

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Board Room – Academic Center

Present: Mr. Ansbach, Mrs. Buchanan
Mr. Ciavarella, Mrs. Dewitt, Mr. Shields,
Mr. Urban, Ms. Wytovich, Mrs. Hobbs,
Mr. Thomas, Dr. Yoder, Superintendent; Mrs.
Wood, Business Manager; Mrs. Bevan, Asst.
Business Manager

Absent: None

School Employees in attendance: Donald Ditzler, Tiffany Hummel, Jared Gerace, Caitlyn Mohl,
Kelly Brennan, David Gonzalez

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by President Linda Wytovich .

Roll Call - 9 members present.

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.

There were no public comments.

Dr. Sarah Yoder reviewed the Superintendent's Report which will be approved at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting:

1. Approval of Credits

Jamie Dawson - 3 Credits
Karrison Dubbs - 3 Credits
Emily Earley - 3 Credits
Michel Germán - 6 Credits
McKayla Gilbert - 6 Credits
Paula Heffner - 3 Credits
Emma Libby - 9 Credits
Jillian Strohecker - 4 Credits
Kayla Watt - 6 Credits

2. Credit Reimbursements

Krista Bevan - \$1,764.00
Kendra Boris - \$1,713.00
Michael Brennan - \$450.00
Paula Heffner - \$2,910.00
Gregory Hoak - \$2,910.00
Jeffrey Hughes - \$300.00
Rachelle Price - \$1,713.00
Haley Wiscount - \$3,096.00

3. Penn State Schuylkill Research – a lengthy discussion was had on this, with Stephanie Buchanan expressing concern over two of the questions about gender identity and gender orientation. It was agreed that the survey would be sent to parents so they can opt their student out if they wish. Dr. Yoder stated she will speak to Penn State about altering or eliminating those questions.

4. It is 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.

Recommendations by the Facilities and Grounds Committee for approval at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting:

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 Levkolic Group for the Natatorium study, not to exceed \$50,000.

3. Playground – committee chair gave an update that we'll be looking at getting a quote from a Costars company for the entire project including any landscaping or any structural needs.

4. JSC – Concrete – update on the three quotes was given

Another item was brought up – the baseball field – discussion of getting a Geotech out there but they'd gone out of business – needs to be evaluated to come up with a solution.

Recommendations by the Finance Committee for approval at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting

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

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

Informational Item:

1. The following changes were made to the 2025-2026 General Fund budget:

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.

2. 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 history of the District’s credit rating is below:

Recommendations by the Technology Committee for approval at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting:

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

David said it will streamline communications with everyone.

Recommendations by the Curriculum Committee for approval at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting:

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.

There was a discussion brought up about data, so the committee would know what is working and what isn't. Dr. Mohl answered that they do collect data and that is why they are requesting the new curriculum.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.
Motion by Mr. Ciavarella, seconded by Mr. Urban. Motion carried.



May 29, 2025

Krista Bevan

(Date)

Board Secretary

