POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium
September 16, 2026

1. MEETING OPENING AND PLEDGE

Mr. Harry Ciavarella called the meeting to order at **7:04 p.m.** and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comments were noted.

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2. ROLL CALL

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

All Board members were present.

Also Present: Dr. Guy Lowery, Superintendent; Stephanie Wood, Business Manager; Kevin Reid, Solicitor; and Krista Bevan, Assistant Business Manager/Board Secretary.

2.A. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes from the August 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole, and the August 19, 2026 Board Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mr. Ansbach

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Speaker: Mrs. Stephanie Wood, Business Manager

1. Treasurer's Report (All Funds)
    - General Fund Balance as of August 31, 2026: **$11,895,306.38**
    - Cafeteria Fund Balance as of August 31, 2026: **$940,809.37**
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
6. Budget Transfers

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mrs. Buchanan

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4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was noted.

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5. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Reid, Solicitor

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6. DONATIONS

Mr. Harry Ciavarella

1. It is recommended that the Board accept the donation from JRL Emergency Services to the Pottsville Area School District Wrestling Program.
2. It is recommended that the Board accept the donation of school supplies from Giant Food Stores.
3. It is recommended that the Board accept the donation of school supplies from Lowes RDC 961.

4. It is recommended that the Board approve the request from Clutch Long to repaint the benches in the Ned Hampford Natatorium as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project.
5. It is recommended that the Board approve the donation of **$1,000** towards Pottsville Area School District Athletics made by Bob Weaver Chevrolet.

The Board thanked the donors for their generosity to the students and District.

Motion: Dr. DeWitt
Second: Mr. Shields

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7. INFORMATION

7.A. Federal Programs

No additional report was noted.

7.B. Crimson Tide Foundation

No additional report was noted.

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8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Mr. Craig Shields

No action items were listed.

8.B. FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

Mr. Chris Kelly

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the quote from Pool Supply Unlimited for replacement filter parts - **$8,353.10.**
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the quote from Bob's Pools, Inc. for glass filter media - **$2,348.65.**

3. It is recommended that the Board approve the quotes from Next Day Access South Central PA for two Bruno Commercial Elite Stairlifts with installation - **$17,780.** Emergency Report form with PDE per School Code 24 PS 7-751 is on file.
4. It is recommended that the Board approve the quote from Hubert for a Convection Steamer for the High School. AEPA IFB#022.5C/Keystone Purchasing Coop - **$42,968.00.**

Motion: Mr. Kelly
Second: Dr. DeWitt

8.C. TRANSPORTATION

Dr. Ashley DeWitt

No action items were listed.

8.D. PERSONNEL

Dr. Ashley DeWitt

All employment recommendations are contingent upon receipt and verification of all required employment paperwork, certifications, licenses, and clearances.

1. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Reeve Platt** as Van Driver, at the hourly rate of **$16.50**, effective August 31, 2026.
2. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Leslie Barringer** as part-time Cafeteria Aide, at the hourly rate of **$13.00**, effective September 1, 2026.
3. It is recommended that the Board ratify **John Schroeder** as part-time Bus Driver, at the hourly rate of **$19.00**, effective September 8, 2026.
4. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Briana Walton** as part-time Paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, at the hourly rate of **$14.50**, effective August 25, 2026.
5. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Joseph Shaw**, who is currently a part-time Van Driver and will remain as such, as a Substitute Bus Driver, at the hourly rate of **$19**, effective August 22, 2026.
6. It is recommended that the Board ratify the following teachers as Supplemental Support at John S. Clarke Elementary Center at an hourly rate of **$35.00** as per contract, effective August 31, 2026:

Joshua Pryce
Brett Reed

7. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Christine Johnson** as an Elementary Teacher at John S. Clarke Elementary Center - Step 1 - Master's - **$56,100**, effective August 25, 2026.
8. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Marie Weikel** as Cafeteria Staff Substitute, at the hourly rate of **$13.00**, effective August 31, 2026.
9. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Mira Bevan** as Lifeguard, at the hourly rate of **$11.00**, effective August 31, 2026.
10. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Jerome Urban** as Lifeguard, at the hourly rate of **$11.00**, effective August 31, 2026.
11. It is recommended that the Board ratify **Robert Russell's** position change from Transportation Aide to Van Driver at the hourly rate of **$15.75**, effective August 31, 2026.
12. It is recommended that the Board approve **Shaniya McShaw's** position change from part-time to full-time Paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, at the hourly rate of **$15.00**, effective September 16, 2026.
13. It is recommended that the Board approve the change of assignment for **Cody Blankenhorn**, from DHH Lengel Teacher to DHH Lengel SBIS/Teacher.
14. It is recommended that the Board approve the change of assignment of **Krista Bevan** from Assistant Business Manager / Board Secretary to Director of Talent and Recruitment at a prorated annual salary of **$93,000**, effective October 1, 2026 for a three-year term pending solicitor contract review and approval.
15. It is recommended that the Board approve **Casey Shoopack**, as First Grade Lead Teacher, at John S. Clarke Elementary Center for the 2026-2027 school year.
16. It is recommended that the Board approve **Mr. Michael P. Stank** as a part-time School Police Officer at an initial hourly rate of **$25.00**. His hourly rate will increase to the rates based on thresholds previously Board approved for School Police Officers: **$28.00 per hour** if/when Mr. Stank reaches 100 hours in a school year, and **$30.00 per hour** if/when Mr. Stank reaches 300 hours in a school year. Mr. Stank's employment is conditional based upon the successful completion of the NASRO Basic SRO Training, or an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crimes and Delinquency and all other qualifications necessary to be appointed as a School Police Officer.
17. It is recommended that the Board approve the following employees to work at the Ned Hampford Natatorium during open swims and while the pool is in use by outside organizations, at the hourly rate of **$10.00**:

Amy Ryan
Molly Bressler
Margaret Foight

18. It is recommended that the Board approve extending the Seasonal Technology Department staff **Christian Honicker** through December 31, 2026.

19. It is recommended that the Board approve extending the Seasonal Technology Department staff **Carly Emery** through December 31, 2026.
20. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Valerie Greene**, Cafeteria Staff at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, letter dated August 21, 2026.
21. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Paige Bauer**, part-time Paraprofessional at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, letter dated September 6, 2026.
22. It is recommended that the Board ratify the resignation of **John Rose**, part-time Van Driver, effective August 13, 2026.
23. It is recommended that the Board ratify the resignation of **Barbara Arner**, part-time Cafeteria Aide, letter dated July 29, 2026.
24. It is recommended that the Board ratify the resignation of **Bo Rogers** as Bocce Ball Coach, letter dated August 25, 2026.
25. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Jessika Sadusky**, Speech-Language Pathologist at John S. Clarke Elementary Center, letter dated August 25, 2026.
26. It is recommended that the Board rescind the approval of the hiring of **Aneht Argueta de Gonzalez**, part-time Van Driver, and ratify the approval as Cafeteria Substitute, effective September 8, 2026.
27. It is recommended that the Board approve the correction to the hourly rate of the following newly hired part-time Paraprofessionals, from **$13.00 to $14.50**, which is the previous standard starting rate for part-time Paraprofessionals:

Kayla Schwartz
Skylar Good
Melanie Moyer
Michael Allen
Brenda Hargraves
Emily Moyer
Brianna Holder
Tracy Morgan
Madalyn Yackenchick

28. It is recommended that the Board approve the naming of **Mindy Zimerofsky as Secretary to the Pottsville Area School District Board of Directors effective October 1, 2026 with an annual stipend of $10,000.**
29. It is recommended that the Board approve the pre-approval of credit hours indicated for the following professional employee(s) be ratified in accordance with the negotiated agreement between PASD and the PASDEA:

Melissa Brennan - 3 Credits
Emily Cooper - 3 Credits
Margaret Foight - 3 Credits
McKayla Gilbert - 3 Credits
Paula Heffner - 3 Credits
Rebecca Oakill - 3 Credits
William Rhoads - 3 Credits

Ashley Rumpf - 3 Credits
Michelle Wade - 6 Credits

30. It is recommended that the Board approve the following professional employee(s) be reimbursed as indicated for the successful completion of pre-approved credit courses in accordance with the negotiated agreement between the PASD and PASDEA:

Jamie Dawson - **$1,635.00**
Nicole Doran - **$1,548.00**
Karrison Dubbs - **$1,602.00**
McKayla Gilbert - **$1,602.00**
Stephen Messina - **$300.00**
Katherine Williams - **$3,204.00**
Lori Yost - **$4,410.00**

31. It is recommended that the following salary adjustments be approved and made effective the 2026-2027 school year:

Lori Yost - Bachelor's +15

32. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Clinical Staffing Agreement between Homecare Therapies LLC and the Pottsville Area School District, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
33. It is recommended that the Board approve the Agreement between the Reschini Group and the Pottsville Area School District to complete the District's 2026 Affordable Care Act Employer Reporting - **$500 plus $6.50 per 1095 Form.**
34. It is recommended that the Board approve the following FMLA/LOA requests per policy #334:

Employee #1583: 9/21 - 9/25/26
Employee #1683: 1/11 - 1/25/27
Employee #1601: 11/03 - 8/31/27
Employee #1483: 9/9/26
Employee #1462: 9/24 - 9/25/26

