

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

	<p>An executive session was held Tuesday, May 2, 2023 after the workshop meeting and today after the 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 Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 5:31 p.m. President Tammy Recker presided. A Zoom meeting was also made available.</p> <p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder Absent: Director Zellers</p> <p>OTHER ATTENDANCE</p> <p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Sharon Montanye– Solicitor</p> <p>STUDENT REPORT: Riley Fallon, 12th grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholastic Scrimmage – finished 3-3 in virtual regular season, all members competed in at least 2 matches, will host the Carbon County Academic Competition next year• PYEA – have been co-teaching across various levels, creating portfolios to be used for college programs and future interviews to show their dedication to becoming a teacher• PAAC – 4th annual service work performed May 4th, 28 members helped with feeding, cleaning, laundry, and chores at the Carbon County Friends of Animals cat shelter; blanket and towel drive benefitting the shelter was huge success, thank you to Mr. Kosciolek’s and Mrs. Muniz’s second block classes for their huge contribution• Envirothon – 20 students, making up four teams, competed at Carbon County Environmental Education Center on May 11th with two of four teams placing first and second. First place: Gretchen Schaible, Alec McCarty, Josh Merkel, Cody Walkowiak, and Kellen Trotter, second place: Reilly Burke, Riley Fallon, Ethan Jones, Trey Sterling, and Jordan Mann• Leo Club – officially adopted a section of D&L Trail at East Penn Boat Launch from mile marker 96-97.5; will meet monthly to clean the trail which will raise money from volunteer hours worked• Music – JHS and HS Chorus Concert tomorrow; secondary music ensembles to participate in Music in the Park at Dorney Park on May 20th; elementary band concert May 24th; marching band will perform in Memorial Day parade• FBLA – bake sale at Country Harvest June 10th, looking for donations from local businesses• Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau Summit – was attended by 8 freshman and sophomore students on May 9th at Kalahari Resort, attended conferences on marketing and analytics• Mock Trial – received 1st place district champion trophy as well as 2nd place plaque for the regional competition at Law Day event on May 11th• Cybersecurity team – practice rounds for next fall’s Air Force Association Cyberpatriot competition have begun; currently recruiting new members• Drama Club & Stage Crew – cast and crew of <i>Grease</i> thank the community for support of this year’s musical, sold out three performances; stage crew busy with end of year concerts and events• Video Club – congratulations to Dalton Rumfield, Emma Martinez, and Megan Matsko on 3rd place finish in state at the PA School Press Association Broadcast Feature Package Video contest in State College
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- Athletics – Justin Sebelin, grade 12, earned the Colonial League Sportsmanship Award this year; all spring sports have qualified for post-season play; tennis qualified for districts, baseball and softball qualified for leagues and districts; track and field sent many athletes to the league meet last week. Congratulations to Bryce Walters (300m hurdles) and Nataly Walters (triple jump) on receiving gold medals, boys’ team was named league champions finishing undefeated and will go to districts, anticipate a few athletes to go to the state track meet in late May

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Parents and student athletes on tennis team very thankful new courts are ready to use
- Field trip to Greece planned for June 22, 2023 through July 1, 2023 with updated student and chaperone list, flight information, is provided in board packet
- Plan was to vote on adding a girls’ wrestling team tonight, however, PIAA officially sanctioned girls’ wrestling today with more information coming out tomorrow from PIAA as to next steps, procedures, and resources to help districts prepare for a team; based on that timing, the vote on adding a team will be planned for June 20th meeting

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Will speak at each fiscal motion today when they are being voted on

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Larvey – LCCC:
 - Graduation ceremony is being held this evening at PPL Center
- Director Danielle Paules – CCTI:
 - The flyer for Transition Fair for programs and services hosted in Lehighton was made by a Palmerton student
 - Cosmetology students went to PA Capitol to showcase their work
 - Montanna Costenbader, Palmerton student, is 2023 salutatorian; Angela Kunkle able to compete in HOSA competition
 - 25 members in eSports, second season
 - CCTI’s Mr. Deutsch thanked the board for passing their budget
 - Recipient of \$75k dual credit grant
- Director Haas – Library/CLIU:
 - *Library*: summer reading program in June; many presentations, programs, and workshops being offered, check website for info; use iGive.com when making purchases; Director Larvey encouraged donating to the library
 - *CLIU*: shared ribbon cutting pictures of the eSports lab, 3D printers, gaming chairs, repurposing of furniture, all completed with grant money; named new executive director, Dr. Gregory Koons, and thanked Dr. Frankelli for being a part of the hiring process; asked Dr. Frankelli to look into having students volunteer to work as election workers

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve the board meeting minutes from April 18, 2023.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports

Approved the Treasurer's Reports

Approved Budget Transfers

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Approved Kenneth Austin as Deputy Tax Collector for Towamensing Township as indicated on the "Act 48-2015 Appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector Form" presented by Susan Marques, Towamensing Township Tax Collector

SUBSTITUTES

Approved the following Substitutes at a rate of \$10.00 per hour:

Tonia McCole	Substitute Instructional Assistant	Effective May 18, 2023
Jenna McHugh	Substitute Instructional Assistant & Substitute Secretary	Effective June 6, 2023

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Approved retroactively Brian Stevko to teach five (5) hours a week of homebound instruction at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement through June 30, 2023

eBRIDGES

Approved Andrew Remsing as summer program facilitator of the eBridges Course/Credit Recovery Program for students in grades 7-12 from June 12, 2023 through June 29, 2023 (Monday-Thursday) at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

MARCHING BAND ASST.

Approved the following advisor for the 2023-2024 school year effective June 6, 2023:

Chrissy Rehatchek	Marching Band Assistant	\$2,630.00
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UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

Approved retroactively the following uncompensated leave request:

Employee #622	May 15, 2023
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FMLA

Approved the following for Family & Medical Leave:

Employee #347	Extension from May 22, 2023 through June 5, 2023
Employee #529	Intermittently from May 18, 2023 through November 7, 2023
Employee #8077	Retroactively from April 27, 2023 through June 5, 2023

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)

Approved the following staff to work in the Extended School Year (ESY) program from July 5, 2023 through July 27, 2023:

<i>Instructional Assistant at contractual hourly rate per the PAESPA Agreement:</i>	
Eileen Long	

SPRING EVENT WORKERS

Approved retroactively the following as Spring Event Workers at a rate of \$23.00 per event:

Dawn Burke	Holly Sell
Robert Falkenstein	

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS

Approved the following horizontal movements effective the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year:

Brian Stevko	From Master’s +30 to Master’s +45
Kimberly Seiler	From Master’s +30 to Master’s +45

RESIGNATIONS

Accepted the following resignations:

Suzanne Rentschler	Director of Special Education	Effective May 3, 2023
Angela Heiland	Central Office Secretary-Facilities, Technology & Curriculum	Effective May 19, 2023
Jenna McHugh	Instructional Assistant	Effective at conclusion of 2022-2023 school year

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS

Approved tuition reimbursements

HS LIBRARY RENO

Approved retroactively the agreements with CMG of Easton, Inc. and ALLOY5 Architecture for the high school library renovation project

SHINE-MEAL PURCHASE

Approved the Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement with Lehigh Carbon Community College SHINE Program for purchasing meals from the district

FBLA NATIONAL TRIP

Approved retroactively the field trip request for the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA, from June 26, 2023 through July 1, 2023 which will be paid for with fundraising with the acknowledgement that parent chaperones will reimburse the district for any expenses incurred on their behalf such as airfare, lodging, registration, etc.

TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

Approved the field trip request for the PIAA state track and field championships in Shippensburg, PA from May 25, 2023 through May 27, 2023 to be paid through the athletic budget

CYBER CAMP

Approved retroactively the Memorandum of Understanding with Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) and the CyberCamp Nondisclosure Agreement for June 12, 2023 through June 16, 2023 in the amount of \$1,150.00

CLIU OVERDRIVE CONSORTIUM

Approved the agreement for CLIU#21 OverDrive Consortium for the high school library for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$2,200.00

NURSING STAFF CONTRACTS

Approved retroactively the agreement with Hobbie Professional Staff Management, Inc. for nursing staff services beginning May 3, 2023 and automatically renews annually

Approved the contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. for nursing staff services beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

POLICE MOUs

Accepted the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police and the Palmerton Area School District

Accepted the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palmerton Borough Police and the Palmerton Area School District

1st READINGS POLICIES 100-102-105-105.1-105.2-124

Approved the first reading of the following policies:

- 1) Policy #100 Comprehensive Planning
- 2) Policy #102 Academic Standards
- 3) Policy #105 Curriculum
- 4) Policy #105.1 Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians & Students
- 5) Policy #105.2 Exemption From Instruction

6) Policy #124 Alternative Instruction

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**PROPOSED
BUDGET 2023-
2024**

Director Earl Paules moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the proposed final budget for 2023-2024 with a 2.0 mill index increase and expenditure totals of \$39,063,218. The 2023-2024 Real Estate Tax mills will be set at 64.9150. The final budget is set to be approved at the June 20, 2023 board meeting.

Aye Votes: Directors Connell, Haas, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder.
Nay Votes: Director Larvey. Motion Carried.

**FOOD SERVICE
AGREEMENT**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve the agreement with Metz Culinary Management to provide food service management services from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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

**HS WEIGHT
ROOM HVAC
PROPOSAL**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to accept and approve the proposal from McClure Company for the high school weight room HVAC system project in the amount of \$214,299.

Aye Votes: Directors Connell, Haas, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder.
Nay Votes: Director Earl Paules. Motion Carried.

**BOARD
TREASURER
2023-2024**

Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve Director Sherry Haas as Treasurer of the Palmerton Area School Board effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 at the rate of \$400.00/year.

Aye Votes: Directors Connell, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder.
Nay Votes: None.
Abstentions: Director Haas. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Derek King – student wrestler, supports a girls’ wrestling team, more positives than negatives in allowing a team, will increase support for both boys and girls and provide scholarship opportunities, wrestling gives student athletes a special bond like no other sport
- Gretchen Schiable – student wrestler, stated history was made today with girls’ wrestling being PIAA sanctioned, our state produces successful wrestlers which will open up many opportunities for girls in addition to making them strong and independent adults, asking for Board support now in growing this sport, there may be direct impact to boys’ team if girls’ team is not approved
- Ava Bongo – student, expressed interest in wrestling if there is a girls’ team

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Recker stated an executive session will be held tonight after the meeting for legal and personnel matters
- Mr. Kish confirmed that the weight room HVAC proposal from McClure Company already include costs for structural engineering and any additional structural support for the roof with the total \$214,299 being a fixed price
- Director Recker acknowledged our district leaders, coaches, and staff; things are going really well

ADJOURNMENT

- Director Haas is thankful that the website is being updated regularly in regard to student fundraising opportunities available to the community

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless

Board Secretary