

## POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Board Meeting  
January 17,, 2024  
DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium  
7:00 PM

Present: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan,  
Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs,  
Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas,  
Ms. Wytovich, Mr. Urban, 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 Linda 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](mailto: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 comments this evening.

Roll Call – 9 members present.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the December 6, 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. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of December 2023:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023 - \$5,869,843.85. Cafeteria Checking Balance as of December 31, 2023 - \$390,432.34.
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, Atty. Reid, and on motion of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Discipline Waiver, effective January 17, 2024: #28-8537. Motion carried.

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

Jill Chiccini - 6 Credits  
Elizabeth Grow - 6 Credits  
Paula Heffner - 3 Credits  
Brent Hinkle - 6 Credits  
Kelly Lombel - 6 Credits  
Rachelle Price - 3 Credits  
Courtney Reichert - 6 Credits  
Michael Roberts - 7 Credits  
Amy Withelder - 6 Credits  
Anya Wood - 3 Credits  
Leah Zerbe - 12 Credits  
Motion carried.

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

Elizabeth Grow - \$3,036.00  
Brent Hinkle - \$3,888.00  
Tiffany Hummel - \$3,495.00  
Kaitlin Leffler - \$3,612.00  
Rachelle Price - \$1662.00  
Kara Ryan - \$300.00  
Michala Zembas - \$3,051.00  
Leah Zerbe - \$6,471.00  
Motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Ciavarella seconded by Mrs. Hobbs, the Board granted permission to advertise for a Head Football Coach. Motion carried by roll call: Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Aye. Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Shields, Mr. Thomas, Nay.

**The Crimson Tide Foundation is proud to announce the following Venture Grants which were awarded for the 2023-2024 school year:**

**December Awards**

1. Charles Taronis, PAHS - Field Trip to Gettysburg - \$1,000.00
  2. Robert Kempsey, PAHS - Field Trip to Ellis and Liberty Island - \$1,000.00
  3. Leah Zerbe, DHHL - Scholastic News subscription - \$418.80
  4. Jennifer Lutz and Mary Matulevich, DHHL - 8th grade embryology and project incubator - \$959.98
  5. Natasha Bubnis and Heather Martin (JSC) - Heide Songs subscription for Kindergarten - \$799.92
  6. Sara Arnold (PAHS) - Glass grinder and supplies - \$529.46
  7. Mark Laubenstine (DHHL) - Aquarium, Aquarium chiller and trout - \$1,000.00
- Total awards for December 2023 - \$5,708.16

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 the advertisement for the upgrade to the Gymnasium at the High School. Upgrades include repairing and restoring the existing hardwood floor as well as prepping and painting the ceiling and duct work.

- approved the AMERESCO HVAC project for all four (4) District buildings at a total cost of \$11,300,000. The project will be funded through ARP ESSER (\$2,000,000) with the remaining expense being paid from capital reserve, budgetary reserve, and

budgeted funds. Anticipated length of project will be from June 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. For more information, please visit the Buildings and Grounds page of the District's website.

Motion carried.

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

- approved the disposal or sale of the fifteen (15) buses and scrapping three (3) buses. The District will keep three (3) buses.
- approved the advertisement to sell a 2005 - 72 passenger bus with 100,000 plus miles for \$5,000 or best offer.

Motion carried.

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

- approved the purchase of Time Clock Plus - First year total cost \$31,238.64.
  - Enterprise License Annual Charge - \$12,187.50
  - Hardware Support and Maintenance - \$1,403.46
  - One time costs for Set up, Implementation services, prepaid hours and hardware - \$17,647.68
- approved the CSIU Migrant Education Program School District Partnership Agreement.

Motion carried.

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

- accepted the letter of retirement from Mrs. Mary Beth Conville, PAHS Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Conville's last day is February 15, 2024. We wish her well in her retirement.
- accepted the resignation of Kimberly Pauley, paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, retroactive to December 22, 2023.

- accepted the resignation of Karen Schock, paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, retroactive to January 2, 2024.

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

- Employee #25 - Cafeteria Aide - December 6, 2023
- Employee #1483 - Cafeteria Aide - December 13, 14, 15, 2023
- Employee #418 - Bus Driver - retroactive to December 20, 2023 to TBD
- Employee #1115 - Cafeteria Aide - retroactive to January 4, 5, 2024

- approved the following Leave of Absence as per Board Policy 335:

- Employee #440 - beginning December 18, 2023
- Employee #1657 - January 1, 2024 through January 12, 2024
- Employee #106 - November 20, 2023 through January 24, 2024

- approved an MOU with DHHL Assistant Principal Mr. Phil Kissinger, effective January 17, 2024 through June 30, 2026. \* Mr. Ansbach voted Nay. Approved 8-1.

- approved Mr. John Guzick as a School Psychologist at PAHS for the 2024-2025 school year at an intern salary of \$23,000.

- approved Mrs. Krista Bevan as Assistant Business Manager at a salary of \$72,250, pending release from her current employer. Mrs. Bevan will also serve as School Board Secretary for a stipend of \$2,500.

Motion carried.

Under **Promotion, Public Relations and Social Media**, Mrs. Buchanan read the following:

1. Thank you JSC PTO, staff, and students for a successful Joy through the Halls.
2. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month!  
K - Ryder Fisher  
1 - Noah Quirin  
2 - Lillian Humphrey  
3 - Kara Blum  
4 - Daniel Gross
3. Congratulations to the following STC Students for attending/placing in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) held at LCCC on December 19, 2023: Josie Tamin, Jennessa Brown, and Avary Major
4. Congratulations to the following students who will be representing PAHS in the 2024 Winter Carnival: Lauren Kelly, Brooke Palko, and Shaina Schmitt.

5. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month: Olivia Peleschak and Madison Thomas.
6. Congratulations to PAHS Artist of the Month, Ava Lewis.
7. Thank you DHH Lengel Middle School students and families for donating hundreds of nonperishable items for the Salvation Army Pottsville Corps. Thank you Gianna Fernandez, Esmerelda Villaneuva-Graf, Jasmine Torres, and DHHL School Psychologist Miss Zimmerman for organizing and delivering the donations.

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

- approved the purchase of a Monsido product tool to assist with website compliance, accessibility, content quality, SEO and other monitoring areas.
  - 50% discount first year - \$2,262.00
  - Annual recurring estimate - \$4,524.00
  - Smoother transition to new website.
- approved the advertisement for Districtwide Security Camera upgrade.

Motion carried.

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

-According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services website, the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. However, The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEA's to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. Since no significant changes have occurred pertaining to Covid-19, our recommendation is to affirm the current plan. Motion carried.

- approved the participation in a pilot program with Playbl, a Behavioral Health program for Middle and High School students. Playbl is the result of research by Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine and Yale School of Medicine funded through the National Institutes of Health Office of Disease Prevention in conjunction with partners including CVS Health, Schell Games, and Play2Prevent. The pilot will commence on January 18, 2024 and end on June 30, 2027. Total cost of \$10,000 will be funded through grant funding and/or budgetary reserve.

- approved the purchase of StoryMaker, an animation program through Wonder Media. The program will be utilized at DHHL Middle School. Maximum cost of \$30,000 will be funded through grant funding and/or budgetary reserve.

Motion carried.

Under **Legislation**, Mrs. Buchanan, Chairperson, read the following statement:  
“In December, the Pennsylvania General Assembly completed the final portions of the 2023-2024 budget. The final budget included an extension of a program that allows flexibility in hiring substitute teachers, increase in mental health support funding, creation of a school environmental repairs program, increase in funding for career and technical centers, and increases in basic education and special education funding. The General Assembly will begin negotiating the 2024-2025 budget in March.”

**Under New Business:**

**Upcoming Events**, Madison Eroh, Jr. Board Member, read the following:

January 19, 2024 - End of 2nd Marking Period

January 19, 2024 - 90th Day of School

January 26, 2024 - Report Cards Uploaded to Skyward

January 27, 2024 - PAHS Blood Drive at Fairlane Village Mall

February 15, 2024 - President's Day (School Closed)

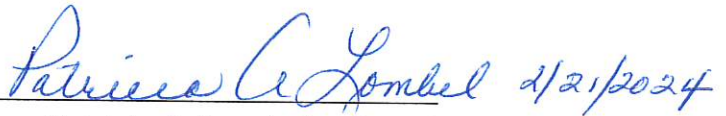
**Meetings for February 2024**

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Academic Center

Board Meeting - Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

An Executive Session was held from 6:33 pm to 6:44 pm to discuss personnel matters.

There being no further new business, on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ansbach the meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

 Patricia A. Lombel 2/21/2024

Patricia A. Lombel (Date)

Board Secretary