POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors	Present:	Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. Ciavarella,
Board Meeting		Mr. Shields, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Thomas,
May 21, 2025 – 7:00 PM		Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Mrs. Buchanan,
Board Room – Academic Center		Mrs. Wood, Business Manager; Kevin Ried, Attorney
		Mrs. Bevan, Asst. Business Manager/Board Secretary
	Absent:	Dr. Sarah Yoder, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Linda Wytovich .
Roll Call – 9 members present, 0 absent.

Motion was made by Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban, to add the acceptance of the resignation of Sarah Yoder, Superintendent, effective within the 90-day contracted period.

Stephanie Buchanan asked why it's okay to add this to the agenda after the 24-hour period.

Attorney Kevin Ried answered, citing the Sunshine Act law:

The Sunshine Act was updated a few years back, and it requires school districts and other municipal entities to post meeting agendas online 24 hours before the meeting and prohibits acting on items not listed on the agenda,

There are exceptions to this updated provision of the Sunshine Act, and one of those exceptions is:

Business arising within 24 hours: that does <u>not</u> involve spending money or entering contracts. Accepting Dr. Yoder's resignation letter does not involve spending money or entering contracts. The letter was submitted within 24 hours of the meeting.

Procedurally, the Board could entertain a motion to amend the agenda and place an action item on the agenda to accept the resignation letter. The Board would, however, must proceed to amend the agenda through the proper motion process. The motion to amend would have to be approved by a majority vote announcing the reason for the change in the agenda. The item then can be placed for a vote at a point later in the agenda, and such placement should be after the public comment period.

- 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.

No Public Comments

The Board of Directors recognized Senior Anabelly Valdez for serving one (1) year as Jr. Board Member. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

Ms. Wytovich introduced the Presentation of the PAHS EMT Program.

Pat Moran from Schuylkill EMS presented the program, along with current and former PASD students:
Logan Miscannon
Madison Thomas
Logan Searfoss
Jersey Lynn Cook

Gwen Hamilton
Nick Horvath
Lily Heinbach
Quinn Evans

On motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Buchanan, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes, the April 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, and the May 7, 2025 Special 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 Stephanie Wood, Business Manager, and on motion of Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban, the Board approved the following Financial Reports for the month of April 2025:

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds)
General Fund Balance as of April 30, 2025 - $8,254,418.15

Cafeteria Checking Balance as of $738,720.47

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 - Approve Budget Transfers in the amount of $9,762,707.40 to reallocate funds due to coding changes.

No discussion, motion carried.

Informational Item:
We are pleased to share that Moody's Investors Service has moved the Pottsville Area School District up a credit rating level for the THIRD consecutive year! The District is grateful to increase to A3, which confirms that the District's financial position continues to move in a positive direction due to conservative budgeting and the implementation of cost-cutting measures. The history of the District's credit rating is below:

PASD - Moody's Credit Score History		
Date	Purpose	Score
6/1/12	$4.155 million - General Obligation Bonds (.26% through 2.77%)	Aa3 - Negative Outlook
12/22/15	$3.1 million - General Obligation Bonds (.9% through 2.65%)	Baa1 - Negative Outlook
5/22/17	Prompted by Moody's (poor PASD audit)	Baa2 - Negative Outlook
9/12/18	Prompted by Moody's (poor PASD audit)	Baa3 - Negative Outlook
11/20/21	$4.585 million - General Obligation Bonds to refinance 2012 and 2016 - debt through May, 2031 --- at a higher rate (.42% through 4%) due to poor credit rating	Affirmed Baa3
3/13/23	PASD Requested Credit Opinion	Baa2 - Positive Outlook

4/18/24	PASD Requested Credit Opinion	Baa1
4/11/25	PASD Requested Credit Opinion	A3

Final 2025-2026 Budget Presentation : Stephanie Wood, Business Manager presented the final budget, which can be found as an attachment to these minutes.

The following changes were made to the 2025-2026 General Fund budget from the Preliminary Budget Presentation:

Local Sources – Updated from April 16, 2025 meeting

- Local Real Estate Tax Levy decreased by $145,548 to $10,855,011 due to the increase in the State Property Tax Relief Subsidy.
- Interest income decreased by $79,446 to maintain total budgeted revenue at $51,842,309.

