

# PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

	<p>An executive session was held today after the regular board meeting concerning legal and personnel matters.</p> <p>The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of School Directors was held in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 680 Fourth Street, Palmerton, PA, on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. President Tammy Recker presided. A Zoom meeting was also made available.</p>
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, Snyder, and Zellers</p>
<b>OTHER ATTENDANCE</b>	<p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger – Solicitor</p>
	<p><b>STUDENT REPORT: Riley Fallon, 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art Class – Macy DiDario, grade 10, received the "Pause and Be Present" Community Award from Healing Through the Arts for her painting "Frozen in Time"; HTTA will hold presentation at First Friday Celebration event on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m.</li><li>• PYEA – members learning skills to become teachers; staff incorporating members into lessons as a small group tutor or teacher</li><li>• Scholastic Scrimmage – virtual matches planned between schools to gain more practice and experience; Levi Strohl competed in the All-Star Match helping his team win; episode will air on PBS 39 on April 14<sup>th</sup></li><li>• Mock Trial – Monroe County Bar Association hosting the Statewide High School Mock Trial Championships with teams from seven area high schools competing in February. Student participants: Attorneys, Maddie Everett, Maddy Wentz, and Nicole Kester, and Witnesses Keira Peppard, Kevin O'Neil, and TJ Taglieri for the Defense; Plaintiff team attorneys Riley Fallon, Fiona Winger, and Taylor Pengelly, and Witnesses Josh Rehatchek, Zane Himmelwright, and Jared Reinhard</li><li>• FBLA – current fundraiser proceeds going to this year's state and national competitions</li><li>• Comparative Mythology – studying Celtic Mythology in March; working on art project using cans and a metalworking technique to create Celtic knotwork art</li><li>• Cybersecurity – team again ranked 1st in PA for their division and increased national rank to 8<sup>th</sup> in their division</li><li>• Drama Club and Stage Crew – preparing for spring production of <i>Grease</i>; tickets on sale March 20<sup>th</sup> and accessed through link posted on the district's website</li><li>• Video Club – producing Mr. Palmerton video, Mini-THON Video, Marching Band Show Reveal video and a year in review; finished "Read Across America" videos to be sent to the elementary schools; adding graphic elements to morning announcements and new segments including Daily Weather, Weekly Sports Recap, and Weekly Bombshell question for the students to participate in</li><li>• Yearbook – on sale now until the end of school year; letter mailed to seniors shortly with information about senior portrait and ads</li><li>• Student Council – miniTHON, April 14<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Palmerton, May 3<sup>rd</sup>; Mock Crash, May 4<sup>th</sup>; Spring Day, May 12<sup>th</sup></li><li>• National Honor Society – tutoring Math and ELA at S.S. Palmer on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school; Lunch Buddies in which students meet with elementary students at lunch; volunteering at Special Olympics in May; first semester grades reviewed to make sure necessary GPA is attained for members</li></ul>

- Envirothon – four HS teams preparing for the Carbon County Envirothon in May; studying to compete in areas of Aquatics, Soil, Forestry, and Wildlife
- Class of 2026 – holding a Mother's Day 10" hanging flower basket sale through April 3<sup>rd</sup> at \$22 each, delivered in time for Mother's Day
- Music - Music In Our Schools Month concert is March 8<sup>th</sup> which will host musicians in entire district; Carbon County Band Concert is March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Jim Thorpe High School; eleven students from Palmerton participating
- Environmental Club – Scot Christman of the PA Fish and Boat Commission reached out to advisors Mr. Gombert and Mr. McArdle about potentially having members assist with trout stockings this spring
- Poetry Out Loud – Maddie Everett, grade 11, participated in the regional Poetry Out Loud poetry recitation competition held at ArtsQuest in Bethlehem
- Science Department – initiative to have Trout in the Classroom (TIC) in Mr. Petersen's room; created a partnership with Hockey Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission; granted tank and supplies from Hockey Trout Unlimited; Biology II students will release the trout in the future
- Athletics – boys' and girls' basketball teams have qualified for league and district playoffs; wrestling team entering individual district tournament; spring sports scheduled to start March 6<sup>th</sup>