Motion: Dr. DeWitt
Second: Mrs. Hobbs

8.E. FINANCE

Mr. Harry Ciavarella

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the closing of the Technology Account with Burke & Herbert with funds to be transferred to the Technology Account with MidPenn Bank.
2. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Annual Athletic Sponsorship Agreement of White Level ($500), entered into by and between the Pottsville Area School District and Bruce T. Hart Funeral Home, effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.
3. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Annual Athletic Sponsorship Agreement of Roll Tide Level ($2,000), entered into by and between the Pottsville Area School District and Weiner Iron & Metal Corp., effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.
4. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Annual Athletic Sponsorship Agreement of Crimson Level ($1,000), entered into by and between the Pottsville Area School District and UFP Industries, Inc., effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.
5. It is recommended that the Board ratify the Agreement for the Sale of Commercial Real Estate and **$10,000.00 initial deposit** for the property located at 2300 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, PA, between Pottsville Area School District and International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.
6. It is recommended that the Board approve the authorization of KingSpry Attorneys and Counselors to engage Environmental, Appraisal, and Building Inspection professional services for the property at 2300 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville PA, in an amount not to exceed **$15,000.**
7. It is recommended that the Board approve accrued interest reductions for the following properties:

   Parcel 53-01-0026: **$380.50**
   Parcel 68-35-0167: **$66.73**

8. It is recommended that the Board approve the Onsite Clinic agreement between Redner's Pharmacy and the Pottsville Area School District, pending solicitor review and approval.

Motion: Mr. Ansbach
Second: Mr. Kelly

8.F. PROMOTION, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Mr. Kyle Crouse

No report.

8.G. TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Bob Thomas

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the 3-year contract with Skyward Qmlativ for the Student Management Suite and Installation - **$13,448.**

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mrs. Buchanan

8.H. CURRICULUM

Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed field trip locations for the 2026-2027 academic year as requested from school principals.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2026-2027 Student Handbooks for the Pottsville Area High School, DHH Lengel Middle School, and John S. Clarke Elementary Center.
3. It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement between the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing and the Pottsville Area School District regarding the Student Professional Nurse Learning Experience, effective 09/02/26 through 09/01/27.

Motion: Mrs. Buchanan
Second: Mr. Thomas

8.I. POLICY & PROCEDURE

Mrs. Rachael Hobbs

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the first reading of the proposed policy **137.2 - Participation in Co-curricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students.**

Motion: Mrs. Hobbs
Second: Mr. Ansbach

8.J. FOOD SERVICE

Mr. Kerry Ansbach

No action items were listed.

8.K. LABOR RELATIONS

Mr. Harry Ciavarella

No action items were listed.

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9. INFORMATION AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

9.A. Legislation - Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

No report was noted.

9.B. IU Representative - Mr. Bob Thomas

No report was noted.

9.C. Saint Clair Committee - Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan

Mrs. Buchanan reported that the Committee **continues to make progress.**

9.D. PSBA Representative - Mrs. Rachael Hobbs

No report was noted.

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10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. Appointments

No appointments were listed.

10.B. Upcoming Events

No additional report was noted.

10.C. Use of Facilities

Pottsville Area High School Auditorium

Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival:

- January 20, 21, 26 and 27, 2027, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- January 28, 2027, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- January 31, 2027, 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pottsville Area High School Boys Gym

Pottsville Biddy Basketball (Boys & Girls):

October 26, 2026 through February 28, 2027, Monday through Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium

Schuylkill Technology Center - STC MAEC Regional Spelling Bee:

March 6 and March 13, 2027, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

John S. Clarke Elementary School Gym

Pottsville Biddy Basketball (Boys & Girls):

October 26, 2026 through February 28, 2027, Monday through Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Alumni Soccer Field

Youth Soccer Playoffs: October 17, 18 and 24, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

10.D. Dates for Future Meetings

Facilities Committee Meeting: October 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center.

Committee of the Whole Meeting: October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Howard S. Fernsler Academic Center.

Board Meeting: October 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the DHH Lengel Middle School Auditorium.

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mrs. Hobbs

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11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held on **September 9, 2026 from 7:23 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. for personnel and legal matters.**

An Executive Session was also held on **September 16, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:03 p.m.**

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12. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, **Dr. Lowery thanked everyone for a great beginning to the school year.** He expressed appreciation for the work required to get students to school on time and stated that he was happy to see the vast majority of students ready to learn. He also thanked the community for prioritizing students.

Motion: Mr. Thomas
Second: Mrs. Buchanan

The meeting was adjourned.