State Sources – Updated from April 16, 2025 meeting

- State Property Tax Relief subsidy increased by $224,994 to $1,224,994 from $1,000,000. This decreases local real estate tax revenue, as we use these funds for the homestead exemption for our taxpayers.
-

ELECTION OF A TREASURER for 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Mr. Urban made a motion to proceed with the election of a Treasurer for the fiscal year 2025-2026. It was seconded by Mr. Ansbach.

Nominations for Treasurer of the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year beginning the first day of July 2025 and ending the last day of June 2026 was made by Ashley Dewitt, to nominate Craig Shields. There were no other nominees.

Motion made by Mr. Ansbach, seconded by Mr. Urban that the NOMINATIONS FOR TREASURER be closed. Vote by roll call – all aye's motion passed.

Secretary Bevan casts the ballot electing Craig Shields as Treasurer of the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Vote by roll call – all aye's motion passed.

Motion made by Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Ciavarella to require the Treasurer to provide a bond in the amount of $50,000.00, with approved surety, the premium of the bond to be paid by the Pottsville Area School District.

No discussion, motion carried.

In Superintendent Yoder's absence, Mrs. Wood read the pre-approval of credits:

On recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, it's recommended that 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:

Jamie Dawson - 3 CreditsKarrison
Dubbs - 3 Credits
Emily Earlley - 3 Credits
Michel Germán - 6 Credits
McKayla Gilbert - 6 Credits
Paula Heffner - 3 Credits

Emma Libby - 9 Credits
Jillian Strohecker - 4 Credits
Michael Walser - 16 Credits
Kayla Watt - 6 Credits

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Ansbach, Seconded by Mrs. Dewitt, 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:

Krista Bevan - $1,764.00
Kendra Boris - 1,713.00
Michael Brennan - $450.00
Jamie Dawson - $1,455.00
Paula Heffner - $2,910.00
Gregory Hoak - $2,910.00
Jeffrey Hughes - $300.00
Kaitlin Leffler - $1,548.00
Rachelle Price - $1,713.00
Melissa Scheetz - $1,548.00
Michael Walser - $3,096.00
Haley Wiscount - $3,096.00

No discussion, motion carried.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, and on motion of Mrs. Dewitt, Seconded by Mr. Urban, it was recommended that **the Board approve the 2025-2028 Special Education Plan. The 2025-2028 Special Education Plan has been placed on the District's website for review for 28 days, and** that the Board approve the research study by the Penn State Schuylkill Team of Researchers: Dr. Squillace, Dr. Can, Dr. Song, and Dr. Stone. The team has been approved for a Department of Justice grant through September, 2027 to work with Pottsville Area High School students. The grant will use anonymous surveys and direct feedback to develop a training program to address bullying and its effects on high school aged adolescents.

No discussion, motion carried.

Crimson Tide Foundation Informational:

Thank you to Anna Bohorad Charitable Trust c/o James Bohorad for donating to the Crimson Tide Foundation.

Thank you to the Crimson Tide Foundation and donors for the support of our students, educators, and community.

On the recommendation of the Athletics Committee, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan, the Board approved advertising for a Head Swim Coach for the 2025-2026 season.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the proposal from Element Environmental Solutions, Inc. - $8,313 with additional half days and full days as needed at the cost of $775 for a full day, and $535 for a half day.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the proposal from John Levkulic Group for the Natatorium study, not to exceed $50,000.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the proposal from Recreation Resource for the JSC Elementary Center Playground project, not to exceed $452,835 funded through the General Fund and Capital Reserve Fund.

No discussion, motion carried.

Ms. Wytovich read a statement from the Board - On behalf of the Pottsville Area School District Board of Education, I want to extend our sincere congratulations to Dr. Sarah Yoder on her nomination by the Chester County Intermediate Unit to become the Director of Innovative Educational Services.

