

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
January 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.

1. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Board President 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 and we will read comments consistent with all aspects of our public comment policy. With our meetings now being conducted virtually until further notice, you can submit comments via the Q & A feature.
 - The School Board will strive to answer questions pertaining to the current agenda at the beginning of the school board meeting, in a conscious effort to maintain transparent practices. 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 pertaining to the agenda posted online will be answered in the order received for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. If the questions are not able to be answered during the 30-minute period, the School Board will endeavor to answer the questions at the beginning of the next school board meeting. Questions pertaining to confidential personnel matters will not be addressed. Questions that require some research or further inquiry and might not be answered at the current school board meeting. **The question and answer period does not replace the public's current right to public comment.**
2. It is recommended that the Board amend the agenda to add the Master Energy Purchase Agreement with AEP for consideration. (see motion under Finance #9)
3. Public Comment - Are there any public comments at this time?
4. Presentations -
- Mr. Doug Neidich, CEO GreenWorks Development, LLC and Mr. Doug Berry - CEO and President , Solar Renewable Energy, LLC - Solar Project Update
 - Mrs. Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager - 2021-2022 Budget Presentation
5. Approval of the November 11, 2020 and December 2, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve as recommended.

- 5. Financial Reports – Mrs. Corinne Mason, Interim Business Manager

Approval of Financial Reports as of November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020

- 1. Treasurer’s Report (All Funds)
- 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 to approve as recommended.

- 6. Unfinished Business
- 7. Solicitor’s Report – Kevin Reid, Attorney at Law
- 8. Acting Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jared Gerace

It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board approve the following items as listed:

ACTION

- It is recommended that the Superintendent’s preapproval of the credits indicated for the following professional employees be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Jacquelyn Butz	-	3 credits
Derek DiRenzo	-	3 credits
Lisa Falkowski	-	3 credits
Alicia Fehr	-	3 credits
Kaycee Hess	-	3 credits
Paula Jones	-	3 credits
Jennifer Lipton	-	3 credits
Jeremiah Lynn	-	3 credits
Benjamin O’Brien	-	3 credits
Gregory Schuettler	-	3 credits
Elizabeth Sophy	-	3 credits
Anya Wood	-	6 credits

- It is recommended that the Superintendent’s preapproval of the credits indicated for the following administrative employee be ratified:

Caitlin Mohl	-	3 credits
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- It is further recommended that the following professional employees be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of preapproved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and the PASDEA:

Cody Blankenhorn	-	\$1,548.00
Jacqueline Butz	-	\$1,551.00
Lisa Falkowski	-	\$1,551.00
Alicia Fehr	-	\$1,551.00
Cara Kelly	-	\$3,096.00
Jennifer Lipton	-	\$2,316.00
Benjamin O’Brien	-	\$ 300.00
Amanda Purcell	-	\$1,551.00
Elizabeth Sophy	-	\$1,614.00

- It is recommended that the following salary adjustments be made effective in the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

Neil Johnson	-	Master’s
Melissa Yoder	-	Master’s +15

- Pursuant to Section 1108 of the School Code, having received a satisfactory rating for the second semester of the third year of teaching, it is recommended that the following professional employees be awarded a permanent contract and tenure certification:

Jacqueline Butz
 Lisa Falkowski
 Neil Johnson
 Jill Prestileo
 Elizabeth Sophy

INFORMATION

- Principal Reports
- Federal Program
- Crimson Tide Foundation

- The District is working with our partners at St. Luke’s University Health Network on the possibility of utilizing Martz Hall as a potential site for COVID 19 vaccine administration.

9. Committee Reports

ACTION Athletics and Extracurricular Activities – Mr. Craig Shields

It is recommended by the Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Committee that the Board approve the following items as listed:

1. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Kimberly O’Brien as a swim coach for the Pottsville Area High School Swim Team, effective December 4, 2020. It is recommended that the Board approve Mrs. O’Brien as a volunteer swim coach.

Motion to approve as recommended.

