

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

DHH LENGEL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

MEETING OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Subject 1.1 Opening & Pledge – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Subject 1.2 Roll Call – Mrs. Krista Bevan

Board Members Present: Kerry Ansbach, Stephanie Buchanan, Kyle Crouse, Chris Kelly, Craig Shields, Harry Ciavarella, Rachael Hobbs, Dr. Ashley DeWitt

Board Members Absent: Bob Thomas

Administration Present, Krista Bevan, Board Secretary; Stephanie Wood, Business Manager; Dr. Guy Lowery, Superintendent; as well as Kevin Reid, Solicitor.

Subject 1.3 Public Comment – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Harry Ciavarella – 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. If members of the public wish to make public comments, then they must do so in person. Public comments will follow School Board Policy 903 and public comment procedures. Members of the public who are residents and or taxpayers of the school district who wish to comment shall identify themselves by indicating name, address, and topic upon which they want to address. If the subject matter is on the agenda, such persons shall be given priority over residents and or taxpayers who want to comment on non-agenda items. Please limit your comments to three minutes. The public comment segment of each Board meeting shall be a maximum of one hour per public meeting. Anyone who does not get the opportunity to speak because of the expiration of this one-hour time period shall be afforded a priority speaking position at the next public Board meeting. After the School Board agenda is posted online, questions may be emailed to kbevan@pottsville.k12.pa.us by 2:00 PM the day of the meeting. Questions will be forwarded to all Board members. The meeting will be available online.

Are there any public comments at this time?

No public comments were offered.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Subject 2.1 Approval of Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting Minutes – Board Secretary Mrs. Krista Bevan

It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting, and the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting.

Could I please have a motion to approve as recommended?

Motion: Mrs. Buchanan. Second: Dr. DeWitt. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – MRS. STEPHANIE WOOD

Subject 3.1 Approval of Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of January 30, 2026 – \$6,666,181.57; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of January 30, 2026 – \$867,362.32.

General Fund Condensed Board Summary Revenue Report

General Fund Condensed Board Summary Expenditure Report

Cafeteria Condensed Board Summary Report

Payment Summary – General Fund, Food Service

Budget Transfers

Could I please have a motion to approve as recommended?

Motion: Mr. Ansbach. Second: Mrs. Buchanan. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Kevin Reid, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Subject 5.1 Discipline Waivers

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Discipline Waivers, effective February 18, 2026.

29-0110

28-0449

Motion: Mrs. Hobbs. Second: Mr. Ansbach. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

DONATIONS

None.

INFORMATION – SUPERINTENDENT DR. GUY LOWERY

Subject 7.1 Federal Programs

None.

Subject 7.2 Crimson Tide Foundation

Dr. Lowery thanked several individuals and groups for their assistance with upcoming student activities. He noted appreciation for those helping with the upcoming student orientation and events associated with the Junior Board Member program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Subject 8.1 Athletics and Extracurricular Activities – Mr. Craig Shields

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

1. Accept the resignation from Serenity Allen as JV Softball Coach, effective February 19, 2026.

2. Accept the resignation from Ava Bowers as Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach, effective February 19, 2026.
3. Accept the resignation from Mark Laubenstine as Head Junior High Track Coach, effective February 19, 2026.
4. Approve Rachael Bowers as JV Assistant Softball Coach at a stipend of \$2,400, effective February 19, 2026.
5. Approve Bryana Snowell as Junior High Softball Assistant Coach at a stipend of \$2,400, effective February 19, 2026.
6. Approve Lacey Timony as Junior High Track Assistant Coach at a stipend of \$2,000, effective February 19, 2026.
7. Approve Serenity Allen as Volunteer JV Softball Coach, effective February 19, 2026.
8. Approve Mr. Pete Sanfilippo, Athletic Director, to attend the PSADA Annual Conference in Hershey, PA, March 17–20, 2026 at an approximate cost of \$828.98.
9. Approve the contract with Digital Scoreboards for the Alumni Field digital scoreboard including installation, removal, and disposal of the existing scoreboard, funded through the St. Luke's contract totaling \$23,345, pending solicitor review.
10. Approve the contract renewal of NFHS, pending solicitor review.
11. Approve Pete McDonald as Varsity Assistant Track and Field Coach for the 2025–2026 season at a stipend of \$3,700.
12. Approve Brad McCrodd as Junior High Track and Field Coach for the 2025–2026 season at a stipend of \$2,400.
13. Approve Damon Yost as a Game Worker for athletic events.

Motion: Mr. Ansbach. Second: Mr. Kelly. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.2 Facilities and Grounds – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

It is recommended by the Facilities and Grounds Committee that the Board approve the following:

1. Adopt the Resolution supporting the District pursuing a Public School Facility Improvement Grant through DCED for renovations to the High School.
2. Approve permission to advertise a Request for Proposal for an Enrollment and Educational Space Study of all school buildings.
3. Approve permission to seek bids to resurface the Veterans Memorial Stadium track.
4. Approve permission to seek bids for the Steidle Field baseball and softball field backstop upgrades.
5. Approve the contract extension with the Edwin L. Heim Company for HVAC maintenance services.

Motion: Mr. Ciavarella. Second: Mrs. Hobbs. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.3 Transportation – Dr. Ashley DeWitt

It is recommended that the Board ratify the three-year Transportation Procedures Agreement MOU and Transportation Plan between Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill County Children and Youth Services.

Motion: Dr. DeWitt. Second: Mrs. Hobbs. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.4 Personnel – Dr. Ashley DeWitt

It is recommended by the Personnel Committee that the Board approve Items 1 through 19 as listed on the agenda.

1. Kristen Vidal – Part-time DHH Lengel Middle School Cafeteria Staff – hourly rate \$11.75
2. Kasey Baldwin – Part-time Paraprofessional – John S. Clarke Elementary Center Autistic Support Classroom – \$14.50/hour – effective January 27, 2026
3. Jeffrey Strunk – Part-time Bus Driver – \$19.25/hour – effective January 23, 2026
4. Christian Honicker – Seasonal Technology Specialist – \$13/hour – effective February 19, 2026 through September 2026
5. Carly Emery – Seasonal Technology Specialist – \$13/hour – effective February 19, 2026 through September 2026
6. Resignation – Danielle Sciarfa – Paraprofessional – effective February 13, 2026
7. Support Staff Retirements – Patricia Goodman, Kim Malis, Rachelle Kemmerer, Thomas Rozok
8. PASDEA Retirements – Melissa Joyce, Christine Schuetz, Linda Smith, Kimberly Stegmaier, Connie Yutko, Craig Levy, Brian McMullin, Rita Sponberg, Cynthia Stesuri
9. Salary Adjustments – Scott Burch, Michel German, Lynda Tomich
10. Pre-Approval of Credit Hours – Scott Burch, Paula Heffner, Amy Heilman, Kimberly O'Brien, Joshua Pryce, Megan Sirkot, Anya Wood
11. Tuition Reimbursements – Scott Burch, Serena Foulk, Christopher Rashley, Gwen Rodgers, Lynda Tomich
12. FMLA Request – Employee #1085 – 03/09/26 to 05/01/26
13. Addendum to Agreement – ESS Northeast, LLC – Business Office Services
14. Michael Brennan – Football Clinic – Clemson University – March 5–7, 2026 – no cost to district
15. 2025–2026 Calendar Revision – snow make-up day
16. Approval of 2026–2027 School Calendar
17. Approval of 2027–2028 School Calendar
18. Tenure – Christopher Davis
19. Jen Brennan – Title I Math Interventionist – JSC Elementary Center – Step 8 – Master's – \$57,100

Motion: Dr. DeWitt. Second: Mrs. Buchanan. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.5 Finance – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

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

1. Special Education Service Agreement with Schuylkill IU 29 totaling \$870,717.
2. Filing of the Act 80 paperwork by Berkheimer at a cost of \$775.
3. Agreement with Pennsylvania Trust partnered with Conrad Siegel to provide actuarial services for GASB 75.
4. Withdrawal of objections to a private tax sale bid submitted by Moredich Rothenberg for the property located at 417 Adams Street, Pottsville, PA.

Motion: Mr. Ciavarella. Second: Dr. DeWitt. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.6 Promotion, Public Relations and Social Media – Mr. Kyle Crouse

Informational items were presented as listed on the agenda, including recognition of the following:

1. Thank you to the John S. Clarke Elementary Center first graders who celebrated the 100th day of school in a very special way by giving back 100 new or gently used items to donate to the Hillside SPCA.
2. Congratulations to Pottsville Area High School students Abby Helsner and Jaelyn Carter for being named Artists of the Month.
3. Congratulations to the following DHH Lengel Middle School students for placing in the Math Counts Competition held at Penn State Schuylkill on February 7, 2026:
Sage Eckert
Blake Gaughan
Joshua Lang
Wyatt Moer
Liam Sandul
4. Pottsville Area School District wishes to thank Coach Bowers and his team for their efforts in cleaning and refreshing the softball office. We are thankful for their commitment to making the Pottsville softball program the best in the area.
5. Thank you to girls basketball coach Damian Fritz and Mr. and Mrs. Bruni for their time and talents during the season and for providing a team meal which included the players' families.
6. Congratulations to the following DHH Lengel Middle School students for placing in the 5th Annual DHH School Bee:
Riel Jordan – 1st place
Liam McShaw – 2nd place
Lila Porter – 3rd place

Subject 8.7 Technology – Mr. Bob Thomas

It is recommended by the Technology Committee that the Board approve the following:

1. Decommissioning of antiquated technology items.
2. Sale of antiquated technology items.
3. Disposal of antiquated technology items.

Motion: Mr. Ciavarella. Second: Mr. Ansbach. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.8 Curriculum – Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

None.

Subject 8.9 Policy and Procedure – Mrs. Rachael Hobbs

It is recommended that the Board approve the first reading of the following revised policies:

Policy 610 – Finances – Purchases Subject to Bid/Question

Policy 611 – Finances – Purchases Budgeted

Policy 626 – Finances – Procurement – Federal Programs Attachment

Motion: Mrs. Hobbs. Second: Mrs. Buchanan. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

Subject 8.10 Food Services – Mr. Kerry Ansbach

None.

Subject 8.11 Labor Relations – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

None.

INFORMATION BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Subject 9.1 Legislation – Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan
None.

Subject 9.2 IU 29 Representative – Mr. Bob Thomas
None.

Subject 9.3 St. Clair Committee – Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan
None.

Subject 9.4 PSBA Representative – Mrs. Rachael Hobbs
None.

NEW BUSINESS

Subject 10.1 Upcoming Events – Junior Board Member

March 2–6, 2026 – Read Across America Week
March 7, 2026 – Schuylkill County Regional Spelling Bee at DHHL Auditorium
March 8, 2026 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 14, 2026 – St. Patrick’s Day Parade (Pottsville)
March 27–29, 2026 – PAHS Spring Musical

Subject 10.2 Use of Facilities – Board Secretary Mrs. Krista Bevan

No use of facilities requests were presented.

Subject 10.3 Dates for Future Meetings – Board Secretary Mrs. Krista Bevan

Facilities Committee – February 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

Finance Committee Meeting – March 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

Board Meeting – March 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Subject 11.1 Executive Session – Board Secretary Mrs. Krista Bevan

An Executive Session was held on February 11, 2026 from 6:49 p.m. to 8:18 p.m. for personnel and legal matters. An additional Executive Session was held this evening from 6:31 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. for legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Subject 12.1 Adjourn

Motion: Mr. Ansbach. Second: Dr. DeWitt. Roll Call Vote: All aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.