

# PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held on October 3, 2022 and today before the regular meeting and also today after the regular meeting concerning legal and personnel matters.

The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of Directors was held in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 680 Fourth Street, Palmerton, PA, on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:04 p.m. President Tammy Recker presided. A Zoom meeting was also made available.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, Snyder, and Zellers

### **OTHER ATTENDANCE**

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

### **STUDENT REPORT – Emma Martinez, 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

- PYEA – have started mock lessons between members, then will discuss and critique each other to learn more techniques and strategies
- Scholastic Scrimmage – practicing for their tournament which starts in November
- Golf – won the league championship and districts for the fourth year in a row; Tyler Hager, Nathan Steinmetz, and Connor Reinhard competed in the PIAA state championship and placed 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 52<sup>nd</sup> respectively
- Field Hockey – in the midst of league playoffs and secured a spot to compete in district playoffs
- Girls’ Soccer - #1 seed in district playoffs
- Football – qualified for district playoffs which begin in November; congratulations to Coach Walkowiak for becoming the winningest football coach in Palmerton history
- Anti-Bullying Month – grades 9-11 received a visit from the district attorney who spoke about bullying, cyberbullying, and the consequences of those actions
- World Unity Day – students will wear or share something with the color orange tomorrow
- Environmental Science Academic Class – Ms. Freed’s class studied human population statistics by gathering data from the nearby cemetery which was then used to generate survivorship curves

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

- Congratulations to our three golfers who have been competing at Penn State in the PIAA individual state championship
- Field hockey team will advance to league semi-finals
- Girls’ soccer team ranked #1 in the league and will advance to the semi-final match on Thursday
- Thank you to Mr. Brandyn Miller for allowing me to watch his Digital Media Production class write, create, and produce the daily high school announcements; the students do a great job in their roles as news anchors, script editors, producers, and directors

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- PDE released our adjusted index at 5.5% which is the amount the district is able to raise taxes without seeking exceptions; this would allow us to generate an additional \$1m in tax revenue
- Our current electric supply agreement expires in June 2023; will receive pricing from multiple suppliers in early November; contracts must be executed quickly and then put on agenda for retroactive board approval
- Applied for 2 food service equipment grants totaling \$16,500 to replace refrigerator at Parkside and oven at Palmer; likely to be awarded in January 2023
- Free breakfast program going well, in its third week; weekly averages have doubled since September

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

- Director Larvey – LCCC:
  - Russian group attempted to hack college technology with no success; no personal or financial statistics compromised; were complimented on safeguard processes they have in place
- Director Zellers – PSBA:
  - Current student-led voter registration challenge via Annual Governors Civic Engagement award program which promotes student voter registration efforts throughout the state; awards given for percentage of registrants and individual awards; deadline to apply May 12, 2023
  - PennDOT has an Innovation Challenge to encourage high school students to use their problem solving, creative, and strategic thinking ability to solve real-world transportation challenges; this year's challenge is to develop a plan for truck drivers to have safer places to rest along interstates; \$4k to the winning team; deadline January 27, 2023
  - Teacher shortage trend has been happening for over 10 years with the pandemic highlighting the seriousness of the issue; over a decade ago, 20,000 new teachers entered the workforce with only 6,000 entering last year
  - Lack of charter school reform continues as an issue to be addressed; formula is unfair and more accountability for equitable funding is needed without being a political issue. Director Larvey stated 87% of the 500 districts in PA have signed petitions for reform. Director Recker would like to see our state representative at a meeting to explain more about the petition process
- Director Earl Paules – CCTI:
  - Consult website for cosmetology appointments and restaurant reservations; students involved in building project in Lansford; students taking advantage of co-op programs available to them to gain more work experience; Fall Festival to be held this weekend
- Director Haas – Library/IU:
  - *IU* – Hydrogen-run vehicle presented; Dr. Elaine Eib, President, is retiring after 13 years at end of school year; patronize the upcoming basket social; Esports presentation at IU, which is competitions playing video games, gives students a sense of belonging and also ability to meet a variety of students, scholarships are also available for winning competitions
  - *Library* – still in need of program director; story time continues; Murder Mystery Clue trivia; raffle for homemade items to come

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Flexible Instruction Days – Ms. Jamie Schuler stated we are in Year 2 of our FID approval; 5 days available in school calendar to use for inclement weather or emergency situations; packets went home with students this week. Hosting a webinar for Kindergarten parents and those new to the district to inform them of the FID process and requirements and to answer any questions