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- Congratulations to our 19 recent inductees to the National Junior Honor Society
- Daniel Lucykanish was selected by the PA Scholastic Football Coaches Association to play in the East-West game with 1<sup>st</sup> team honors on May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Carbon County superintendents have united to talk to legislators about needs in the county such as funding, cyber/charter school reform, teacher shortages, and mental health care for students; met with Sen. Argall, Rep. Heffley, and an associate from Rep. Wild's office on separate occasions; thank you to Director Mazepa for also attending
- Today is a historic day as the number of schools required to have PIAA girls' wrestling teams sanctioned in schools has been exceeded

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Gov. Shapiro presenting the 2023-2024 state budget proposal to the general assembly soon; he has not yet indicated what levels of funding or initiatives will be included; interesting to see how the recent school funding case, which Panther Valley School District was a part of, will have any influence over his education proposals
- Reported in October 2022 that our electricity agreement expires in June of 2023; were planning on locking in a new contract in November, but the market was volatile, so we postponed our timeline. Because of a mild winter, market is moving in the right direction and should have pricing and contracts soon; March agenda will have retroactive approval of the contract and will then be able to update budgetary projections

#### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

- Director Zellers – PSBA:
  - Numerous learning and networking opportunities available to board
  - COSSBA holding series beginning in March about poverty, learning loss, academic recovery, food insecurity, and social/mental concerns for students
  - Analysis will be given in PSBA webinar on response to state budget presentation
  - Press conference at state capitol for support of proposed charter school reform on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>
  - PDE announced grant funding of \$6.5m available to enable more high school students to enroll in dual credit programs; district is working on application
  - State school system of funding recently ruled unconstitutional; unclear on how state will distribute money but may be let it up to lawmakers and districts to decide

- PIAA looking for PSBA members to become representatives for the PIAA board; application on website, accepted through March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Director Larvey – LCCC:
  - At recent committee meeting, there was discussion on the ruling of funding case and state budget; physical therapy assistant program will be discontinued with no new students accepted as a result of low enrollment and positions not being needed in the profession due to lack of medical insurance company reimbursements for work done by the PTA
- Director Danielle Paules – CCTI:
  - Two CCTI Auto Service & Technology students competed in Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Association competition at NCCC placing 1<sup>st</sup>, Victor Morrero and Jacob Shellhammer, both to receive scholarship money
- Director Haas – Library/CLIU:
  - *Library*: \$5 fill-a-bag sale ongoing; promoting iGive.com to designate a percentage of sales to the library; director meeting with St. Luke’s to share resources available to the community; holding baby food distribution with Palmerton Food Pantry for babies 12 months and younger; Come As You Are book club kickoff; peapod story time, ages 6 months to 3 years; seed library available for those interested in starting a garden; Read Across America on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, making videos of community members reading and on in-person events; looking at grouping future programming such as virtual and hybrid in-person activities together
  - *CLIU*: has video library online of projects completed with students

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Weight room renovation –

- Director Earl Paules apologized for his comments to Director Mazepa at the February 7, 2023 workshop
- Mr. Joe Faenza spoke about the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in the weight room with himself, Dr. Frankelli, Mrs. Husar, Mr. Poremba, Coach Petersen, Directors Connell, Earl Paules, Danielle Paules, Mazepa, and Zellers which allowed for further collaboration on the renovation designs; Mr. Paules, Mr. Faenza, and ALLOY5 architect will meet next week for more design options for the south side of the room and should have those new drawings for the March 7<sup>th</sup> workshop
- Mr. Justin Petersen, wrestling coach, and Mr. Poremba, athletic coordinator, were on hand to answer the board’s questions and provide input as to the design; questions and comments ranged from what time the room is in use, who is cleaning the mats/equipment/bathrooms, how many students are using the facility at the same time, facility for away and home female wrestlers, number of wrestlers on the team and current weight classes, and what we can do to increase number of students to join the team.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- None

