

Pottersville Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Middle/High School Media Center
Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00pm
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - President Marciniak at 6:00 PM

2. Roll Call - Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandeboss

Absent from roll call: Bussard arrived at 6:05 PM

Absent: Snider

3. Approval of Consent Agenda-

A. Minutes - March 3, 2025

Motion by Smalley to approve without disbursements from City of Pottersville to investigate shared lighting expenses, MSP Grant/SRO costs. High bills and would like to see the breakdown.

Motion by Vandeboss to add 6C Investigation update, supported by Baker

Discussion - Baker- closed session updates, results from investigation, McDonald- discussed Konica Minolta rentals and Smalley stated a list of contractors would be helpful for the board to decide what services need adjustment.

VOTE on Amended Consent Agenda- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandeboss

Ayes: Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandeboss **Nays:** **Motion Passed: Yes**

B. Disbursements - March 2025

C. Personnel Action Report

C1. New Hires;

C2. Resignations: Danielle Gates, Amy Pelfrey (06/30/2025), Missy Jessen, Mackenzie Harris

4. Correspondence- None

5. For Action

A. Interim Superintendent Contract

Motion by Bussard to adopt contract

Supported by Smalley

Discussion- Contract didn't state if healthcare would be included? Confirm that healthcare is included in the contract.

Motion by Bussard to adopt contract with addition - healthcare

Supported by Smalley

VOTE- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandeboss **Ayes:** All Ayes

Motion Passed: Yes

B. School of Choice Resolution 2025-2026

Motion by Vandeboss to approve SOC for 25-26

Supported by Bussard

VOTE- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandeboss **Ayes:** All Ayes

Motion Passed: Yes

C. Special Education Director Agreement - 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026

Motion by Bussard to adopt the agreement as presented

Supported by McDonald

VOTE- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandenboss

Ayes: All Ayes Motion Passed: Yes

D. Music Fees

Motion by Vandenboss to adopt music program fees

Supported by McDonald

Discussion - Bussard- Will there be a fund for students who cannot afford costs? Yes

\$40 per year for every band student, \$20 extra per semester if renting equipment

VOTE- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandenboss **Ayes: All Ayes Motion**

Passed: Yes

E. April Resolution

Motion by Bussard to adopt the April Resolution and remove censure as presented.

Motion by Vandenboss to add as discussion item and move for action in May. This has been tabled to hear from Thrun, Vandenboss would like time to discuss since information was just received now.

Bussard- Can we discuss it now?

Smalley- Supported Bussard's motion to add as discussion item now

Discussion-

Vandenboss - Would like to remove action item and add to next month's agenda

Bussard- Do we have any more information from Thrun?

Marciniak- Thrun stated that censure of Smalley is bordering excessive lengths and the resolution is all that's needed to drop censure and move forward.

Bussard- Waiting for more information?

Baker- Wants information on why censure was placed from different sources to make an educated choice when voting. We need to make sure the facility is safe, doesn't believe Smalley is dangerous. Coming from a good place. Wants staff to feel safe with Smalley returning and would like to talk to those that filed complaints.

Bussard- What if someone says no? Smalley was voted in by the community. We have to make uncomfortable decisions. Smalley's attorney stated this is a potential civil rights violation, is it worth the risk to PPS for violating Smalley's board seat?

Baker- We need to resolve at some point, could we add this to the special meeting agenda on 4/14 and survey staff beforehand?

Smalley- Doesn't know if that's acceptable- staff doesn't agree. Staff will not support his family due to feelings for him as a board member/parent.

Baker- Some get intimidated with Smalley's passion. Doesn't believe he's a threat. Staff and students need to feel safe. It's the Board's responsibility to keep school safe.

Marciniak- Length of censorship limits the board - needs to be fully functioning to be effective.

Bussard- 26 month suspension - if Smalley were a student - that's a long time. He's an elected member and this is a disservice to the PPS district. What would come up in the next month that didn't over the last 26 months to make a decision?

Vandenboss- What are the considerations for excessive censure? We're a new board, limited information and a lot of unknowns to make a decision. For action without staff/community feedback. Personally intimidated in the last closed session - similar to reports. Passion? Found it to be inappropriate.

McDonald- Time to move on- yet not an action item before, supports moving it to action in May to give the public time to speak/send correspondence.

Bussard- February 2023 - 4-5 potential allegations - evidence found for 1 - entered through secured entry - violated policy. If safety isn't an issue, no legal reason to keep censured due to staff opinions. Path back to working together. 26 months later - no logical reason to continue this.

McDonald- Appreciate that Smalley serves the board, has he been censured before?

Smalley- 20 + years ago - bus driver argument, went to court. Donahue, Superintendent at the time, ordered a no trespass. Smalley won in court and then no trespass was removed.

McDonald- Ready to move forward and vote - would hate for this to happen again. We don't want an intense environment, please learn from this. Not just about the wrong door, room for improvement and more grace.

Baker - Personally agrees that this should be resolved, looking from a district perspective.

Vandenboss- Legal fees if this happened again? Add a clause if we need to go backwards?

Marciniak- all in board policies.

Bussard - Mi Board Legal code for criminal/serious misconduct. Hope that we can pass this and move on tonight.

VOTE- Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; Vandenboss

Ayes: Baker; Bussard; Marciniak; McDonald; Smalley; **Nays:** Vandenboss

Motion Passed: Yes

6. Discussion -

A. Bond Updates - Dave Carlson

- a. Series 1- ECC completed
- b. Series 2- Started over Spring Break 2025
- c. Designing/Pricing out now

B. Board Retreat - Board members, Interim Superintendents Mr. Sinicropi & Mrs. Falcon - Post retreat as a workshop- work through high priority projects, collaborate before the Superintendent switch. Make this a public workshop.

Smalley - great idea, good turnout needed for discussion of ideas

Bussard- Self run to save in the budget, vision of members. Agenda built by members.

Low cost, just need time to invest in each other.

Vandenboss- requests after Gizzard Fest

Board will find a good date via email.

C. Updates on investigation? Sinicropi stated the investigation is not complete at this time, hoping for May.

Bussard- Amend 4/14 agenda? Sinicropi stated closed session is for a separate matter.

7. President Marciniak- Apologies to Mr. Smalley about the information read in correspondence at the January public meeting. Introduce Mrs. Falcon, incoming Interim Superintendent.

8. Public Input:

1. Loren Smalley Excused from Board seat 7:17 PM, returned at 7:20 PM.
2. Nora Smalley

9. Committee Reports -

- A. **Finance:** Waiting for DEP (Approved last week)
- B. **Policy:** Met in March, revising Policy manuals. Neola meeting 4/9 10:30 AM
- C. **Facilities:** None
- D. **Technology:** Dr. Mark's group AI Discussion

12. School Information

A. School Reports

13. Superintendent's Report - 6 Students Nominated for Optimist Awards, Kindergarten Round Up ads by Dr. Mark on 101.7- listen in!

14. Call to Adjourn - President Marciniak

Motioned by Vandenboss to adjourn, meeting adjourned by President Marciniak at 7:28 PM