### PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA Tuesday, June 20, 2023

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

An executive session was held Tuesday, June 6, 2023 after the special board meeting and today after the board meeting concerning legal and personnel matters.

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, June 20, 2023, at 5:31 p.m. Vice-President Earl Paules presided.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder Absent: Director Recker

# OTHER ATTENDANCE

Jodi Frankelli (attended via telephone) – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger– Solicitor

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Thank you to all our staff who are responsible for the success of our summer programs this year visited Mr. Miller's summer cybersecurity camp; junior high school and elementary programs to start in July
- High school library renovation project going very well in such a short time frame of 4 weeks, thank you to everyone involved

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

- The Keystone Research Center filed multiple Right to Know requests to PA cyber charter schools and found that they spent more than \$16.8m in a single year on advertising and promotion.
- Our district sends these online schools \$15,849 for each regular education student and \$38,160 for each special education student per year for those students who elect to attend. In turn, the charter school is taking that money from us and other districts, and spending almost \$17m on advertising to attract families to their businesses.
- Charter schools are publicly funded by tax dollars and privately managed and are exempt
  from educational mandates such as health and safety, special education, civil rights, student
  accountability, employee criminal history checks, and open meetings.
- The actual cost to operate a cyber charter school is estimated to be 25-30% less than the cost to operate a brick-and-mortar charter school. Next year we are expected to spend over \$2m from our budget to send to cyber charter schools.
- The excessive money spent on advertising represents money that could benefit our students
  and the community since we are grossly overfunding these schools while we struggle to
  fund our programs.
- Gov. Shapiro proposed charter school reform that would save our district about \$200k annually. The budget also adds an additional \$1m in subsidies to the district. The state budget, as of today, is unsettled.
- 37% of our total budget is state-funded and this will be another year the Board will vote on our budget without knowing how much state revenue we will receive.
- Director Earl Paules stated the administration is going to begin contacting our charter school families to see if we can accommodate a return of those students to our district or at least find out the reason as to why families do not enroll their children in our schools

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

- Director Haas Library/CLIU:
  - o *Library:* on June calendar: \$2 fill-a-bag sale; friendship bracelet making, super science spectacular, math camp, poetry exploration, story time; consult website

- CLIU: honored to participate in two graduations; saw video presentation on special classroom and how they modify activities for students; selling "sudsabilities", scented soap in shape of puzzle pieces
- Director Larvey LCCC:
  - Budget discussed as we await state budget passing; mobile science lab available which brings equipment and supplies to each district that the district may not have which can help support or co-teach lesson plans

### **OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Joe Faenza

- *Tennis courts* final inspection completed on June 8, small area of grass reseeding needs to be completed; thank you to Bruce George Paving, particularly Nevin George, for his patience and for standing behind us and giving us an impressive, finished project
- *High School library renovation* flooring abatement finished last week; air samples were all non-detected for asbestos and results are below EPA clearance for occupancy; doors and framing material delivered tomorrow, and framing will start; electrical and HVAC will start next week
- Turf field was completed in August 2017, installed 80,000 sq. ft. by Turf Field and under warranty until August 2025. The crumb rubber (aka "marbles) will not need to be replaced. Field should be inspected in 2029 for wear (in 12<sup>th</sup> year) and possibly replaced in 2030. Cost is approximately \$6/sq.ft but company recommends budgeting \$10/sq.ft., which equates to an estimated replacement cost of \$800k. The Board was reminded again that this is just an estimate and the cost will have to be revisited at the time of needing the turf replacement
- Noted the S.S. Palmer and JHS elevator parts should be in and installation finished before school starts

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

• None

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the board meeting minutes from May 17, 2023 and June 6, 2023.

