

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors  
Board Meeting  
December 4, 2024 - 7:00 PM  
Board Room - Academic Center

Present: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Hobbs (Zoom),  
Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt  
Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich,  
Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs. Stair,  
Business Manager; Mrs. Bevan, Asst. Business  
Manager/ Board Secretary; Mr. Thomas;  
Dr. Yoder, Superintendent  
Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Shields

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The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Lynda Wytovich .  
Roll Call - 9 members present, 0 absent

Ms. 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. 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.

Steve Moyer, Pottsville Resident, made a comment regarding taxes: "Hoping you are looking at if you are going to be over 18% - senior citizens need some empathy - seniors retired have a set budget - I also getting a hold of Gov Shapiro"

Dr. Yoder introduced the NEW DRONE PROGRAM PRESENTATION for the 2025-2026 school year - given by Mr. Stephen Horvath, PAHS Teacher

Board Secretary Krista Bevan read the following:  
POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT - Non-election Year  
REORGANIZATION MEETING - DECEMBER 4, 2024- 7:00 P.M.

SECTION 402. Notice of Organization Meetings; Temporary Officers; etc. - All members of the board of school directors in every school district shall be given five days' notice, by mail, by the secretary of the retiring board, of the time and place of meeting for organization, at which time and place, if a majority are present, an organization shall be effected as follows: In districts of the first class there shall be elected from the hold-over members a temporary president and secretary; and in all other school districts there shall be elected from the hold-over members a temporary president, and the secretary of the board shall act as secretary of such meeting. The certificates of the election or appointment of all new school directors shall be read, and a list of the legally elected or appointed and qualified school directors prepared. If any of the members have not taken and subscribed to the oath of office required by this act, the same may be administered to them by the temporary president.  
(403 amended June 2, 1965, P.L. 86, No. 59)

SECTION 404. Districts Second, Third and Fourth Class Permanent Organization; Election of Officers. - In each school district of the second, third and fourth class, the school directors shall

effect a permanent organization by electing, during the first week of December, from their members, a president and vice-president, each to serve for one year, and shall annually, during the month of May, elect a treasurer to serve for one year, beginning the first day of July following such election, and shall, during the month of May, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-three, and every four years thereafter, elect a secretary for a term of four years, beginning the first day of July following such election. The treasurer may be any corporation duly qualified and legally authorized to transact a fiduciary business in the Commonwealth. Vacancies in the office of secretary shall be filled for the unexpired term. In school districts of the second class the secretary and treasurer shall not be members of the board. In districts of the third and fourth class they may be members of the board. The same person shall not hold at the same time more than one of the offices of president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer of any board of school directors.

No superintendent, assistant superintendent, supervising principal, or teacher shall serve, either temporarily or permanently, as an officer of the school board by which he is employed. (404 amended Dec. 14, 1967, P.L. 837, No. 363)

## 2. SPECIAL MEETING

In compliance with Sections 402 and 404 of the School Code of the State of Pennsylvania, the Board of Directors of the Pottsville Area School District will hold its Reorganization Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium for the purpose of electing a President and Vice President for the ensuing year; and also for general purposes.

Mr. Ansbach nominated Bob Thomas as Temporary President of the meeting.

Mr. Thomas declared the meeting in order to proceed with election of a President and Vice President for the ensuing year.

Mr. Ansbach nominated Linda Wytovich for President, seconded by Ashley Dewitt. There were no other nominations.

Linda Wytovich motioned to close nominations, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan.

Ballot was cast to declare President elected – Linda Wytovich

Motion carried by roll call vote – all aye's.

President Linda Wytovich took over the meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Hobbs to nominate Harry Ciavarella as Vice President, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan. There were no other nominations.

Nominations closed by motion of Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Hobbs.

Ballot was cast to declare Harry Ciavarella Vice President.

Motion carried by roll call vote – all aye's.

On motion of Mrs. Wytovich, seconded by Mr. Thomas, it was recommended that the Board approve the following Board and Committee Meeting dates for 2025:

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2025

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 - Final Budget Approval

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

\* WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 - Reorganization Meeting

ALL BOARD MEETINGS AT 7 PM IN DHHL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Committee of the Whole Meeting dates will be held at 6 PM in the Academic Center Board Room on the second Wednesday of the month with no Committee Meeting in December. Additionally, Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 PM during the months of February, March, April, and May, 2025 at 5:30 PM before the Committee of the Whole Meetings.

Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, it was recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise for Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meetings.  
Motion carried.

Linda Wytovich - Minutes for November 2024 and December 2024 will be approved at the January 15, 2025 Board Meeting

Stephanie Wood, Business Manager - All Finance reports will be approved at the January 15, 2025 meeting due to the timing of the Reorganization Meeting.

On the recommendation of Dr. Yoder, motion of Mr. Thomas seconded by Mrs. Hobbs, it was recommended that the Board accept the \$1,000.00 donation from March Lutz Wealth Advisors for the Bocce Ball team. We are thankful for their generosity.

Motion carried.