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the board meeting minutes from January 17, 2023 and February 7, 2023.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of an abstention from Director Recker for consent agenda item #2, letter M, due to a conflict of interest.  
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports  
Approved the Treasurer’s Reports  
Approved Budget Transfers

**SINGLE AUDIT REPORT**

Accepted the Single Audit Report dated fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as presented by Gorman & Associates, P.C.

**TAX COLLECTOR EXONERATIONS**

Approved to exonerate the following current tax collectors from the collection of the 2022-2023 school year delinquent per capita taxes effective January 1, 2023:

Bowmanstown Borough	Maria Smith	\$ 1,770.00
Lower Towamensing Township	Maxine Scherer	\$ 6,190.00
Palmerton Borough	Lisa Nemeth	\$13,560.00
Towamensing Township	Nicole Strausberger	\$ 7,180.00

Approved the per capita tax exoneration list

**DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR**

Approved Nicole Jahelka as Deputy Tax Collector for Palmerton Borough as indicated on the “Act 48-2015 Appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector Form” presented by Raquel Lutton, Palmerton Borough Tax Collector

**DONATIONS**

Accepted the following donations:

<i>From</i> Bowmanstown Area Residents Connected	<i>to</i> FBLA Activity Club	\$50.00
<i>From</i> Jean R. Keck	<i>to</i> Carron K. Cseh Memorial Award Fund	\$50.00

**IA’s**

Approved Rachel DeMicco as Title I Instructional Assistant at a rate of \$16.50 per hour effective February 22, 2023  
Approved Katherine Cressman as Instructional Assistant at a rate of \$16.50 per hour effective February 22, 2023

**GUEST TEACHER**

Approved Miriam Krzton as Guest Teacher at a daily rate of \$110.00 effective February 22, 2023

**SUB TEACHER**

Approved Amber Reese as Substitute Teacher at a daily rate of \$110.00 effective February 22, 2023

**MENTORS**

Approved the following Co-Mentors for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year effective February 22, 2023:

Brad Landis & Sarah Sullivan, Co-Mentors	<i>for</i> Alyssa Miller	Full year at \$737.50 each prorated
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**HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS**

Approved the following horizontal movements effective the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year:

Karoline Anthony	Master’s +15 to Master’s +30
Adrian Bumbulsky	Bachelor’s to Bachelor’s +24
Kristina Himmelwright	Bachelor’s to Bachelor’s +24
Laura Thomas	Bachelor’s to Bachelor’s +24

**UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE**

Approved the following uncompensated leave requests:

Employee #10	April 28, 2023; May 1, 2023 through May 5, 2023; May 8, 2023
Employee #611	Retroactively-December 19, 2022; January 4, 2023 through January 6, 2023; January 26, 2023

**FMLA**

Approved the following for Family &amp; Medical Leave:

Employee #390	Effective from March 7, 2023 through approximately March 17, 2023- Intermittent from March 20, 2023 through April 4, 2023
Employee #403	Retroactively effective from January 23, 2023 through approximately April 21, 2023
Employee #553	Effective from March 8, 2023 through approximately April 18, 2023

**COACH RESIGNATION**

Accepted the following Coach resignation:

Craig Marlatt	Softball Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	Effective January 28, 2023
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**COACH HIRINGS**

Approved the following Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year effective February 22, 2023:

Nellianne Parr	Softball Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,372.00
Craig Marlatt	Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

**SPRING EVENT WORKERS**

Approved the following as Spring Event Workers at a rate of \$23.00 per event effective February 22, 2023:

Pamela Andrews	Michael J. Horvath	Andrew Remsing
Kelly Beblavy	John Hrebik	Lauren Salerno
Craig Borland	Alexander Knoll	Kimberly Seiler
Amanda Cappella	Matthew Kosciolek	Thomas Smelas
Amber Cohen	Vicki McHugh	David Smith
Jessica Cohen	Michael Noyola	Brian Stevko
Travis Fink	Christine Owens	Denise Strohl
Randi-Jo Freed	Jonathan Perloni	
Kelly Heinrich	Joshua Rake	
<i>Pending receipt of clearances:</i>		
Edward Hedes	Christine Rodrigues	

**RETIREMENTS**

Accepted the following retirement:

Diane Hudock	Instructional Assistant	Effective end of 2022-2023 school year
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Accepted the following retirement:

Judy Moyer	Instructional Assistant	Effective end of 2022-2023 school year
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**TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

Approved tuition reimbursements

**HS PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

Approved the 2023-2024 Program of Studies for the Palmerton Area Senior High School

**FIELD TRIP-FBLA**

Approved the field trip request to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA, on April 16, 2023 through April 19, 2023 funded through student fundraising and the club's budget

<b>FIELD TRIP-VIDEO CLUB</b>	Approved the field trip request to attend the Pennsylvania State Press Association Journalism State Conference in State College, PA, on March 29, 2023 through March 31, 2023
<b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS</b>	Approved the two agreements with ASSE International Student Exchange Programs for the 2023-2024 school year
<b>PSBA CONTRACT-POLICY SERVICES DANCE DJ</b>	Approved the Pennsylvania School Boards Association contract for professional services in the amount of \$1,500.00 Approved the contract with Nick Romano for DJ services for the St. Patrick’s Day Dance at the High School on March 16, 2023
<b>McCLURE COMPANY-WINDOW REPORTS</b>	Approved the Measurement and Verification Report from McClure Company for the Guaranteed Energy Services Agreement for the High School window replacement project Approved the completion of the Performance Based Energy Savings Agreement with McClure Company
<b>CLIU INTERGOVT. AGREEMENT FOR SPEC. ED. 1<sup>st</sup> READINGS POLICIES 200-204-217-233-251</b>	Approved the CLIU #21 Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services for the 2023-2024 school year Approved the first reading of the following policies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Policy #200 Enrollment of Students</li> <li>2) Policy #204 Attendance</li> <li>3) Policy #217 Graduation</li> <li>4) Policy #233 Suspension &amp; Expulsion</li> <li>5) Policy #251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care &amp; Other Educational Instability</li> </ol>
<b><u>MOTION TO TABLE CCTI BUDGET 2023-2024</u></b>	<b>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</b> Director Earl Paules moved, seconded by Director Haas, to table the motion of the approval of the 2023-2024 Proposed Secondary Budget for Carbon Career & Technical Institute, calling for Receipts and Expenditures in the amount of \$9,096,315 to be forwarded as presented to the Boards of School Directors in each of the participating school districts for final adoption by Resolution.  Aye Votes: Directors Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder. Nay Votes: Directors Connell, Mazepa, and Zellers. Motion Carried.
<b>CLIU #21 BUDGET 2023-2024</b>	Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the 2023-2024 General Operating Budget of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.  Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
<b>LCCC BUDGET 2023-2024</b>	Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the Lehigh Carbon Community College Operating Budget, Debt Service/Leases, and Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.  Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Kristen Schaible – hopeful for a vote soon on the weight room renovation; need to allow wrestlers privacy, safety, and ability to shower in a timely manner; need to celebrate and promote girls’ wrestling in our district
- Mary Jo King – asking for support of our students and athletes as it is difficult to recruit for wrestling; suggested outreach by current wrestlers to elementary students by holding assemblies/presentations for them which also could be done for other clubs or sports

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- An executive session will be held tonight after the meeting for legal and personnel matters
- Director Recker talked of the pride our district employees have particularly her mother who is retiring at the end of the school year who has been a great role model to her and others

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless  
Board Secretary