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

Director Connell moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the attached consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of Nay votes from Directors Earl and Danielle Paules for consent agenda Item #2, letter B only.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approved the Accounts Payable Reports

Approved the Treasurer's Reports

**Approved Budget Transfers** 

### HOMESTEAD/ FARMSTEAD

Approved the 2023-2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

# DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

Appointed First Northern Bank and Trust, Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT), PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PASDLAF) as district depositories for 2023-2024 school year

### TAX DUPLICATES

Granted permission to release the 2023 Tax Duplicates to the respective tax collectors for the

fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 **REAL ESTATE** Approved Resolution #6,20,23, per the Real Estate Tax Universal Installment Payment Plan INSTALLMENT Resolution, to use the following installment dates for the collection of the 2023 Real Estate Taxes PLAN RESOLUTION Approved the breakfast and lunch prices for the 2023-2024 school year as mandated by Section 205 BREAKFAST/ of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: Elementary Breakfast \$1.30, Secondary Breakfast **LUNCH PRICES** \$1.40, Adult Breakfast \$2.25, Elementary Lunch \$2.85, Secondary Lunch \$2.95, Adult Lunch \$4.25, Milk \$.55, with the rates remaining the same as the 2022-2023 school year for students, and adult lunch increasing .25 cents per USDA requirements Approved the 2023-2024 workers compensation coverage through CM Regent Insurance WORKERS **COMPENSATION** Company at a cost of \$64,161.00 compared to an expiring premium of \$70,477.00 **STUDENT** Approved the 2023-2024 student accident coverage through Axis Insurance Company at a cost of ACCIDENT \$38,541.00. There is no change from the expiring premium. COVERAGES Approved the 2023-2024 voluntary student accident coverage through Axis Insurance Company for the period of August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024 **BONDING** Approved the following bonding amounts for the 2023-2024 fiscal year: Board President \$100,000, **AMOUNTS** Board Vice President \$100,000, Board Secretary \$100,000, Board Treasurer \$100,000, Superintendent \$100,000, Business Manager \$100,000, Employee Theft \$5,000, Forgery or Alteration \$100,000 Approved the Superintendent and Business Manager to make and release payments for the ACCOUNTS **PAYABLE** remaining June accounts payable **BUDGET** Approved all budget transfers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 in order to comply with audit TRANSFERS requirements. The Board will be provided with an itemized listing of all required budget transfers upon completion of the 2022-2023 audit. Approved Lindsay Fronheiser as Secondary Special Education Teacher at Bachelor's, Step 1, at an SPECIAL ED. annual salary of \$47,000 effective August 15, 2023 subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified **TEACHER** collective bargaining agreement for the 2023-2024 school year **TENURE** Approved tenure status for the following teacher who has attained three (3) years of satisfactory performance ratings in the district: Brandyn Miller **TUTOR** Approved Kristen Perdew as Geometry Tutor for 15 hours from June 21, 2023 through August 27, 2023 at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement UNCOMPENSATED Approved retroactively the following uncompensated leave request: **LEAVE** Employee #253 May 16, 2023

### SUMMER FEEDING WORKERS

Approved the following Food Service Workers for the summer feeding program at the contractual hourly rate per the PAESPA collective bargaining agreement effective July 5, 2023 through July 27, 2023:

Linda Duyka	
Diane Gebhard	
Wendy Magner	
Teresa Reed	

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Approved Dalton Hoffman as Substitute Teacher at a daily rate of \$110.00 effective June 21, 2023

### CLUB ADVISORS

Approved the following club advisors at S.S. Palmer/Parkside Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Kimberly Nenscel	Computer Co-Advisor	\$ 397.50
Alexander Orr	Computer Co-Advisor	\$ 397.50
Ryan Heller	Student Council	\$ 795.00
Tanya Hess	Safety Patrol	\$ 795.00
Bronwyn Cseh	Safety Patrol	\$ 795.00
Monique Hofford	Sixth Sense Co-Advisor	\$ 405.00
Deanna Iles	Sixth Sense Co-Advisor	\$ 405.00
Pamela Andrews	Yearbook	\$ 795.00