Over the past four years, Dr. Yoder has led our district with vision, innovation, and a deep commitment to student success. Her leadership has brought meaningful change and lasting impact to our schools, and while we are thrilled for this next chapter in her career, she will be deeply missed by our entire school community.

The Board will be meeting to determine a transition plan and is committed to a transparent, inclusive approach that keeps our community informed and engaged every step of the way. Our focus is on supporting our students, staff, and families throughout this time of change.

We thank Dr. Yoder for her outstanding service and wish her continued success in all that lies ahead.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve Killian Bressler as Lifeguard at the hourly rate of $10.00, effective May 21, 2025.

2. It is recommended that the Board approve Ceira Kline as Lifeguard at the hourly rate of $10.00, effective May 21, 2025.

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the following FMLA/LOA requests per policy #334:
Employee #538 - March 3 - March 7, 2025
Employee #1583 - March 14 - March 9, 2025
Employee # 894 - May 15 - June 3, 2025
Employee #180 - April 28 - May 21, 2025
Employee # 1786 - May 1 - June 12, 2025
Employee # 1706 - May 1 - May 2, 2025
Employee #70 - May 2, 2025
Employee #1683 - May 5 - May 9, 2025
Employee #1687 - June 9, 2025
4. It is recommended that the Board approve Kim Malis as a ten (10) month cafeteria receiver/custodian employee, effective July 1, 2025. Ms. Malis is currently a twelve (12) month employee.

5. It is recommended that the Board approve Heather Heck for the Summer Meals Program at an hourly rate of $12.00, effective June 10, 2025.

6. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Ms. Kerri Lubinsky, Principal at JSC Elementary Center, effective August 8, 2025. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

7. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Miss Jessica Nowakowski, 4th Grade Teacher at JSC Elementary Center, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

8. It is recommended that the Board approve Ms. Victoria Chernesky as a 4th Grade Teacher at JSC Elementary Center for the 2025-2026 School Year - Step 1 - Bachelor's - $46,000. Mrs. Jennifer Brindle will serve as a mentor for Ms. Chernesky.

9. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Mr. John Pettit, School Counselor at JSC Elementary Center, effective June 27, 2025. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

10. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Miss Lindsay Hand, Special Education Teacher, at JSC Elementary Center, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

11. It is recommended that the Board accept the letter of resignation from Gary Marx, full-time Custodian at DHH Lengel Middle School, effective May 12, 2025.

12. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise for a Speech and Language Pathologist.

13. It is recommended that the Board approve the Superintendent to be granted authority to fill vacancies and hire certified personnel with ratification at the June, July, August, and September 2025 Board Meetings. This authority is granted annually.

14. It is recommended that the Board approve the following teachers to plan and/or teach for the JSC Elementary Summer Tutoring Program/Summer School, at an hourly rate of $35.00 as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:
Melissa Brennan, Emily Earlley, Kimberly Martinko, Angelique Mundy, Rebecca Oakill, Sara Parker, Amy Rubinkam

15. It is recommended that the Board approve the following teachers for the JSC Elementary Center Summer School Program funded through 21st Century Grant, Schuylkill County MHDSDA, and/or Ready to Learn at an hourly rate of $24.40 (teachers) and $26.00 (supervisor):
Emily Kleeman (Supervisor - $26.00/hour)
Heather Martin
Jennifer Molina
Angelique Mundy
Sharon Pogar
Rodney Snowell
Jacquelin Stank

16. It is recommended that the Board approve Chase Rehrig and Natasha Zias as part-time Summer IT Interns, effective May 27, 2025 through August 22, 2025 at the hourly rate of $12.00.

17. It is recommended that the Board approve Erin McDonald and Justin Herb as part-time Summer IT Interns, effective May 27, 2025 through August 22, 2025 paid by Penn State Schuylkill Campus. We appreciate the collaboration with Penn State Schuylkill Campus.

18. It is recommended that the Board approve the resignation of Liam Ortiz, IT Intern, effective May 23, 2025.

19. It is recommended that the Board approve the resignation of Haley Seedor, IT Intern, effective May 27, 2025.

20. It is recommended that the Board approve the following for ESY for the 2024-2025 Extended School Year (ESY):

Carly Mohl - Part-Time Paraprofessional
Josh Kalyan - Teacher

21. It is recommended that the Board approve Karrison Dubbs to instruct the lifeguarding course in May 2025, at the hourly rate of $20.00.

