

.PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA
Tuesday, February 16, 2021

BOARD MINUTES

Executive sessions were held on February 9, 2021 and tonight, February 16, 2021 concerning personnel and legal matters.

The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom. President Fallow presided.

Began meeting with a moment of silence for former Board Director Carol Dwyer, a member from 2003-2011, who passed away recently.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Baumgardt, Fallow, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Paules, Scherer, and Zellers

Absent: Director Recker

OTHER ATTENDANCE

Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger – Solicitor

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Dr. Frankelli congratulated the 48 students who qualified and placed in top three at the recent regional qualifying event for FBLA; students will go on to complete in April at state level
- Congratulations also to Kody Kratzer for being 12th student in history of boys’ basketball to reach 1,000 scoring points
- Dr. Frankelli gave an update on COVID-19 transmission level for Carbon County and updated information from CDC. The county’s incidence rate per 100,000 residents is 252.4% and a PCR percent positivity rate of 13.8%. The county is higher than state average currently. Data shows we have been in the substantial range for three months; we are past the peak of incidence rates
- CDC released report on 2/12/21, Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation, stating when and under what conditions schools should open/remain open, and how to do safely to slow the spread of virus. District is currently following DOH guidelines in determining instructional models. CDC report states for K-12 schools to fully open (in person) when they are in low to moderate range of transmission spread.
- Per DOH recommendation, we need to be less than 10% incidence rate and PCR of less than 5% for full in-person instruction and CDC recommends less than a 50% incidence rate and PCR less than 8%.
- Dr. Frankelli said a lot of what CDC came out with mirrors what DOH has been telling us; at this time, she does not recommend any changes related to the instructional model outlined in the District’s current Health & Safety Plan or to the current sports schedule

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Leighton Area School District Settlement Agreement on agenda is result of LASD failing to bill for certain outplaced students since 2011-2012. All county

school districts received back-dated bills; Palmerton is one of two in the county who is repaying the amount

- District is currently undergoing state audit; it has been quite some time since the District had a comprehensive state audit conducted
- Major changes to accounting and HR systems are underway, mandatory trainings currently ongoing, new system live in March

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Haas – Palmerton Library Report:
 - Still open by appointment, curbside pickup available, no fines levied, story time via Facebook, and on March 5 a live reading by local author

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Lisa Snell Kern – would like to see policies that are being reviewed on website prior to meeting; inquired about Program of Studies changes made

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Baumgardt, to approve the attached consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approved the Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports

Approved the Treasurer’s Reports

Approved the 3-year contract with Gorman & Associates, P.C., for audit services at the following rates:

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
Audit Fee	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
Single Audit Fee	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
AFR Fee	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Hourly Rates for additional services	\$90	\$90	\$92

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for PAEA regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for PAESPA regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Confidential Secretaries regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Act 93 personnel regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

BOARD MINUTES APPROVED

FINANCIAL REPORTS APPROVED

AUDIT SERVICE CONTRACT

MOUs-FFCRA

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Superintendent regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

Approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Business Manager regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) extension

**COLUMN
MOVEMENTS
APPROVED**

Approved the following column movements:

Stacey Olewine from Master's to Master's +15
Kathryn Malay from Master's +15 to Master's +30

**TEACHER HIRE
TERMS
CLARIFIED**

Approved the clarification of terms for Lisa Failla, Spanish Teacher, at Master's, Step 5, with an annual salary of \$51,500 prorated

**COACH NAME
CORRECTION**

Approved the name correction of the boys' assistant soccer coach from Alex Pino to Joseph Pino

**SICK LEAVE
EXTENSION
APPROVED**

Approved the 40-day sick leave extension for employee #7445 as per the terms of the Act 93 contract

**TRACK & FIELD
ASST. COACHES
APPROVED**

Approved the following assistant track and field coaches for the 2020-21 season effective February 17, 2021:

Leon Brong	\$2,689
Andrew Nosti	\$2,689

**CAFETERIA SUB
APPROVED**

Approved Bobbie Jo Knott as substitute cafeteria employee at the rate of \$10.00 per hour effective February 17, 2021

**TEACHER, IA &
SECRETARY
SUB APPROVED**

Approved Jessica Hansen as substitute teacher, instructional assistant, and secretary at the applicable rate effective February 17, 2021

RETIREMENT

Accepted the retirement of Pamela Wuest, High School Math Teacher, at the end of the 2020-2021 school year

**TEACHER SUB
LIST
REMOVALS**

Approved the removal of the following people from the district's current substitute list:

Frances Carazo	Instructional Aide; Secretary
Jill Kuzo	Instructional Aide; Secretary
Jacqueline Williamson	Instructional Aide
Chrissha Kuehner-Litts	Nurse
Elena Krupo	Teacher
Bethany Long	Teacher
Roderick Lowe	Teacher
Ann Marie Oblas	Teacher
Tina Rothenberger	Teacher
Patricia Sottolano	Teacher

**CAFETERIA
RESIGNATION**

Accepted the resignation of Michele Kovacs as cafeteria worker effective February 16, 2021

<p>TUITION REIMBURSEMENT</p> <p>2021-22 PROGRAM OF STUDIES APPROVED</p> <p>1ST READINGS APPROVED - 000-003-006.1-009-010</p>	<p>Approved tuition reimbursements</p> <p>Approved the 2021-2022 Program of Studies for the Palmerton Area Senior High School</p> <p>Approved the first reading of the following policies: Policy #000 Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations Policy #003 Functions Policy #006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications Policy #009 Policy Process Policy #010 School Board Use of Electronic Mail</p>
<p>DONATION ACCEPTED</p>	<p>Accepted the donation of sandpaper from Palmerton Lumber Company to be used in the high school's wood shop</p>
<p>HS GRADUATION DATE</p>	<p>Approved the anticipated graduation date of Monday, June 7, 2021 for the Palmerton Area Senior High School Class of 2021 with a rain date of Tuesday, June 8, 2021</p>
<p>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</p>	
<p>LASD SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT</p>	<p>Director Scherer moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between Palmerton Area School District and Leighton Area School District.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>MOU ACT 93 COMPENSATION</p>	<p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Administrative Compensation Pursuant to Act 93 effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Scherer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary</p>