Approved the following club advisors at Towamensing Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Natalie Madeira	Chorus	\$1,569.00
William Zeky	Computer	\$ 795.00
Kathryn Malay	Environmental	\$1,209.00
Kelly Beblavy	Safety Patrol	\$ 795.00
Lisa Ward	Safety Patrol	\$ 795.00
Jodi Kocher	Student Council	\$ 795.00
Trisha Green	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$ 397.50
Krystle Meglio	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$ 397.50

Approved the following club advisors at the Junior High School for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Melissa Hoffman	ACE Co-Advisor	\$ 405.00
Sarah Sullivan	ACE Co-Advisor	\$ 405.00
Laura Reichard	Band	\$1,569.00
Laura Reichard	Chorus	\$1,569.00
Melissa Hoffman	National Honor Society-JH	\$1,010.00
Brian Stevko	Newspaper Co-Advisor	\$ 992.00
Kathryn Zurn	Newspaper Co-Advisor	\$ 992.00
Christopher Kery	Student Council Co-Advisor	\$ 503.50
Kevin Young	Student Council Co-Advisor	\$ 503.50
Brad Landis	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$ 992.00
Amy Morgan	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$ 992.00

Approved the following club advisors at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Vicki McHugh	Aevidum	\$1,209.00
Miranda Allen	Art Co-Advisor	\$ 971.00
Brianna Keiser	Art Co-Advisor	\$ 971.00
Katherine Baumgardt	Avenger (newspaper) Advisor	\$3,969.00
Amanda Cappella	Buddies	
Theresa Hall	Chorus	\$2,170.00
Brent Harris	Drama – Fall	\$1,764.00
Brent Harris	Drama – Spring	\$1,764.00
Michael Gombert	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50
Paul McArdle	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50
Jennifer Danzeisen	FBLA Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50

Kerry Palumbo	FBLA Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50
Brent Harris	Film	
Miranda Allen	Freshman Class Advisor, Class of 2027	\$1,410.00
Julia Dougherty	Games	
Christopher Walkowiak	Gridiron	
Craig Borland	International Travelers	
Travis Fink	Leo Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50
Tammy Muniz	Leo Co-Advisor	\$ 604.50
Jennifer Danzeisen	Mock Trial	\$1,209.00
Jeana Baumgardt	National Honor Society	\$2,018.00
Miranda Allen	PAAC	\$ 810.00
Julia Dougherty	PLURAL	
Alexander Knoll	PYEA	\$1,209.00
Jeremy Coleman	SADD	\$ 810.00
Alexander Knoll	Scholastic Scrimmage	\$1,010.00
Craig Borland	Senior Class Advisor, Class of 2024	\$2,011.00
Brandyn Miller	Social Media Co-Advisor	
Joshua Nenscel	Social Media Co-Advisor	
Travis Fink	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor, Class of 2026	\$ 705.00
Tammy Muniz	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor, Class of 2026	\$ 705.00
Susan Dellicker	Souled Out	
Brandyn Miller	Stage Crew	\$2,081.00
Brent Harris	Stage Crew Assistant	\$1,643.00
Brandyn Miller	Video	
Brianna Keiser	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$1,984.50
Brandyn Miller	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$1,984.50

# CAC REPRESENTATIVES

Approved the following curriculum advisory council (CAC) representatives at S.S. Palmer/Parkside Elementary Schools for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Katherine Gilmartin Palazzo	Grades K and 1	\$1,773.00
Valerie Hunsicker	Grades 2 and 3	\$1,773.00
Meghan Barclay	Grade 4	\$1,773.00
Deanna Iles	Grade 5	\$1,773.00
Monique Hofford	Grade 6	\$1,773.00

Approved the following curriculum advisory council (CAC) representatives at Towamensing Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Brittany Zeky	Grades K and 1	\$1,773.00
Kathryn Malay	Grades 2 and 3	\$1,773.00
Susan Deem	Grade 4	\$1,773.00
Lisa Ward	Grade 5	\$1,773.00
Jaclyn Ivancich	Grade 6	\$1,773.00