22. It is recommended that the Board approve Barbara Zemantauski as part-time Cafeteria aide at the high school, at the hourly rate of $10.25, retroactive to May 12, 2025.

23. It is recommended that the Board approve Ms. Jacey Miller as a Physical Education Teacher at PAHS for the 2025-2026 School Year - Step 1 - Bachelor's - $46,000. Mr. Mike Welsh will serve as a mentor for Ms. Miller.

24. It is recommended that the Board approve Ms. Amanda Hollen as a Business Teacher at PAHS for the 2025-2026 School Year - Step 3 - Master's - $55,100. Mr. Chris Lombel will serve as a mentor for Ms. Hollen.

25. It is recommended that the Board approve Heather Heck and Kellie Borrell for Summer Cleaning hours at $13.25 per hour.

26. It is recommended that the Board approve Lora Colletta as part-time Paraprofessional at JSC Elementary at the hourly rate of $14.25, retroactive to May 5, 2025.

On the recommendation of Mr. Urban, seconded by Mrs. Hobbs, it was recommended that the Board approve the letter of resignation of Superintendent Dr. Sarah Yoder, effective date TBD within the 90 day contract period.

No discussion, motion carried.

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

1. Comparison Expense and Revenue Reports/Summary
2. Treasurer's Report
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement with PSBA Insurance for the Better Unemployment Compensation System BASIC Program (BUCS Basic) for the 2025-2026 school year.

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the contracts with Child and Family Services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) and Elementary Student Assistance Program (ESAP) for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the Revised 2024-2025 TITLE I Letter of Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit. Term of Agreement - August 21, 2024 through May 30, 2025.

6. It is recommended that the Board approve the Wave of Wellness for May for all PASD Staff, funded by the BSCA grant.

7. It is recommended that the Board approve the Seltzer Group Partners Renewal for 2025-2026 school year:

- Property/Liability/Auto/Crime/Educators Liability - $180,675
- Commercial Umbrella - $20,267
- Cyber Liability - $8,670
- Workers Comp - $87,240

8. It is recommended that the Board approve the Renewal Agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) Computer Service for the 2025-2026 school year at an annual cost of $29,688.10 for fund accounting, human resources, and payroll.
9. It is recommended that the Board reappoint the Schuylkill County Recorder of Deeds to administer and collect the Realty Transfer Tax within the Pottsville Area School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.
10. It is recommended that the Board designate the following institutions as depositories for the Pottsville Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year and to continue under presently existing depository agreements:

~ Mid Penn Bank, Minersville, PA - General Fund, Payroll Account, Federal Funds, HS Athletic Fund, Activities Fund, Auxiliary Account, Booster Club Account, Cafeteria Account, Technology Account

~ Link Bank, Pottsville, PA - Award Funds

~ PSDLAF - Capital Reserve Fund, General Fund Investment Accounts

11. It is recommended that the Board approve the PA School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement to Participate - School Age FY 2025 - 2026.
12. It is recommended that the Board does not approve the Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau private sale for the following properties:
Parcel #68-21-0372, 417 Adams St.
Parcel #68-27-0393, 510 Mahantongo St.
Parcel # 68-28-0067, 216 W. Schuylkill Ave.

Motion approved, no discussion.

The **Committee on Finance** reports that the tentative budget notice and the adoption of the budget this evening was published in the Republican Herald on April 19, 2025 stating that the budget for the fiscal year commencing the first day of July 1, 2025 would be adopted as of May 22, 2025. The budget herewith presented has been carefully considered by the Board of Directors and is now submitted by the Committee on Finance for action at this meeting. The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board of Directors adopt the following budget resolution authorizing the expenditures of the amounts indicated in the various classifications for the general fund budget totaling **$51,842,309** and appended to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of Pottsville Area School District, Schuylkill County, hereby authorize expenditures of **$51,842,309** set forth in the school budget, as appended, during the school year 2025-2026 and levies a tax of 45.403 mills ($45.403 per thousand dollars) of the County assessed valuation on real estate; a per capita tax of five dollars ($5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a per capita tax of five dollars ($5.00) per person under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an earned income tax of one-half percent (1/2%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; an occupation tax of 339.4493 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of $128.09 also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; a business privilege tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the school district except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill, and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; a local services tax at the rate of $5.00, also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended; and a realty transfer tax of one percent (1%), also under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of

1986; to provide the necessary revenue for the expenditures hereby authorized. The above taxes will be levied and collected in each of the following political subdivisions included in the Pottsville Area School District as follows: City of Pottsville, Borough of Port Carbon, Borough of Mechanicsville, Borough of Mount Carbon, Borough of Palo Alto, and Township of Norwegian.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION by Mr. Urban Seconded by Mr. Ansbach. VOTE BY ROLL CALL.
Approved 9-0

The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board authorize and direct the following to collect the amount due on the 2025 taxes, real estate and personal, in the respective political subdivisions indicated:

Pottsville City - Taryn Dragna
Port Carbon Borough - Mary Jo Ferraro
Mechanicsville Borough - Alicia Beach
Mount Carbon Borough - Linda Yeich/Sch. County Treasurer
Palo Alto Borough - Anna Cook
Norwegian Township - Krista Schaeffer

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE COLLECTION OF TAXES by Mr. Urban seconded by Mr. thomas. VOTE BY ROLL CALL.
Approved 9-0

The Committee on Finance recommends that the Board confirm the rates of compensation to tax collectors in the respective political subdivisions for the 2025 duplicates:

Pottsville City - School District's 1/3 share of tax office salaries, with the City of Pottsville and County of Schuylkill to pay the other two-thirds

Port Carbon Borough	$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & $1.00 per bill mailed
Mechanicsville Borough	$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & $1.00 per bill mailed
Mount Carbon Borough	$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & $1.00 per bill mailed
Palo Alto Borough	$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & $1.00 per bill mailed
Norwegian Township	$3.00 per bill collected and paid to the District & $1.00 per bill mailed

MOTION by Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban TO CONFIRM RATES OF COMPENSATION. VOTE BY ROLL CALL.
Approved 9-0

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the resolution imposing a Per Capita Tax of five dollars ($5.00) per person under Section 679 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; a Per Capita Tax of five dollars ($5.00) on each resident of Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the 1980-1981 school year and subsequent years. No additional resolution is required to continue these taxes which are currently in force.
The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the resolution imposing an Earned Income Tax of one-half of one percent (1/2%) under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, provided for the levy of this tax during the period beginning July 1, 1966 and ending December 31, 1966 and thereafter, during each successive calendar year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax which is currently in force.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Realty Transfer Tax of one percent (1%) on the transfer of titles on real estate in the Pottsville Area School District under the provisions of Act 511,

Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to Act 77 of 1986, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2025-2026 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.

The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Local Services Tax of $5.00, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2025-2026 school year.
The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Business Privilege Tax of four and one-half (4 1/2) mills on each dollar of the whole or gross volume of business transacted within the territorial limits of the School District except for wholesale dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at the rate of one (1) mill, and retail dealers or vendors, who will be taxed at one and one-half (1 1/2) mills, under the provisions of Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, which is currently in effect, will continue during the 2025-2026 school year. No additional resolution is required to continue this tax.
The Committee on Finance reports as a matter of record that the Occupation Tax of 339.4493 mills based on the occupational assessment as set by the County Assessor or a total of $128.09 under Act 511, Local Tax Enabling Law of 1965, as amended, will continue during the 2025-2026 school year.
The Committee on Finance reports that proper notification of the continuance of Per Capita Tax (Section 679), Per Capita Tax (Section 511), Earned Income Tax, Realty Transfer Tax, Local Services Tax, Business Privilege Tax, and Occupation Tax for the fiscal year 2025-2026, will be forwarded to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Center for Local Government Services, by certified mail, as required.

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TAX STRUCTURE -2025-2026

Real Estate	45.403 mills
Per Capita – Section 679	$ 5.00
Per Capita – Act 511	$ 5.00
Earned Income Tax	1/2%
Realty Transfer Tax	1% Shared with City - .5%
Local Services Tax	$ 5.00
Business Privilege Tax	1 mill Wholesale
	1 1/2 mills Retail
	4 1/2 mills Other/Service
Occupation Tax – Act 511	$128.09

RESOLUTION
RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Pottsville Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2025, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2025:

a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of $1,224,994.14.

2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 4,541.

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 0.

c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 4,541.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(a) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of $1,224,994.14 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 4,541 the maximum real estate. tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is $269.76.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of $269.76 by the School District real estate tax rate of 45.403, the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is $5,941 and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is $0.00.

5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of $5,941. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of $0.00. For purposes of this Resolution, "approved homestead" and "approved farmstead" shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION by Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Thomas. VOTE BY ROLL CALL.

Approved 9-0

Promotion, Public Relations & Social Media - Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

1. Congratulations to PAHS Rotary Students of the Month, Aubrey Snyder and Adalia LaSelva.

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

K - Peyton Siluk
1 - Raylee Moore
2 - Finley Reilly
3 - Elise Ferdoucha
4 - Parker Reeve

3. Congratulations to 6th grade DHHL Middle School musician Booker Hostetter who was selected to play Alto Sax at the PMEA "Band Fest" concert at Shenandoah Valley Jr/Sr High School.

4. Congratulations to DHHL Middle School Teacher Ms. Leah Zerbe who was selected as the Hawk Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator. Ms. Zerbe was nominated by her fellow educators as the recipient of this award for embracing the importance of teaching proactive values aligned with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.

5. Thank you to PAHS MiniTHON, which wrapped up its 2025 season with the Main Event on April 25, 2025. A record breaking donation of $22,513 was raised to be donated to 4Diamonds to help pediatric cancer patients. We are so grateful to our members, staff, and community.

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the three year contract with Parent Square for Engage Premium, cost per student as follows:

Year 1 - $5.50
Year 2 - $5.75
Year 3 - $6.00

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

1. It is recommended that the Board approve Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Dr. Jared Gerace to attend the PASCD for Educational Leaders in State College, PA; August 2-5, 2025 for Act 45 credit. The lodging, mileage and registration will not exceed $1,200.00 and will be funded by the Ready to Learn Grant.

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the quote from SAVVAS Learning Company for Envision Math K-6 for 6 years at a total cost of $318,794.30, which will be funded by the Ready to Learn Grant.

On the recommendation of the Food Services Committee, and on motion of Mr. Shields, seconded by Dr. Dewitt, the Board approved the following:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the Agreement for Participating in the Child Nutrition Program with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and Schuylkill County AVTS Operating Agency, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Upcoming Events:

- May 22, 2025 - PAHS Jazz Band Concert
- May 23, 2025 - Holiday Early Dismissal
- May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day (Closed)
- May 28, 2025 - JSC Kindergarten Show

- June 3, 2025 - Holiday Early Dismissal/Last Day of School

- June 3, 2025 - Commencement

Meetings for June 2025

Facilities Committee Meeting on June 9, 2025, 9:00 am at the Academic Center
Committee of the Whole Meeting on June 11, 2025, 6:00 pm at the Academic Center
Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 7:00 pm in the DHH Lengel Auditorium

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

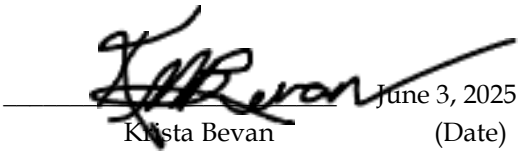
Facilities Committee Meeting on May 12, 2025 at 9:00 am
Finance Committee Meeting on May 14, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm

An Executive Session was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:01 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

Executive Session were also held for Personnel Matters on the following dates and times:
May 14, 2025 from 6:47 PM to 7:33 PM.
May 20, 2025 from 8:02 PM to 8:27 PM.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.
Motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Urban. Motion carried.



June 3, 2025

Krista Bevan (Date)

Board Secretary