez (Class of 2025) and Grady Leskin (Class of 2026) as Junior Board Members. No discussion, motion carried.

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

- A three-year agreement with Hudl - \$19,300 for Year 1; \$18,300 for Year 2, and \$18,300 for Year
- Permission to advertise the sale of the high jump landing pit for \$750 OBO.
- Jeff Dunkel as Strength and Conditioning Coach for the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$8,000.
- Anthony Kelly as Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach for the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$5,000.
- Brooklyn Nagle as Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach for the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$5,000.
- Brad Leonard as Head Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 season, stipend as per contract.

No discussion, 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:

- The subscription services proposal from MasterLibrary at a cost of \$2,250 for the 2024-2025 school year for facilities work orders.
- The service agreement with Honeywell Building Technologies at a cost of \$10,552.50 for corrective maintenance of the HVAC system.
- The proposal from Element Environmental Solutions at a cost of \$815.00 to be paid from ARP ESSER funds.

No discussion, Motion carried.

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

- The following Mentors:

Brianna Betz (4th Grade) - Jennifer Brindle
Olivia Eagan (Speech) - Amy Withelder

Sydney Murray (Math) - Philip Tenaglia
Sara Parker (2nd Grade) - Kelly Devine
Jessika Sadusky (Speech) - Molly Hook
Michael Walser (Nurse) - Angela Holobetz
Connie Yutko (Nurse) - Angela Holobetz

- The following teachers 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.

Pamela Imler
Haley Pappacena

- The following DHHL Middle School teachers for the Achieve Summer Program at an hourly rate of \$24.40, retroactive to June 10, 2024.

Christopher Davis
Anthony Kelly

- The following teachers to plan and/or teach for the JSC Elementary Center Summer Tutoring Program/Summer School, at an hourly rate of \$35.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and PASDEA, retroactive to June 17, 2024.

Stacie Cromyak
Courtney Reichert
Kristyn Blum

- The following for the Summer Meals Program at an hourly rate of \$12.50, retroactive to June 10, 2024.

Shannon Butler
Robin Kalinich
Crystal Major
Carolyn Potts
Jessica Rubright
Tina Sibbett
Jane Soubik
Connie Stabinsky
Kris Thomas
Desiree Weikel
Joanie Williams

Substitutes:

Kelly Borrell
Colleen Coulson
Cindy Hermany
Robin Kalinich
Nicole Lukach
Colleen Miller

- Philip Tenaglia as a summer employee for cleaning at an hourly rate of \$12.50, retroactive to June 10, 2024.
- The following employee's requests for Leave without Pay as per School Board Policy #334:
 - Employee #70 - Paraprofessional - June 4, 2024
- The following employee's request for Leave of Absence as per School Board Policy #335:
 - Employee #1700 - Teacher - August 21, 2024 through November 15, 2024
- The letter of resignation due to retirement from Theresa Walsh, Cafeteria Staff, effective June 5, 2024. We wish her well in her retirement.
- The letter of resignation due to retirement from Kathleen Setlock, Van Driver, effective June 5, 2024. We wish her well in her retirement.
- The letter of resignation from Andrew Diehl, Director of Technology, effective June 21, 2024. We wish him well in his new endeavors.
- The letter of resignation from Mark Laubenstine, DHHL Middle School Social Studies Teacher, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year. We wish him well in his new endeavors.
- The letter of resignation from Allison McAndrew, Speech Therapist at JSC Elementary Center, effective June 11, 2024. It is further recommended that the Board accept Allison McAndrew's resignation from ESY, effective June 11, 2024. We wish her well in her new endeavors.
- Jonathan Onuskanich as part-time Summer Help for the 2024-2025 school year at an hourly rate of \$12.50.
- Recind the March 20, 2024 motion for Scott Mattea, Business Teacher.
- Gary Keener as ISS Monitor/Behavior Interventionist at PAHS for the 2024-2025 school year at a salary of \$38,000. Mr. Keener has been serving as ISS Monitor at PAHS.

- Anthony Kelly as ISS Monitor/Behavior Interventionist at DHHL Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year at a salary of \$30,000. Mr. Kelly has been serving as ISS Monitor at DHHL.
- Leeana Gretskey as a 3rd Grade Teacher at JSC Elementary Center for the 2024-2025 school year - Step 2 - Bachelor's - \$45,000.
- The following as part-time Lifeguards at the hourly rate of \$9.00:
Elijah Accardi
Jamison Walsh
- The Act 93 agreement from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029.

No discussion, motion carried.

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

- The ESS Addendum to extend the agreement for substitute services.
- The agreement with River Rock Academy LLC for the 2024 - 2025 school year, pending solicitor's review.
- Subsequent to the final 2023-2024 audit, the funds remaining above the PDE threshold will be committed for the following anticipated purposes:
 - Curriculum Renewal
 - Increase in Cyber-Charter and Charter School costs
 - Increase in Health Benefits and PSERS
 - Increase in Transportation costs and fuel
 - Increase in Utility costs
 - Unexpected Maintenance costs
 - The Seltzer Group for the 2024-2025 District's Insurance at a yearly cost of \$259,086.00. This is an 8.8% overall increase from last year.
- The 2 year + 3 year renewal option agreement with St. Luke's University Health Network for the purposes of Sports Medicine and Health Care Collaboration. The District is grateful for the continued partnership with St. Luke's.