Approved the following curriculum advisory council (CAC) representatives at the Junior High School for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Brad Landis	Math/Science Co-Advisor	\$ 886.50
Amy Morgan	Math/Science Co-Advisor	\$ 886.50
Kimberly Seiler	Social Studies	\$1,773.00
Kathryn Zurn	English/LA	\$1,773.00

Approved the following curriculum advisory council (CAC) representatives at the High School for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Miranda Allen	Dept. Chair, Secondary Specialist	\$1,773.00
Jennifer Danzeisen	Dept. Chair, Business Education	\$1,773.00
Dawn Burke	Dept. Co-Chair, English	\$ 886.50
Kerry Palumbo	Dept. Co-Chair, English	\$ 886.50
Susan Dellicker	Dept. Chair, World Language	\$1,773.00
Jeremy Coleman	Dept. Chair, Health/PE	\$1,773.00
Tammy Muniz	Dept. Chair, Mathematics	\$1,773.00
Jeanne Knepper	Dept. Chair, Science	\$1,773.00
Michael Gombert	Dept. Co-Chair, Social Studies	\$ 886.50
Paul McArdle	Dept. Co-Chair, Social Studies	\$ 886.50

### COMPUTER COACHES

Approved the following computer coaches for the 2023-2024 school year subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement:

Holly Sell	Parkside	\$1,845.00
William Acierno	S.S. Palmer	\$1,845.00
Tyler Svetik	S.S. Palmer	\$1,845.00
Kelly Beblavy	Towamensing	\$1,845.00
Krystle Meglio	Towamensing	\$1,845.00
Brianna Carroll	Junior High	\$1,845.00
Amy Morgan	Junior High	\$1,845.00
Tammy Muniz	High School	\$1,845.00
Justin Petersen	High School	\$1,845.00
Andrew Remsing	High School	\$1,845.00

# WINTER COACHES

Approved the following Winter Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

BASKETBALL-BOYS:		
Kenneth Termini	Head Coach	\$6,415.00
Brian Stevko	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Michael J. Horvath	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Joseph Egan	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Dylan Knouse	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Arthur George III	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Austin Luers	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
BASKETBALL-GIRLS:		
Jeremy Coleman	Head Coach	\$6,415.00
James Hay	Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
Travis Fink	Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
Jason DeWalt	Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,100.00
Jarrad Hedes	Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,100.00
Erika Coleman	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
WRESTLING:		
Justin Petersen	Head Coach	\$6,415.00
Zachary Christman	Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
Joshua Rake	Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
Alfredo Ortiz, Jr.	Assistant Coach	\$4,200.00
Jacob Christman	Volunteer Assistant Coach	

Shawn Gardner	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Matthew Lalik	Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Thomas Pasquariello	Volunteer Assistant Coach	

### **COACHES**

Approved the following Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year effective June 21, 2023:

Ethan Recker	Football Volunteer Assistant Coach	
Shawn Leadbetter	Football Volunteer Assistant Coach	

### **ACCOMPANISTS**

Approved the following effective for the 2023-2024 school year:

Joseph Plechavy	Accompanist	Towamensing Chorus
Frank Hall	Accompanist	High School Chorus

### TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS

Approved tuition reimbursements

# FACILITIES CONTRACTS

Approved the following facilities contracts for the 2023-2024 school year:

1.	ABE Laboratories	Domestic well water testing – Towamensing	
2.	George's Sewer & Drain	Pump out septic system – Towamensing	
3.	Johnson Controls	Fire alarm testing, fire & security alarm monitoring- district wide	
4.	Kistler O'Brien	Fire extinguishers & Ansul system testing – HS/JHS/Towamensing	
5.	Kleen Air Systems	Kitchen grease exhaust systems – HS/JHS/Towamensing	
6.	NRG Controls North	Building automation control maintenance – district wide	
7.	Proasys	Heating/cooling water treatment – district wide	
8.	Brightly Software	Facility requests for use program – district wide	
9.	Security Service Co.	Security & fire alarm monitoring – S.S. Palmer/Towamensing	
10.	Seitz	Exterminator service – district wide	
11.	SSM Group	Asbestos inspection; asbestos awareness training – Facility staff	
12.	Waste Management	Trash & recycling removal – district wide	

