

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors Board Meeting March 20, 2024 DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium 7:07 PM	Present:	Mr. Ansbach, Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Urban, Mrs. Buchanan Ms. Wytovich, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Lombel, Asst. Business Manager/ Board Secretary; Mrs. Bevan, Asst. Business Manager; Ms. Paige Gross, Attorney at Law; Madison Eroh, Junior Board Member
	Absent:	Hunter Chescavage, Junior Board Member

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments.

Roll Call - 9 members present, 0 absent

Ms. Wytovich recognized the retirement of **Mrs. Lombel**, Assistant Business Manager/ Board Secretary and thanked her on behalf of the Board and School District for her 14 years of service. She presented Mrs. **Lombel** with a plaque indicating such.

On motion of **Mr. Thomas**, seconded by **Mr. Ciavarella**, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the February 14, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes, February 14, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes, and the February 21, 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 February 2024:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) - **General Fund Balance as of February 29, 2024 - \$3,890,159.66. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of February 29, 2024 - \$376,460.69.**
2. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Revenue Report
3. General Fund Condensed Board Summary Expenditure Report
4. Cafeteria Condensed Board Summary Report
5. Payment Summary - General Fund, Food Service
6. Budget Transfers - there were no budget transfers

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mrs. Buchanan**, 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 - \$1,575.00

Amy Withelder - \$300.00

Kara Ryan - \$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 Degree

Motion carried.

Informational items:

(1) The Pottsville Area School District is excited to have received \$996,189 through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) grant. We appreciate Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians, and the community for their participation in the Comprehensive Planning team, including meetings on November 29, 2023 and February 28, 2024. The District is grateful for the input from one-hundred

fifty-six (156) stakeholders who completed our survey to inform our grant application to benefit students and staff. Without your input, we would not have been able to achieve this result. As indicated from the results of the survey and meetings, the grant will support the District's funds to provide additional Behavior Intervention, Counseling, Special Education programming, Career activities, Wellness for staff, and Dual Enrollment opportunities over the next two school years.

(2) 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 2021 vs 2022 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 and Extracurricular Activities Committee**, and on motion of **Mr. Shields**, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, the Board approved the following:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the returning Football Coaches as per contract:

Varsity Assistant - Kurt Eroh
Equipment Manager - Tony Barone
Weight Room Volunteer - Joe Liptok
Junior High Assistant - Lucas Bricker
Junior High Assistant - Stephen Messina

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the new Football Coaches:

Varsity Assistant - Rick Painter - \$4,000
Varsity Assistant - Tyler Hartranft - \$3,600
Varsity Assistant - Anthony Kelly - \$3,100
Varsity Assistant - Tyler Heffner - \$3,100
1 Varsity Assistant Coach and 1 Junior High Head Coach positions are Open.

3. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to form a junior high girls volleyball team and a junior high girls softball team effective for the 2024-2025 school year with permission to advertise for coaches.

Current PIAA Sports offered at the Junior High (7th and 8th grade) Level:

****Fall**

Cross Country - Male/Female

Football

Proposing Volleyball

****Winter**

Basketball - Male/Female

Wrestling

****Spring**

Track and Field - Male/Female
Proposing Softball

4. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise for a Strengthening and Conditioning Coach for the 2024-2025 school year as a stipend position.
Motion carried.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve Center Stage Lighting and Rigging for the following:

- Board training - \$600
- Two (2) Show Baby Multiverse Wireless DMX w/ cable - \$786
- Rigging inspection - \$1,250

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the use of Pottsville Area School District facilities by the Schuylkill IU and STC in the event of an emergency evacuation of students and staff.

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of a backhoe from Medico Construction Equipment/Case Construction at a total cost \$119,779.93.

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the plaster work for Little Theater, Auditorium, and Planetarium Door at a cost of \$24,220 by Pullman Co.
Motion carried.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve a two (2) year extension for auditing services with Jones and Co., Pottsville - Auditing Services for 2024-2025 - \$24,000 and 2025-2026 - \$24,250.

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Repository Sale of two (2) parcels #68-26-0048.000 and #68-26-0048.1 Minersville Street, City of Pottsville in the amount of \$100.

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the PA Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Agreement (ECYEH).
Motion carried.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 339, 439, 539:

- Employee #25 - Cafeteria Employee - February 20, 2024
- Employee # 1548 - Teacher - February 27, 2024 1/2 day PM through March 1, 2024
- Employee #1515 - Cafeteria Employee - March 14, 2024 to TBD
- Employee #1362 - Cafeteria Employee - March 18, 2024 to June 5, 2024

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Leave of Absence as per Board Policy 335:

- Employee #1088 - beginning May 9, 2024 (tentative)
- Employee #566 - beginning June 1, 2024 (tentative)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise for Elementary Education Certified Teacher, Certified School Nurse, Certified School (Guidance) Counselor, and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

4. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise for one (1) part-time cafeteria substitute to rotate throughout all three (3) school buildings.

5. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Florence Berger, cafeteria custodian/receiver at Pottsville Area High School, retroactive to March 20, 2024. Ms. Berger will continue to be a part-time bus driver.

6. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Sean Jones, Special Education Teacher at DHH Lengel Middle School, retroactive to March 14, 2024.

7. It is recommended that the Board approve Robin Barton as a part-time cafeteria substitute employee at an hourly rate of \$11.25 effective March 21, 2024. Mrs. Barton also works as a cafeteria aide at the JSC Elementary Center.

8. It is recommended that the Board approve Barry Jenkins as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$13.50, retroactive to March 4, 2024; it is further recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Mr. Jenkins, retroactive to March 7, 2024.

9. It is recommended that the Board approve Erika Fontanez as a van driver for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$13.50, retroactive to March 7, 2024.

10. It is recommended that the Board approve Nefmarie Rosado as a part-time Paraprofessional for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$14.00, retroactive to March 6, 2024.

11. It is recommended that the Board approve Jennifer Molina as a full-time ESL Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$17.00. She is currently a part-time paraprofessional at DHHL Middle School.

12. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2024-2025 Operating Hours Calendar for 12-month personnel.

13. It is recommended that the Board approve the following teachers for the Pottsville Area High School Summer Tutoring Program/Summer School, at an hourly rate of \$35.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Suzanne Fredericks
Ali Hobbs
Steve Horvath
Tracy James
Meredith Pellish
Dave Sterner

14. It is recommended that the Board approve 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:

Teachers

Michael Roberts
Aprile Goehring
Melissa Focht
Heather McDonald
Marissa Rhode
Kayla Gaffron

Nurses

Kendra Rooney
Carrie Selinko
Gayle Newton

Related Services

Rodney Snowell - Behavioral Specialist

15. It is recommended that the Board approve the following paraprofessionals for the Extended School Year Program (ESY) at their normal hourly rates, effective June 18, 2023:

Kaleigh Sibett
Sandy Paulshock
Mary Hooper
Jackie Stank

Lisa Krammes
Mackenzie Parthe
Jodi Foulk
Katherine Encarnacion
Emilee Rose
Sue Griffen
Elisha Coleman

16. It is recommended that the Board approve the following paraprofessionals for the Extended School Year Program (ESY) and the JSC Summer School Program at their normal hourly rates, effective June 18, 2023:

Sandy Paulshock
Jackie Stank

17. It is recommended that the Board approve Mrs. Megan Sirkot as a Special Education Teacher at Pottsville Area High School, effective April 29, 2024 - Step 6 - Master's - \$53,600.

18. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation for retirement purposes from the following employees with effective dates:

~ Mrs. Michele Fries, Elementary School Teacher at JSC Elementary Center for 21 years, effective the last day of the 2023-2024 school year

~ Mr. Scott Mattea, Business Teacher at Pottsville Area High School for 25 years, effective date to be determined

We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to the students, families and community and wish them well in retirement.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Buchanan read the following informational items:

1. Congratulations to the PAHS Artists of the Month: AP Art and Design students - AP 2D students: Abbey Garrity, Sydney Heffron, and Catherine Lubinsky and AP 3D students: Molly Hesse, Ava Lewis, Sarah Malek, and Willow Skoraszewski.
2. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month, Dominic Alvarez and Lily Heinbach.
3. Congratulations to 7th grader Najlaa Belkhoutout for placing 5th place in the Regional Spelling Bee (presented by the Northeast PA Manufactures and Employers Council & STC) on March 2nd. We are thankful for Spelling Bee Coach Ms. Wasilewski and Mrs. Ferdoucha for serving as the official record keeper.

4. Congratulations to JSC Elementary Center Students of the Month:

K - Jude Capella

1 - Georgia Buffington

2 - Elise Ferdoucha

3 - Yassin Raafat

4 - Andrew Davis

5. Congratulations to the DHHL Middle School students who were selected to perform in the Junior County Band at Shenandoah Valley Jr/Sr High School on Saturday, March 16th! Charlotte Petrone, Kira Firestone, Gary Brennan, Sammy Balulis, Kenedee Siegfried, Saul Sanchez, Spencer Prestileo, Isaac Seiger, and Alejandro Gunoskey did a fabulous job!

On the recommendation of the **Curriculum Committee**, and on motion of **Mrs. Buchanan**, seconded by **Mr. Urban**, the Board approved PAHS Art Teachers, Mrs. Katrina Greenwalt, Mrs. Sara Arnold and Miss Abby Wertman, to attend the Savannah College of Art & Design Educator Forum in Savannah Georgia; June 23-28, 2024. The conference will be paid for by ARP ESSER Funds. The total amount for all participants is \$2,212.60.

Motion carried.

Mr. Shields - Informational Item - the Pottsville Area School District received a \$9,598.96 USDA grant to use for the breakfast program at JSC Elementary Center.

Mr. Ciavarella - Informational Item - the meeting for next Monday March 25, 2024 of the St. Clair Committee.

Mrs. Hobbs - Informational Item - The Pottsville Area School Board members participated in a PSBA Conference Session on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 subsequent to the Committee of the Whole Meeting and Executive Session. A Conference Session is a noted exception within § 707 of the Sunshine Act.

Under New Business:

Upcoming Events, Junior Board Member Madison Eroh - read the following:

March 22 - 24, 2024 - Spring Musical (The Little Mermaid)

March 26, 2024 - End of 3rd Marking Period

March 27, 2024 - Holiday Early Dismissal

March 28, 2024 - April 3, 2024 - School Closed/Spring Break

April 5, 2024 - Reports Cards uploaded to Skyward

On the recommendation of **Mrs. Lombel**, Board Secretary, on motion of **Mr. Urban**, seconded by **Mr. Thomas**, the Board approved the following:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Use of Facilities:

High School Track

Nativity B.V.M. High School - Times to be scheduled with the Athletic Director Track and Field Season beginning March 2024 until the end of 2024 season for a total of \$400.

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Planetarium Group Show fee of \$250.00 per hour.

*Please send inquiries to Mr. Portland - asportland@pottsville.k12.pa.us. Requests for reduced rates may be granted for nonprofit organizations. Groups consisting of K-12th students enrolled in the Pottsville Area School District will be given priority.

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/PAHSPlanetariumandObservatory> for information about registering to attend Free Community programs.

Meetings for April 2024

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

Board Meeting - Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium - Proposed Final 2024-2025 School District Budget

Final Adoption of the 2024-2025 School District Budget - Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm

An Executive Session was held from 6:31 PM to 7:05 to discuss personnel matters.

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

 March 21, 2024

Krista M. Bevan (Date)

Board Secretary