

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

7:00 p.m.

MEETING OPENING

Subject 1.1 Opening/Roll Call/Pledge – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Harry Ciavarella, Kerry Ansbach, Stephanie Buchanan, Rachel Hobbs, Dr. Ashley DeWitt (on Teams meeting), Bob Thomas, Craig Shields, Kyle Crouse

Board Members Absent: None

Administration Present:

Dr. Guy Lowery, Superintendent

Stephanie Wood, Business Manager

Krista Bevan, Assistant Business Manager/Board Secretary

Subject 1.2 Public Comment

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 School Board Policy 903 and public comment procedures.

Are there any public comments at this time?

No public comments were offered.

STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

Subject 2.1 Prospective Members Statements – Mr. Harry Ciavarella, President

The President welcomed the applicants and explained that each prospective member would be given three minutes to address the Board and the public. Statements were received in the following order:

Ann Blankenhorn

Joe Welsh

Chris Kelly

Zachary Bitting

During the statements of interest, Board members posed questions to the prospective nominees regarding their background, availability, and interest in serving on the School Board. Bob asked what unique gift each nominee could bring to the Board:

Ann Blankenhorn stated that she has worked in the healthcare field for several years and would bring strategic thinking, organization and partnerships. She emphasized the importance of data driven decisions. She indicated that her background in psychology has made her an objective person.

Joe Welsh stated that he knows how to work within the confines of a budget, would bring command experience and the ability to make decisions based on facts.

Chris Kelly shared that he has prior experience in banking and finance/negotiations. He treats the bank money like it's in his pocket.

Zachary Bitting discussed his twelve years of teaching and coaching experience, as well as having taught at Cyber Charter allowing him to see the target weaknesses and have an objective opinion.

NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Subject 3.1 Nominations – Mr. Harry Ciavarella, President

Motion for Board Members to nominate a member to fill the vacancy.

The following nominations were placed:

Ann Blankenhorn

Joe Welsh

Chris Kelly

Zachary Bitting

CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Subject 4.1 Close Nominations – Mr. Harry Ciavarella, President

It is recommended that the Board close the nominations for the School Board Member Vacancy.

Motion to approve as recommended.

(ROLL CALL) – all Aye

Each Nominee was voted on by Roll Call in order of how they were nominated, starting with Ann Blankenhorn. She received Four “Aya” votes from Ansbach, Crouse, Shields, and Thomas. Since five “Aye” votes were needed for the nomination to pass, the voting moved on to Chris Kelly. Mr. Kelly received seven “Aye” votes with one “Nay” from Mr. Ansbach.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Subject 5.1 Approve Appointment – Mr. Harry Ciavarella, President

It is recommended that the Board approve the appointment of Chris Kelly as School Board Director, effective upon taking the oath of office through December 1, 2027.

Motion to approve as recommended.

(ROLL CALL)

Motion passed.

Mr. Kelly was sworn in by Judge Burke.

FINAL COMMENT

Subject 6.1 Final Comment – Mr. Harry Ciavarella, President

No additional comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT

Subject 7.1 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Robert Thomas

Second: Stephanie Buchanan

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Bevan, Board Secretary