

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center

June 10, 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, Harry Ciavarella, Dr. Ashley DeWitt, Rachael Hobbs, Chris Kelly, Craig Shields, Bob Thomas.

Board Members Arriving Late:

Stephanie Buchanan.

Board Members Absent:

Kyle Crouse.

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

Dr. Jared Gerace provided a curriculum update, including changes to the English Language Arts curriculum, literacy initiatives, and the implementation timeline for new instructional resources.

Subject 2.2 Athletics and Extracurricular Activities – Mr. Craig Shields

The following items were discussed:

1. Coaches for the Fall 2026-2027 season.
2. Coaches for the Winter 2026-2027 season.
3. Coaches for the Spring 2026-2027 season.
4. The Annual Athletic Sponsorship Agreement for Crimson Level (\$1000) – Electronic Advertising between the Pottsville Area School District and Commonwealth University, effective September 1, 2026 through August 30, 2027.

Discussion occurred regarding curriculum changes and the impact on teacher/coaches. Questions were asked regarding coaching experience, salary differentials, and coaching stipends. Coaches and their stipends are listed on the meeting agenda in full.

Subject 2.3 Facilities and Grounds – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Facilities and Grounds Agenda

1. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Service Quote from James Pastore Pottery for the DHH Lengel Middle School and the Pottsville Area High School kiln, includes maintenance service labor in the fall and spring and 5 hours a month of phone support - \$2,463, pending solicitor review and approval.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve permission to advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engineering Services.
3. It is recommended that the Board ratify the agreement with the HMI Company to repair the main office Air Handler at DHH Lengel Middle School at a cost of \$7,645.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement with Ameritech to provide new soap, paper towel and toilet paper dispensers districtwide in an exclusive agreement for two years.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve the decommission of an old desk/credenza from the Academic Center.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve the purchase of four office workstations (cubicles) for the Academic Center at a cost not to exceed \$13,200.

Dr. Lowery stated that the project will also include replacement of carpeting in the "bull pen" area of the Academic Center.

Use of Facilities Requests:

There were no Use of Facilities Requests.

Subject 2.4 Finance – Mr. Harry Ciavarella

Finance Committee Agenda

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds) – General Fund Balance as of May 31, 2026 - **\$6,944,039.34**; Cafeteria Checking Balance as of May 31, 2026 - **\$976,468.09**.
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 the Board's May 20, 2026 meeting, related to the Frontline Education Services Absence and Time Solution Agreement, be amended to accurately reflect the contract amount of **\$19,216.14**, which represents a **6.8% increase** over the prior year.
8. It is recommended that the Board approve the **Seltzer Group Partners Renewal for the 2026-2027 school year**, including:
 - Property/Liability/Auto/Crime/Educators Liability – **\$206,682**
 - Commercial Umbrella – **\$20,187**
 - Cyber Liability – **\$8,243.00**
 - Workers Compensation – **\$102,053.00**
9. Subsequent to the final 2025-2026 audit, it is recommended that funds remaining above the PDE threshold be committed for the following anticipated purposes:
 - Curriculum Renewal
 - Increase in Cyber Charter and Charter School costs
 - Increase in Health Benefits and PSERS
 - Increase in Transportation costs and fuel
 - Increase in Utility costs
 - Unexpected Maintenance costs

Discussion continued regarding the proposed 2026-2027 budget, the county-wide reassessment, the establishment of the equalized real estate tax rate, tax collection resolutions, rates of compensation for tax collectors, and the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. The Committee also reviewed the projected fund balance and the anticipated uses of committed fund balance identified above.

Subject 2.5 Technology – Mr. Bob Thomas

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the Amendment between Tyler Edulink, LLC and the Pottsville Area School District to add the Support Staff Module and 150 licenses, \$6,933, pending solicitor review and approval.

Discussion occurred regarding the addition of the Support Staff Module, which will allow digital evaluations for all employees.

Subject 2.6 Curriculum – Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

Discussion occurred regarding the decommissioning of the 2003 Prentice Hall Social Studies textbooks.

Subject 2.7 Transportation – Dr. Ashley DeWitt

Discussion occurred regarding the District's transportation contract, which expires after next school year. Discussion included the anticipated Request for Proposal process, projected increases in transportation costs, and the need to determine future bus requirements before advertising for proposals.

Subject 2.8 Policy & Procedure – Mrs. Rachael Hobbs

Mrs. Buchanan requested discussion regarding the development of a cell phone policy for students, and presented the members with a draft policy. The Committee discussed reviewing possible policy options at a future meeting.

Subject 2.9 Food Services – Mr. Kerry Ansbach

No additional discussion was held.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

An Executive Session was held from 6:50 p.m. until 8:16 p.m. for personnel and legal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Bevan
Board Secretary