No Discussion, motion carried.

The following was read:

PA school districts received information via email on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 about a shortfall in the Pupil Transportation Subsidy appropriation and how it will impact the final payment for school districts' Pupil Transportation Subsidy. The Pupil Transportation Subsidy appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is projected to be short by approximately \$101 million. This shortfall will impact the final Pupil Transportation Subsidy payment, so school districts will receive approximately 38 percent of their final calculated payment at the end of June. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is pursuing a plan to ensure full payments are made to school districts upon passage of the 2024-2025 state budget.

As related to Public Relations & Social Media, Mrs. Buchanan read the following informational items:

- Congratulations to the PAHS Class of 2024 and the STC and PAHS Honor graduates.
- Congratulations to Members of Lengel's Tide Tek Team for their performance at the PA State Media & Design Competition. Lily Barber, Annali Lopez-Candelario, and Leanna Lopez-Candelario had a 2nd Place finish in Graphic Design, and Padraic Kerns, Adam Donya, and Kerdari Pierre-Louis had a 3rd Place finish in Programming.
- Congratulations to PAHS mini-THON for their New Fundraising Record of \$14,400! We are grateful for Advisor Mrs. Diehl, PAHS students, and generous donors/sponsors.
- Congratulations to JSC Elementary Center Students of the Month:
 - K - Kamilah Villanueva Williams
 - 1 - Jackson Carey
 - 2 - Abigail Reedy
 - 3 - Logan Reed
 - 4 - Arielle Umbenhaur

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

1 year - Digistar Encore Maintenance Agreement - \$8,500.00

1 year - Stereo Sound System - \$1,225.00

1 year - Programmable Medium Powered LED Cove Lighting System - \$800.00

No discussion, Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the **Curriculum Committee**, and on motion of **Mrs. Buchanan**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, the Board approved DHH Lengel Middle School's 2024-2025 A-TSI Title I School Plan and JSC Elementary Center's 2024 - 2025 TSI Title I School Plan for a thirty (30) day review. The plans will be posted on the District's website for review; and Dual Enrollment for PAHS students with Kutztown University,

Alvernia University, Lehigh Carbon Community College, and Penn State University - Schuylkill Campus for the 2024-2025 School Year. No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the **Policy and Procedure Committee**, and on motion of **Mr. Thomas**, seconded by **Mr. Ciavarella**, the Board reviewed and approved the #221 Pupils Dress Code.

On the recommendation of the Food Services Committee, and on motion of **Mr. Ansbach**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, the Board approved Mrs. Lisa Schu, Food Service Director, to complete the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) application through the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program for breakfast and lunch at no cost to students; and the Agreement for Participating in the Child Nutrition Program with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and Schuylkill County AVTS Operating Agency. Mrs. Buchanan read a statement she prepared: "I will be voting against the Community Eligibility Provision which will provide free lunches to all students, regardless of income. This is not a vote I take lightly as my heart aches for the struggling families and students in our district. My vote against this program is because I do not believe the best way to ensure that needy students receive lunches is to simply expand this free lunch program to everyone, whether the family needs assistance or not.

Pennsylvania spends billions on social services and safety net programs every year, accounting for over 40% of the state budget. In 2022, Pennsylvania expanded the income eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), adding 420,000 people to the program. There are now a record 2 million Pennsylvanians utilizing SNAP benefits. And in 2024, the USDA increased SNAP payments by 3.5%. I say this to point out that there are efforts underway at both the federal and state level to further meet the needs of families who need it. Is further improvement necessary? Absolutely. Especially in terms of accountability when hundreds of SNAP recipients have been reported to have thousands of unspent dollars sitting on their EBT cards, [some of them topping \\$10,000](#). So, I do not believe the way to address this issue is to simply remove all standards or eligibility, providing families whose household incomes are well above the middle class a "free" lunch at school. To be clear, these lunches are not "free". They are paid with tax dollars, whether at the local, state, or federal level. Instead, I have requested that the board consider alternatives to this approach, such as the creation of food pantries in our schools, to which I have offered to donate. Nonetheless, I do not discount the concern my colleagues on this board have for our students, or their motivation for supporting this proposal. In fact, I share it. I just disagree on the plan of action. Thank you, Madam President."

No discussion, motion carried by a vote of 7 to 1.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, July 4, 2024 - closed

On the recommendation of **Mrs. Stair**, Business Manager, on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mr. Thomas**, the Board approved the Use of Facilities request for Martz Hall and parking lot by the City of Pottsville on July 13, 2024. No discussion, motion carried.

Mrs. Stair, Business Manager, read the upcoming July 2024 meeting dates and informational items:

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday July 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Academic Center

Board Meeting - Wednesday July 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

The School Safety and Security Coordinator Act 44 Report was received for the 2023-2024 school year and will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

An Executive Session was held from 6:32 PM to 7:00 to discuss personnel matters.

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

 June 25, 2024

Krista M. Bevan (Date)

Board Secretary