

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>OTHER ATTENDANCE</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 20, 2024, and called to order at 5:31 p.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream on the district’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, Krawchuk, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder Absent: Director King</p> <p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger– Solicitor</p> <p>STUDENT REPORT:</p> <p><u>Elementary</u> – select students were recognized for their leadership skills through the Leader in Me program with a certificate signed by the Superintendent and Board President: Joshua DeSousa, Kayleigh Collier; Mary Farrell at S. S. Palmer Elementary; and Easton Kovacs, Bo Knepper, Jonathon Frei, Lydia Carlson, Addison Seo, Owen Fox, and Mya Lengel at Towamensing Elementary</p> <p><u>Junior High School</u> – Ashlyn Wechsler, grade 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bomber Pride Day – some students created Valentine’s Day cards to support Blue Ridge Communication’s Touch A Heart campaign; cards were mostly distributed to individuals in personal care homes in the area• Boys’ Basketball – concluded their season; demonstrated dedication and commitment to the team• Digital News Club – broadcasted their second news show this month showcasing recent happenings• Science – Mr. Landis’ 8th grade classes are gearing up for March Mammal Madness which will focus on simulated encounters with mammals using science and probability to determine outcomes of “battles”; the goal is to provide a way to spread scientific knowledge about mammals, as well as awareness of ecology and animal conservation; student’s points will be tracked with top student winning a prize• Girls’ wrestling – first ever JH girls’ district tournament held at Parkland HS; our district will send four wrestlers: Makenna Ringler, Izabella McFarland, Lila Faust-Sanseverino, and Nickayla Tomsic• Band – Caleb Heist, Anna Borger, and Jacob Shafer represented the district at the PMEA District Intermediate Band & Orchestra Festival <p><u>High School</u> – Megan Matsko, grade 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art – Erica Tworkowsky, grade 12, was awarded the “Serene Sanctuary” community award from Healing Through the Arts for her painting; she donated her artwork to the 14th Annual Hope & Healing Juried Art Show which will be on display at the Allentown Art Museum• German Class – students learning about “Karneval”, also known as Fastnacht, which is a celebration before fasting in Lent• Guidance – Brayden Newhard and Dillon Borger, both grade 10, will represent the district at the HOBY Youth Leadership conference in June at Neumann University• Environmental Science – tomorrow in Mrs. Freed’s classes, Officer DeLong from the PA Fish and Boat Commission will speak about career options in the field• Mock Trial – prosecution team and defense team won and will now compete in finals this Monday at Monroe County Courthouse; if they win, will go onto the regional competition in March; Best
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Attorney award: Nicole Kester and TJ Taglieri, both grade 12; Best Witness: Kevin O’Neil, grade 10, and Skylar Benninger, grade 11

- PYEA – finalized second semester observations and student teaching; will meet for the next seven weeks, working with the same class
- Scholastic Scrimmage – won two of last three league matches; hosting county academic competition on March 14
- International Travelers Club – due to civil unrest in Ecuador, club will now visit Costa Rica in 2025
- English – Maddy Wentz, grade 12, won the regional Poetry Out Loud competition; will now complete at the state level in Harrisburg on March 4
- Athletics – winter sports have ended with all programs eligible for postseason; boys’ wrestling qualified for team districts; girls’ wrestling competed in first ever District 11 tournament with Gretchen Schaible, grade 12, finishing 5th and Skylar Benninger, grade 11, finishing 4th, in their weight classes; boys’ and girls’ basketball preparing for districts to begin on Saturday; first girls’ basketball league championship in 26 years

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Congratulations to Maddy Wentz for qualifying for the Poetry Out Loud state competition in March; first time we have had a regional winner
- Thank you to Rep. Heffley for giving citations to some of our athletes recently
- Please visit the Great PA Schools website for stories periodically run about our district
- Received mental health grant which will pay for our social worker next year; also received grant to implement bullying prevention program

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Gov. Shapiro presented his proposed budget which includes over \$1b for basic education funding (a 13% increase) of \$50 million increase in special education funding, \$50 million increase in school safety and security grants, \$30 million increase in pre-k counts, \$300 million for school environmental repairs, and \$15 million student teacher stipend program; also included cyber charter reform, which would cap the rate of students at \$8k which alone would save the district over \$1m
- State departments heads will begin hearings with lawmakers on budget priorities while legislative leaders and administration will hash out spending and revenue agreements ahead of the June 30th deadline; attended a meeting today with Sen. David Argall, who is chair of Education Committee, to hear his thoughts on the process and for him to listen to district budget priorities, in which charter school reform was a hot topic
- Until state budget is approved, none of the proposed numbers are in our 2024-2025 budget
- PA Department of Education announced today that free school breakfast meals for all students, as well as free lunches for eligible reduced-price students, will be continuing; these provisions are now in school code and would take legislative action to remove them