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- None

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Director Zellers moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the board meeting minutes from and September 20, 2022 and October 3, 2022.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present except Director Connell who was not in the boardroom at time of vote.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to approve the attached consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present except Director Connell who was not in the boardroom at time of vote.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports

Approved the Treasurer’s Reports

Approved Budget Transfers

**TEAM LEAD FSW**

Approved retroactively Jennifer Hedmeck as Team Lead Food Service Worker at the rate of \$16.04 per hour effective September 21, 2022

**BUS DRIVERS**

Approved the following as George’s Transportation bus drivers for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year effective October 19, 2022:

Kyle Ahner
Craig Fenoff

**HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT**

Approved the following horizontal movement effective the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year:

Dawn Burke	From Master’s to Master’s +15
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**MENTORS**

Approved retroactively the following Mentors for the 2022-2023 school year:

Jeremy Coleman, Co-Mentor	<i>for Sage Nalesnik</i>	\$737.50 each prorated effective September 21, 2022
Joshua Rake, Co-Mentor	<i>for Sage Nalesnik</i>	\$737.50 each prorated effective September 21, 2022

**RESIGNATIONS**

Accepted the following resignations:

Randi-Jo Freed	Track MS Coach	Effective September 28, 2022
Shelly Frantz	Food Service Worker	Effective September 28, 2022

**RESCIND  
CROSSING  
GUARD**

Approved to rescind the employment agreement with Kenneth Micsko as Crossing Guard effective September 29, 2022

**TUITION  
REIMBURSEMENTS**

Approved tuition reimbursements

**INT'L  
TRAVELERS  
CLUB**

Acknowledged the dates of the High School International Travelers Club's field trip to Greece as June 22, 2023 through July 1, 2023

**PASBO  
CONFERENCE**

Approved the following conference:

Ryan Kish	PASBO Annual Conference, Pocono Manor, PA	March 14-17, 2023	Not to exceed \$959.00
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**DRAMA CLUB -  
COSTUME  
RENTALS**

Approved the rental contract agreement with The Costumer for costume rentals for the High School Drama Club's performance of White Christmas not to exceed \$1,000.00

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING  
POLICY 146**

Approved the first reading of the following policies:

- 1) Policy #146 Student Services

**2<sup>ND</sup> READINGS &  
ADOPTION  
POLICIES 237-  
805-805.2-808**

Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- 1) Policy #237 Electronic Devices
- 2) Policy #805 Emergency Preparedness & Response
- 3) Policy #805.2 School Security Personnel
- 4) Policy #808 Food Services

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**HS LIBRARY  
RENOVATION  
PROJECT**

Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director Zellers, to accept the architectural services and structural engineering proposal at a cost of approximately \$21,000.00 from ALLOY5 Architecture of Bethlehem, PA, to design specifications and bid the high school library renovation project.

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

**INSURANCE  
RENEWALS**

Motion for the Board of Directors to approve the district's insurance renewals effective November 12, 2022:

Coverage	Carrier	Expiring Term Premium	Proposed Term Premium
Property	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$62,593.00	\$64,074.00
General Liability and Crime	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$29,550.00	\$31,185.00
Automobile	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$ 6,404.00	\$ 6,458.00
Equipment Breakdown	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$ 4,390.00	\$ 4,727.00
Umbrella	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$11,555.00	\$11,527.00
Cyber Liability	Houston Casualty Co.	\$18,457.00	\$18,457.00
School Leaders' Liability	CM Regent Ins. Co.	\$18,703.00	\$20,206.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$151,652.00</b>	<b>\$156,634.00</b>

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Mary Jo King – watched a news show on teacher shortages that said the top reasons for lack of teachers available was due to compensation, support, and respect; students would appreciate Esports as a club; felt the hours granted to her for transition and training services for the special education department were unrealistic; feels staff should be supported more

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Director Mazepa asked if the CLIU #21 and LCCC would do a budget presentation at the January workshop
- Director Recker was pleased to see so many people at the Halloween parade; very talented and creative ideas were seen in this fun competition; very grateful to the community for supporting it
- Director Haas stated almost 80 students in grades 4-6 received band instruments this year so the music program is growing

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Connell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless  
Board Secretary