Facilities and Grounds– Mr. Jerome Urban

Transportation – Mrs. Ashley DeWitt

ACTION Finance – Dr. Ann Blankenhorn

It is recommended by the Finance Committee that the Board approve the following items as listed:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the OPT Out Resolution which states that the school district will not increase the 2021-2022 school taxes at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education which is 4.3%.
2. It is recommended that the Board adopt the bond resolution as presented, authorizing a bond issue to refund the District’s 2012 and 2016 Bonds if at least \$200,000 of savings, net of issuance costs, can be achieved.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement between DAC Bond and the Pottsville Area School District to compile and maintain undertaking requirements, provide notice of and file rating changes, offer ongoing training, file and disseminate information provided to DAC in connection with its bond issues, and assist in developing policies and procedures for secondary municipal market securities requirements. Cost to district - \$1,500.00. Initial set up fee of \$1,000.00 was waived.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve the Letter of Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services, Inc. CBIZ will provide Flexible Benefit and/or Health Reimbursement Arrangement Administration Services, effective March 1, 2021.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve a revised proposal between Templeton Advantage, LLC and the Pottsville Area School District for the Business Manager search along with services for the upcoming Superintendent search. The cost for these services

is \$9,500.00 plus a cap of \$450.00 for travel. The fees cover all costs related to the search for the District's next Superintendent and Business Manager.

6. It is recommended that the Board approve an agreement between Moyer Realty Advisors LLC, Real Estate Appraiser and Consultants, Allentown, PA and Pottsville Area School District to provide a real property appraisal report for Martz Hall. Appraisal Fee is \$6,250.00.
7. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Repository Sales:
 - o Parcel 68-13-0141.000 – 672 North Second St. Pottsville, PA \$1,274.00
 - o Parcel 68-21-0011.000 – 317 George Street Pottsville, PA \$950.00
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the IRS Standard Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$.56 per mile for the 2021 calendar year. The rate for the 2020 calendar year was \$.575.
9. It is recommended that the Board approve the 36 month term Master Energy Purchase Agreement with AEP for electricity supply with the projected savings of \$19,210.00. Agreement subject to review by school district solicitor.

Motion to approve as recommended.

ACTION Personnel – Mrs. Ashley Dewitt

It is recommended by the Personnel Committee that the Board approve the following Personnel items as listed:

1. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Jacqueline Murton, paraprofessional for the Pottsville Area School District, effective December 23, 2020.
2. It is recommendation that the Board accept the resignation of Deanna Kintzel as a full-time custodian at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective December 9, 2020.
3. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation for retirement from Donald Walsh, full-time custodian at the DHH Lengel Middle School, effective January 22, 2021.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve the furlough of employee # 1256, outside maintenance employee for the Pottsville Area School District, effective as of June 16, 2020.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve Stephen Bobby as a full-time custodian for the Pottsville Area School District at an annual salary of \$19,000.00, effective January 14, 2021 contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve Ariel Miller as a part-time paraprofessional for the Pottsville Area School District at an hourly rate of \$11.25, effective January 14, 2021 contingent upon receipt of satisfactory clearances.
7. It is recommended that the Board approve the Special Sick Leave School Sponsored (60 Day Provision), as per the teachers' contract for Employee #1440, effective November 23, 2020.
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the full-time and part-time employees who were eligible for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA – expired December 31,

2020) Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave from November 12, 2020 through December 31, 2020. (See Office Files).

9. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Leave Without Pay as per School Board Policy(s): 334, 434 and 534:
- Employee #1300 – cafeteria aide – November 23, 2020
 - Employee #216 – ticket aide – December 11, 2020
 - Employee #828 – cafeteria aide – December 8, 2020
 - Employee #1228 – lunch aide – December 3, 2020
 - Employee #70 – paraprofessional – December 21, 22, 2020

Motion to approve as recommended.

Promotion, Public Relations & Social Media – Ms. Linda Wytovich

- Congratulations to Kendra Spevak (junior) who was selected as the recipient of the Widener University School Leadership Award. Only one junior from each school can be selected based on the following criteria: standing up for what is right, finding a way to address a wrong, and making a difference in a significant way in a school or community. Kendra will be honored by Widener in the Spring of 2021 and is now eligible for a \$20,000 scholarship if she enrolls at Widener.
- Congratulations on Student Council’s Annual Penny-a-Week collection for the holiday gift buying and distribution of toys for needy children in our community. Under the supervision of Advisor, William Rhoads, Penny-a-Week raised just over \$3,000 and Student Council received over \$2,000 from faculty collections, dress down and community donations. The Class of 2020 also made a donation from their class account as well. We ended up with over \$5,000 this year. A special thanks to the Thomas Family and friends for contributing over \$600 toward this total. It very easily could have been a much scaled-down version of what it was in the past, but so many people stepped up to make it the huge success that it was. Thank you to everyone for their extraordinary generosity in such a difficult year, and for your continued support of Student Council and Penny-A-Week.
- Twelve Christmas food baskets were donated by the high school clubs, seven from John S. Clarke Elementary Center, four from the Middle School and one from the Academic Center Staff and three baskets with monetary contribution from Christopher Belaus (a 2015 PAHS graduate). Food donations were also made to the Cloud Home on behalf of the Men’s Faculty.
- Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership winners: Chloe Heintz, Zoe Holden and Gwen Biddle. HOBY representatives are selected based on faculty input. The position is coveted to represent Pottsville Area High School. Only three students were selected based on attitude, academic achievement, community and school awareness, and leadership potential.

- Congratulations to the following for being named Rotary Students of the Month:

Paige Mervine and Justin McClure - December
 Katherine Brennan and Kathryn Klema - January

- Congratulations to the following teachers for being awarded a Teacher Venture Grant from the C-Tide Foundation.

Heather Martin	Social and Emotional learning books	\$ 170.24
Carolyn Wasilewski	90 Calculators	\$ 999.55
Sara Arnold	Art Materials - colored pencils	\$ 590.70
Katrina Greenawalt	Ceramics Art Materials	\$ 591.37
Jonathan Hughes	Coding supplies	<u>\$ 700.00</u>
Total (December)		\$ 3,051.86

ACTION Technology – Mr. Jerome Urban

- It is recommended that the Board approve the change in long distance phone provider from Windstream Enterprise to Verizon (3 year contract), effective immediately.

Motion to approve as recommended.

Curriculum – Dr. Michael Cardamone – Meeting held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- The Committee discussed a proposal presented by Mrs. Hummel, PAHS Principal, for the establishment of a procedure for qualified PAHS students to receive dual credit for courses taken in cooperation with participating institutions of higher education. The Committee unanimously supported the proposal and authorized Mrs. Hummel to continue discussions with local institutions and to explore possibilities for obtaining scholarship aid for students who wish to participate in a dual credit effort.

Policy and Procedure – Dr. Christina DiCello

Food Services – Dr. Michael Cardamone

Labor Relations – Mr. Jerome Urban

10. Information Board Member Reports

1. Legislation – Mr. Patrick Moran
2. IU 29 Representative – Dr. Michael Cardamone
3. St. Clair Committee – Dr. Michael Cardamone

4. PSBA Representative – Dr. Ann Blankenhorn

11. **New Business**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the Revised Pottsville Area School District Workplace Safety Committee Bylaws. **Motion to approve as recommended.**
2. The Board of Directors of Pottsville Area School District hereby authorizes its Solicitor to send a confirming letter to Luther Ridge at Seiders Hill (“Seiders Hill”) to permit the use of the School District’s facilities as an emergency evacuation location for the residents and staff of Seiders Hill. The School District will retain the right to determine which areas of its facilities will be utilized in the event of an emergency and the School District may elect to set forth any such other appropriate terms and conditions. **Motion to approve as recommended.**

3. **RESOLUTION**

On the 13th Day of January 2021, the Board of Directors authorizes the Pottsville Area School District to file a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) formal Application and Business Plan. This resolution contains a brief project description along with the RACP grant amount for Martz Hall and Pottsville Area High School (2225-00), Schuylkill County. Pottsville Area School District is the sub applicant of \$1,000,000 of funds from the Pottsville Area Redevelopment Authority. Pottsville Area School District, via letter dated August 5, 2019 from the Bureau of Revenue, Capital and Debt, Office of the Budget, Harrisburg, PA., will receive funding through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

The campus of the Pottsville Area School District is the epicenter for social, academic, and recreational events in the greater Pottsville Area and Schuylkill County. As a part of the campus, Martz Hall is used by residents throughout Schuylkill County as a facility for college fairs, speaking engagements, and sporting events for wrestling and basketball. The “Mecca” (Martz Hall) is also often the host to both district and state basketball playoff games. However, the 48-year-old structure is suffering catastrophic roof leakage due to hail damage, partial roof blow-off, and faulty installation. Inept and damaged sheet metal snow guards threaten bodily injury, as does eroded paved parking areas and stairways.

The Comprehensive Campus Revitalization multi-phase project of the Pottsville Area School District utilizes studies and recommendations performed by professional roof and structural consultants. As an alternative to re-roofing, a 3-4 coat, partially-reinforced, high quality acrylic coating, projected to last beyond 15 years, will be applied to the Martz Hall roof after major repairs to the eave/knuckle flashing. This alternative allows for repairs to common areas shared with the DHH Lengel Middle School including parking lots, drainage culverts, and replacement of concrete stairs with fiberglass stair treads, concrete piers, and galvanized structural steel framing.

Motion to authorize filing of Formal Application and Business Plan as recommended.

12. Announcement of Executive Session
13. Adjournment – **Motion to adjourn as recommended.**