

# PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<p><b>ROLL CALL</b></p> <p><b>OTHER ATTENDANCE</b></p>	<p>An executive session was held Tuesday, August 15, 2023, and after today's special board meeting concerning legal and personnel matters.</p> <p>The special 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, September 5, 2023, immediately following the board workshop, at 6:19 p.m. President Recker presided.</p> <p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Larvey, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Recker, and Snyder</p> <p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary</p> <p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome back everyone to the new school year which has been smooth thus far; along with Ms. Schuler, each building was visited each day last week</li><li>• At this weekend's community festival, a 2<sup>nd</sup> free book distribution will be held by the district, look for the stand on Saturday; thank you to all volunteer participants</li><li>• Acknowledged the football players and coach who volunteered on Labor Day at the Aquashicola Fire Department to help install new sod on the playground; kudos to Coach Walkowiak who leads by example</li><li>• Thank you to Mr. Borland, who worked with Mrs. Husar, to hold the "Senior Sunrise" event this year for students; planning a "Senior Sunset" at the end of the year; hope to have this as a senior tradition</li></ul> <p><b>BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State has passed the budget and now we know our expected funding for the year; expecting to receive \$8,254,754 in basic education funding, compared to our budgeted amount of \$7,266,262, meaning a difference of \$988k; for our special education budget subsidy, expecting to receive \$1,601,778, compared to our budgeted \$1,502,444, which is a difference of \$99,334</li><li>• No movement on charter schools within the state budget</li><li>• State is providing funding to districts for universal free breakfasts for students; students identified as eligible for reduced-price lunches through the national school lunch program will not be charged for their meals</li></ul> <p><b>BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Director Haas – Library:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Basket raffle ongoing through this weekend</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terry Kuehner – stated the Board has no jurisdiction to create the bathroom in the weight room and should reconsider this for liability reasons based on federal and state laws on gender; the Board has no authority in asking the taxpayers for such a room; reconsider and proceed with caution</li><li>• Constance Banko – property taxpayers should be able to vote on the weight room project; need to have balance between needs for education and sports; consider those property owners who are funding this project</li></ul>
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- Richard Banko – why isn't there a driver's education program in the district if we can spend \$1m on a training/weight room facility? only homeowners should be on school boards

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**IAS**

Approved the following as Instructional Assistants at a rate of \$17.41 per hour effective September 6, 2023:

Kaitlin Ribble
Jill Ruff

**MENTOR CLARIFICATION**

Clarified the position held by Tammy Hoffman as Co-Mentor for Chelsea Hutnick for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$745.00 from Mentor as approved August 15, 2023

**MENTORS**

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

Craig Borland, Co-Mentor	for Valarie Kuehner	\$745.00 prorated effective September 6, 2023
Lori Bonner, Co-Mentor	for Chelsea Hutnick	\$745.00

**PAMPA**

Approved the following Palmerton Area Music Parents' Association (PAMPA) Volunteer Chaperones for the 2023-2024 school year effective September 6, 2023:

Michelle Brown
Kimberly Hofmann

**CROSSING GUARD**

Approved the Contracted Crossing Guard Employment Agreement with the following for the 2023-2024 school year:

Linda Koch
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**RESIGNATIONS**

Accepted the following resignations:

Kelly Bordner	Special Education Teacher	Effective August 29, 2023
Rebecca Christman	Instructional Assistant	Effective August 18, 2023
Jennifer Figueroa	Instructional Assistant	Effective August 23, 2023
Michael Gombert	Co-Mentor for Valarie Kuehner	Effective August 30, 2023

**1<sup>st</sup> READINGS POLICIES #114-115-116-117-118-119**

Approved the first readings of the following policies:

- 1) Policy #114 Gifted Education
- 2) Policy #115 Career & Technical Education
- 3) Policy #116 Tutoring
- 4) Policy #117 Homebound Instruction
- 5) Policy #118 Independent Study
- 6) Policy #119 Current Events

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**WEIGHT ROOM RENO-CMG**

Director King, seconded by Director Snyder, to award the general contracting bid for the weight room renovation project to CMG of Easton, Inc., at a cost of \$477,449.00

**WEIGHT ROOM  
RENO-  
McCLURE CO.**

Aye Votes: Directors Connell, King, Mazepa, and Recker.

Nay Votes: Directors Haas, Larvey, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder. Motion Failed.

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Amendment with McClure Company based on the scope of work identified in McClure Plumbing and Electrical Drawings at a cost of \$307,027.00, pending solicitor review.

Aye Votes: Directors Connell, King, Mazepa, and Recker.

Nay Votes: Directors Haas, Larvey, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder. Motion Failed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Debbie Heisler – concerned with oversight on fundraising that parents are made to do with sports’ teams. Director Recker stated each parents’ club controls their own fundraising and urged her to contact Dr. Frankelli with additional questions/concerns.
- Kris Schaible – now that the weight room project is not moving forward as planned, how does the Board plan to comply with Title IX? This is not just for the sport of wrestling. Was the failed vote solely based on the higher costs? Director Larvey answered that they were taken aback about the increase in the projects’ cost which was just received several days ago and are trying to be responsible with the district’s money. Director Recker stated we agreed to the design but didn’t know about the actual costs and that the Board is open to other cost-saving ideas. Ms. Schaible asked if the plans or designs weren’t as expected then why did the project go out for bid. Ms. Schiable asked what the plan is moving forward so all students can get what they need to be the best they can be. Director Connell stated perhaps we can get more bidders on the project which would give us a better timeline for completion. Director Earl Paules stated we will get this project done.
- Richard Banko – when will the S.S. Palmer project be started? Director Connell answered the Board will be readdressing it in November
- Constance Banko – thanked Director Larvey for her explanation on the weight room vote and is glad to hear the needs of the taxpayers are being considered; there has to be an alternative where it won’t cost so much, and the kids can still get what they need

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Director Recker stated the community festival will be held this weekend, thank you to all who volunteer
- Director Recker stated an executive session will be held tonight after the meeting for personnel matters

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Larvey, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless  
Board Secretary