On the recommendation of Dr. Yoder, motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, it was recommended that 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:

Paula Heffner - 3 Credits

Gregory Hoak - 3 Credits

Stephen Horvath - Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Vocation (5 Courses)

Megan Sirkot - 3 Credits

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, it was recommended that 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:

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Alicia Nye - \$7,605.00

William Rhoads - \$1,713.00

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved the following following professional semester and/or student teacher placements as a part of the District's collaboration with Kutztown University:

Raz'hanay Gordon with cooperating teacher, Courtney Reichert (Grade K)  
Theresa Horn with cooperating teacher, Nicole Kutsmeda (Grade K)  
Amy Devito with cooperating teacher, Casey Shoopack (Grade 1)  
Julia Hayes with cooperating teacher, Kristyn Blum (Grade 1)  
Gwen DiPrinzio with cooperating teacher, Stacie Cromyak (Grade 3)  
Sarah Colosono with cooperating teacher, Molly Kleeman (Grade 3)  
Kennedy Carlin with cooperating teacher, Amanda Purcell (Grade 4)  
Felise Willard with cooperating teacher, Jennifer Brindle (Grade 4)

We are grateful for the partnership with Kutztown University.

No discussion, motion carried.

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

Anthony Kelly as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for the 2024-2025 school year for a stipend of \$8,000, prorated with a start date of December 5, 2024.

2. The District to explore options for a football-only conference beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Board approved the following:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding among the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, the Pottsville Area School District, and Nativity BVM High School, effective January 1, 2025 through June 1, 2026 or when all allocated BSCA Grant funds are expended.

2. The Accelerated Budget Opt-Out Resolution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

3. The Service Agreement with UPMC effective September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

4. The Educational Services Agreement between Pottsville Area School District and Assumption BVM and Catapult Learning, LLC effective October 21, 2024 to May 30, 2025.

5. The Berks Schuylkill Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank School Pantry Agreement at DHHL Middle School.

6. The RACP Grant Funding Allocation Agreement (“Agreement”) between the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Pottsville as grantee and the Pottsville Area School District as subgrantee and any such ancillary documentation related to the Agreement required by the Commonwealth.

No discussion, motion carried.

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

1. The revised resignation date of Shane Derfler from his full-time Custodial position, effective July 25, 2024.

2. Mary Modesto as part-time Cafeteria Aide at the hourly rate of \$10.25 and Substitute Cafeteria staff at the hourly rate of \$11.50, retroactive to December 3, 2024.

3. The Leave Without Pay request per School Board Policy #334:

- Employee # 1748 - Oct. 29 - Nov 1; Nov 5 - Nov 8, 2024
- Employee # 1476 - Nov 21 & 22, 2024
- Employee # 1762 - Dec 9, 12, 13, 20, 2024; Jan 7, 10 2025

2. Requests for Family Medical Leave (FMLA):

- Employee #1687 - Dec. 6, 2024 - Jan. 17, 2025

4. Stephanie Wood as the Business Manager of Pottsville Area School District for a term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2029 at an annual salary of \$115,000.00 (ROLL CALL).

No discussion, motion carried, all aye’s.

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

1. Thank you PAHS coaches, wrestlers, and all who attended the Annual Charity Match - Nearly \$1,200 was raised to benefit PBIS!

2. Thank you to the PAHS students and staff who organized and delivered food to 35+ families in Pottsville Area School District and Saint Clair Area School District! We are grateful for all of our students, staff, and community across the district for donating thousands of items to share with families!

3. Congratulations to JSC Students of the Month:

K - Zaven Sulick

1 - Janessa Mudge

2 - Aria Renninger

3 - Mila Cedeno

4 - Reagan Schuckers

4. Congratulations PAHS Rotary Students of the Month, Julie Szeliga and Gavin Woodford.
5. Thank you to our DHHL Middle School Life Skills students for delivering delicious treats to teachers and staff on November 22nd!
6. Congratulations to the DHHL Middle School students who brought home the GOLD from the inaugural Schuylkill County CalcuSolve Competition at Schuylkill IU 29! Congratulations to Evan Halat, Baron Moyer, Anna Powers, Gracie Weiss, Jordan Reedy, and Najlaa Belkhoutout, along with their coaches, Miss Wasilewski and Mrs. Fehr, on this amazing accomplishment!
7. Congratulations to PAHS Artist of the Month, Tobi Kilcullen!

On the recommendation of the Technology Committee, and on motion of Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mrs. Hobbs, the Board approved the following:

JSC Elementary Special Education Supervisor Julie Saunders, Federal Programs Coordinator Maria Larish, and PAHS English Teacher Dr. Alisa Hobbs to attend the Schlechty Center's PA Innovative School District Network Conference in West Chester, PA; December 5-6, 2024. The lodging and mileage will not exceed \$1,000.00 and will be funded by the Ready to Learn Grant.

No discussion, motion carried.

Under New Business, Junior Board Member announced the following:

December 5, 2024 - PAHS Holiday Choir Concert  
December 7, 2024 - PAHS Winter Formal  
December 10, 2024 - DHHL Winter Concert  
December 12, 2024 - PAHS Holiday Band Concert  
December 13, 2024 - JSC Joy through the Halls  
December 20, 2024 - Holiday Early Dismissal  
December 21, 2024 - January 1, 2025 - Holiday Break

Mrs. Bevan, Assistant Business Manager, read the upcoming January 2025 meeting dates and informational items:

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room of the Academic Center.

Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the DHHL Middle School Auditorium.

An Executive Session was held from 6:33 p.m. to 7:08 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.  
Motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan. Motion carried.



December 5, 2024

Krista Bevan  
Board Secretary

(Date)