### SENIOR CLASS OF 2023

Accepted the status that the designated members of the Senior Class of 2023 have completed the graduation requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Board of School Directors of the Palmerton Area School District

### CMP D&A

Approved the Letter of Agreement with the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$22,200.00

### SCHWAB-PSYCHOLOGIST

Approved the agreement with James R. Schwab, psychologist, for behavioral intervention, counseling, and risk/threat assessments at the rate of \$110.00 per hour as needed for the 2023-2024 school year

### PEDIATRIC THER.

Approved the Therapy Services Agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc., from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

SERVICES (Speech)

**BHA** 

Approved the contract for services with Behavioral Health Associates for the 2023-2024 school year

### BHA COST-SAVINGS

Approves the Cost-Savings Program with Behavioral Health Associates for the 2023-2024 school year

### **DONATIONS**

Accepted the following donations:

Earl & Danielle Paules	\$1,000.00	For student lunch debt
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A&A Towing & Recovery	\$1,000.00	For student lunch debt
Bradco Systems, Inc.	\$2,000.00	For student lunch debt
Class of 2014 Parents' Club	\$1,000.00	To the Environmental Activity Club

### 2<sup>nd</sup> READING & ADOPTION POLICY 251

Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

1) Policy #251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care & Other Educational Instability

### END OF CONSENT AGENDA

### BUDGET 2023-2024

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the Palmerton Area School District General Operating Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year with a real estate tax levy of 64.9150 mills (a 2.0 mill increase over 2022-2023) with budgetary expenditures of \$38,963,218.00. The Board also authorizes, as a part of the General Operating Budget adoption, the Section 679 Per Capita Tax of \$5.00: Act 511 Earned Income Tax of 1.00%; Act 511 Per Capita Tax of \$10.00: Act 511 Realty Transfer Tax of 1.00%; Local Services Tax of \$5.00. The Board reaffirms and reenacts all collection procedures that are applicable to the local service tax, Section 679 and 511 Per Capita tax and Act 511 Earned Income Tax, and Act 511 Realty transfer tax.

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

### GENERAL FUND TRANSFER

Director King moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve a General Fund transfer in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the Capital Reserve fund.

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

### MCCLURE CO. ENERGY SAVINGS-WEIGHT ROOM HVAC

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to approve the Performance Based Energy Savings Agreement with McClure Company for the weight room HVAC project.

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

### HS MUSIC TEACHER

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to approve Matthew Blanchard as High School Music Teacher at Bachelor's, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$47,000 effective August 15, 2023 conditioned upon the inclusion of this position in the approved 2023-2024 district budget and subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

# ELEM. MUSIC TEACHER

Director Larvey moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve Audrey Hoffman as Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher at Bachelor's, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$47,000 effective August 15, 2023 conditioned upon the approval of the 2023-2024 district budget and subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified collective bargaining agreement for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

### SOCIAL WORKER

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve Christina Bravo as Social Worker, as a Group Three employee per the Act 93 Memorandum of Understanding, at an annual salary of \$60,000 effective July 1, 2023.

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

### GIRLS' WRESTLING TEAM

Director King moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the creation of a girls' wrestling team beginning with the winter 2023-2024 season which will include one (1) assistant coach under the supervision of the wrestling head coach with a yearly stipend of \$4,200.00.

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Mazepa stated he hope student Gretchen Schaible reaches her dream of being wrestling team captain; wished the FBLA team good luck in Atlanta next week for their national competition
- Director King wished the International Travelers Club success on their upcoming trip to Greece
- Director Larvey acknowledged Coach Gombert who was named Coach of the Year for boys' track
- Director Paules stated there will be an executive session immediately following the meeting this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director King, to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary