POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

6:00 p.m.

MEETING OPENING

Subject 1.1 Opening – Mr. Harry Ciavarella / Pledge
Subject 1.2 Roll Call – Mrs. Krista Bevan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Administration Present:
Krista Bevan, Board Secretary
Stephanie Wood, Business Manager
Dr. Guy Lowery, Superintendent

Subject 1.3 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 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.

Are there any public comments at this time?

No public comments were offered.

GENERAL

Subject 2.1 Superintendent Report – Dr. Guy Lowery

Discussion occurred regarding a DHH Lengel Middle School update. Dr. Mohl, Principal, provided a presentation regarding academic performance and District data. Current enrollment at DHH Lengel Middle School is 723 students.

ELA proficiency data for the 2024-2025 school year reflected lower scores; however, this was the first year utilizing new digital testing. Discussion occurred regarding the use of iPads with keyboards and related instructional technology supports.

Math data reflected a slight decline, however growth trends are being observed. Additional discussion occurred regarding the need for a more rigorous math curriculum and structured literacy practices. Mrs. Buchanan questioned why only approximately one-third of students are proficient and also asked whether teachers are utilizing structured literacy practices. Dr. Mohl addressed the curriculum and intervention strategies currently being implemented.

Mrs. Buchanan requested that we ask the contracted school photo company for multi-child dicounts for the packages.

Subject 2.2 Athletics and Extracurricular Activities – Mr. Craig Shields

The following items were discussed:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the three-year Athletic Sponsorship Agreement with Weiner Iron & Metal Corp. for a Single Static Sign at Steidle Baseball Field, effective March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2029.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the three-year agreement for a static sign for Weiner Iron & Metal at the CACL Complex Softball Field at a cost of $1,500.00.

Subject 2.3 Facilities and Grounds – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Facilities and Grounds Agenda

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the Keystone Purchasing Network contract (KPNA-0225-C contract expires May 31, 2026) with Hubert Co. to replace the Pottsville Area High School steamer at a total cost of $41,479.80 pending solicitor review and approval.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the Keystone Purchasing Network contract (KPNA-0225-C contract expires May 31, 2026) with Hubert Co. to replace the Pottsville Area High School milk coolers (2 units) at a total cost of $2,878.00 pending solicitor review and approval.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the contract with DBR Industrial Services for the Pottsville Area High School cafeteria flooring bid at a total cost of $117,570.00 pending solicitor review and approval.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve/ratify the World Fuel Services, Inc. (“WFS”) contract transfer to Diesel Direct, LLC (collectively, “Diesel Direct”) pending solicitor review and approval.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve the Keystone Purchasing Network contract (#202401-01) with American Athletic Track and Turf for the Pottsville Area High School Veterans Memorial Stadium track repair and re-coat at a total cost of $318,421 pending solicitor review and approval.

6. It is recommended that the Board approve a Sourcewell Contract (#091423-SICO) with SICO to replace Pottsville Area High School cafeteria tables at a total cost of $117,336.00 pending solicitor review and approval.
7. It is recommended that the Board approve the decommission of the following antiquated items:

1987 Military surplus 3 phase 30KW diesel generator
1996 F350 dump truck

Use of Facilities Requests:

DHH Lengel Middle School
Natatorium

Red Cross Lifeguard Class
6/2/26 – 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
6/4 & 6/5/26 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
6/6/26 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Subject 2.4 Finance – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Finance Committee Agenda

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of April 30, 2026 - $8,227,012.58; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of April 30, 2026 - $971,746.54.
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
7. It is recommended that the Board approve contract with First Class School Imaging for school photos for the 2026 - 2027 school year, pending solicitor review and approval.
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the Letter of Agreement for the provision of Elementary Student Assistance Program Service between the Pottsville Area School District and Child and Family Support Services, Inc. effective August 1, 2026 through July 30, 2027, pending solicitor review and approval.
9. It is recommended that the Board approve the Letter of Agreement for the provision of Student Assistance Program Service between the Pottsville Area School District and Child and Family Support Services, Inc. effective August 1, 2026 through July 30, 2027 pending solicitor review and approval.
10. It is recommended that the Board approve the Settlement and Release Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and Time Clock Plus, LLC for the sum of $16,308.00 which represents 40% of the remaining contract value through the end of the term.
11. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Frontline education services:

Budget Management - $7,248.53 (6.2% increase over prior year)
Comparative Analytics - $8,830.05 (6.2% increase over prior year)
Financial Planning Analytics - $9,129.06 (6.2% increase over prior year)
Absence & Time Solution - $17,792.72 (8% increase over prior year)

12. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) Computer Service Rates for the 2026-2027 school year - estimated $30,282.60, pending solicitor review and approval.
13. It is recommended that the Board approve the Application of Participating Employer and Agreement between the Pottsville Area School District and the PSEA Health & Welfare Fund, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, pending solicitor review and approval.
14. It is recommended that the Board accept Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant # 2025-SS-ME 47766 approved 04/20/2026 in the amount of $147,132.00. Project start date 12/1/2025 and project end date of 6/30/2027 to fund the PASD full-time school police officer.
15. It is recommended that the Board approve the Act 48 Program Agreement for Services and Contract for Reservation of four Secondary Slots at an annual cost of $139,860 and one Elementary Slot at an annual cost of $40,885 with River Rock Academy for the 2026-2027 school year, pending solicitor review and approval.
16. It is recommended that the Board approve and authorize the School District Solicitor to sign the attached Stipulations, which provide for the settlement of the following real estate tax assessment appeals:

Pottsville Realty, LLC (4 parcels)
Parcel 68-28-0155-002
Parcel 68-28-0155-003
Parcel 68-28-0155-006
Parcel 68-28-0155-007

17. It is recommended that the Board ratify the agreement that, in exchange for the District's withdrawal of its objections to private tax sale bids by Mordechai Rothernberg for the Properties located at 510 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, PA and 216 W. Schuylkill Avenue, Pottsville, PA, Mordechai Rothernberg will pay an amount of $13,000.00 for back taxes owed to the District for the Properties.
18. It is recommended that the board approve the Commitment Letter for Kara S. Schmidt, PHD, to conduct an Independent Educational Evaluation at a cost not to exceed $5900.
19. It is recommended that the Board approve Pamela Urban's MidPenn Bank access, for purposes of completing her duties as Payroll Specialist for the Pottsville Area School District, effective May 21, 2026.
20. It is recommended that the Board approve the Berks Schuylkill Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank Agreement with John S. Clarke Elementary Center for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, pending solicitor review and approval.

Subject 2.5 Technology – Mr. Bob Thomas

1. It is recommended that the Board approve purchase of the Asset Tracking Module for Master Library, from Follett Software - $4,500.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the decommission of one (1) nonfunctional paper shredder.

Subject 2.6 Curriculum – Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the MOU between John S. Clarke Elementary Center and Child Development, Inc. (Head Start Grantee) effective June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027, pending solicitor review and approval.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase with Savvas Learning Company LLC for enVision Common Core Algebra 1 and enVision Mathematics Grades 7-8. This is a (5) year agreement, at an estimated total cost of $177,990.00. The purchase includes digital and print student and teacher resources, online teacher and student access, and professional development. Funded through the Ready to Learn Block Grant.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase with Savvas Learning Company LLC for myWorld Interactive Social Studies Kindergarten through Grade 5 and myWorld Interactive World Geography, Interactive World History, and Interactive American History Grades 6-8. This is a (5) year agreement, at an estimated total cost of $234,095.00. The purchase includes digital and print student and teacher resources, online teacher and student access, and professional development. Funded through the Ready to Learn Block Grant.
4. It is recommended that the Board decommission Algebra Common Core, Vol 1, Pearson copyright 2010/2011/2012.
5. It is recommended that the Board decommission Prentice Hall Pennsylvania Algebra 1, copyright 2009.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of Ready-to-Go Classroom and Knowledge Libraries, Lexile and Core Knowledge Sequence Collections, and other book collections from Scholastic Corporation for John S. Clarke Elementary Center and D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Total cost not to exceed $65,000 and will be funded through the Rural and Low-Income Schools Grant and Title IA Grant.
7. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2025-2026 Title I Amended Letter of Agreement between Pottsville Area School District and Schuylkill Intermediate Unit, effective August 25, 2025 to May 29, 2026, pending solicitor review and approval.
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2026-2027 PSBA Membership Renewal which includes the Keystone Agenda, PSBA data conversions into Keystone Agenda, and Policy Maintenance.

Discussion occurred regarding graphing calculators for DHH Lengel Middle School and Pottsville Area High School.

Subject 2.7 Transportation – Dr. Ashley DeWitt

No additional discussion was held.

Subject 2.8 Policy & Procedure – Mrs. Rachael Hobbs

It is recommended by the Policy and Procedure Committee that the Board approve the first reading of the following policy with attachments:

Policy 626 - Federal Fiscal Compliance
Policy 626 Attachment - Grant Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures (Federal Programs)
Policy 626 Attachment - Allowability of Costs (Federal Programs)
Policy 626 Attachment - Cash Management (Federal Programs)
Policy 626 Attachment - Type of Costs, Financial Obligations and Property Management (Administration of Funds)

Mrs. Buchanan discussed the possibility of implementing a phone-free policy and requested additional discussion at future meetings.

Subject 2.9 Food Services – Mr. Kerry Ansbach

No items were presented.

Subject 2.10 Promotion, Public Relations & Social Media – Mr. Kyle Crouse

No report was provided.

Subject 2.11 IU Representative – Mr. Bob Thomas

No report was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Subject 3.1 Adjourn

Motion: Mr. Thomas. Second: Dr. DeWitt.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Bevan
Board Secretary