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Danielle Paules – CCTI:
 - Showed picture of the Robotics Club robot, “Oswald” and 2 students that placed at SkillsUSA recently
- Director Haas – Library/CLIU:
 - *Library*: Rooks & Books Chess Club; hosting a Phantoms hockey game March 23 with special ticket pricing and \$5 back to library for each ticket sold; Read Across America March 1; Plant a Flower Day, March 12; live play at story time on March 15; Concourse Club Bingo April 7 at Aquashicola Fire Company; all info on website
 - *IU*: special toy adaptation by students shown at last meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Weight room renovation:* construction document design meeting February 9; reviewed drawings, added some lighting in shower room, painting of room, and installing new lighting in weight room area, awaiting prices for these changes; ALLOY5 met with McClure on February 15 to go over mechanical layout; HVAC rooftop unit placed by McClure last week; project went out for bid February 16; timeline still good
- *Feasibility study:* mandatory walkthrough today; 11 companies in attendance; met with each principal in their buildings to discuss their issues and concerns with the common concern being a lack of educational space now and moving forward; discussed redistricting of the elementary schools; will add an option to include a demographic study in each bid because without it the study cannot include redistricting or the possibility of changing grades among schools; RFPs due March 22; timeline on track

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

MEETING MINUTES

Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve the board meeting minutes from January 23, 2024.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve the attached consent agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

FISCAL REPORTS

Approved Accounts Payable Reports

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Approved Treasurer’s Reports

Approved Budget Transfers

SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

Accepted the Single Audit Report dated fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 as presented by Gorman & Associates, P.C.

AUDIT SERVICES-GORMAN

Approved the three-year agreement with Gorman and Associates, P.C., for audit services at the following rates:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Audit Fee	\$23,500	\$24,750	\$26,000
Single Audit Fee	\$3,700	\$3,900	\$4,100
AFR Fee	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Hourly Rate for Additional Services	\$100	\$105	\$110

TAX COLLECTOR EXONERATION

Approved to exonerate the following current tax collectors from the collection of the 2023-2024 school year delinquent per capita taxes effective January 1, 2024:

Bowmanstown Borough	Maria Smith	\$ 1,810.00
Lower Towamensing Township	Maxine Scherer	\$ 6,330.00
Palmerton Borough	Lisa Nemeth	\$12,930.00
Towamensing Township	Nicole Strausberger	\$ 7,830.00

PER CAPITA EXONERATION	Approved the per capita tax exoneration list																																
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR-LT SUB	Approved Kayla Masington as Part-Time (.4) Elementary Guidance Counselor Long-Term Substitute at Bachelor's +24, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$48,243.00 prorated effective upon receipt of emergency certification																																
FLEX-TIME CUSTODIAN	Approved Tracey George as Part-Time Flex Custodian at a rate of \$12.87 per hour effective February 21, 2024																																
HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT	Acknowledged the following horizontal movement effective the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year:																																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 499 609 541">Kimberly Seiler</td> <td data-bbox="609 499 1109 541">From Master's +45 to Master's +60</td> </tr> </table>	Kimberly Seiler	From Master's +45 to Master's +60																														
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UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE	Approved the following uncompensated leave request:																																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 640 609 682">Employee #2016</td> <td data-bbox="609 640 1109 682">April 11, 2024 (1/2 day)</td> </tr> </table>	Employee #2016	April 11, 2024 (1/2 day)																														
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FMLA	Approved the following for Family & Medical Leave:																																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 779 609 821">Employee #281</td> <td data-bbox="609 779 1344 821">Effective from March 18, 2024 until released by physician</td> </tr> </table>	Employee #281	Effective from March 18, 2024 until released by physician																														
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MENTOR	Approve retroactively the following Mentor for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year:																																
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COACHES	Approved the following Coaches for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year effective February 21, 2024:																																
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John Schaible	Track Volunteer Assistant Coach	--																															
SPRING EVENT WORKERS	Approved the following as Spring Event Workers at a rate of \$23.00 per event effective February 21, 2024:																																
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TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS	Approved tuition reimbursements																																
HS PROGRAM OF STUDIES	Approved the 2024-2025 Program of Studies for the Palmerton Area High School																																

CONFERENCES	Approved the following conferences:		
Christina Bravo	PREPaRE Training: Comprehensive School Safety Planning, East Stroudsburg, PA	March 18, 2024	Estimated cost of \$80.82
Christina Bravo	PREPaRE Training: Mental Health Crisis Interventions, East Stroudsburg, PA	March 19, 2024 and March 20, 2024	Estimated cost of \$121.64
Mary Kay Writer	Train-the-Trainer: Best Strategies to Improve Executive Function Skills, (online)	March 7, 2024 and March 8, 2024	Estimated cost of \$645.00
Jamie Schuler	PA Department of Education Data Summit, Hershey, PA	March 10, 2024 through March 13, 2024	Estimated cost of \$1,011.56
FIELD TRIP	Approved the field trip request to attend the 2024 PA Poetry Out Loud State Finals in Harrisburg, PA on March 3-4, 2024 with hotel costs fully funded by the PA Council on the Arts		
1st READING POLICY 005	Approved the first reading of the following policy: 1) Policy #005 Organization		
END OF CONSENT AGENDA			
CLIU #21 BUDGET	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve the 2024-2025 General Operating Budget of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.		
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
LCCC BUDGET	Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to approve the Lehigh Carbon Community College Operating Budget, Debt Service/Leases, and Capital Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025.		
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
MOU PAESPA	Director Earl Paules moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Palmerton Area Education Support Professionals Association.		
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
RESIGNATIONS TO CCTI JOC	Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to retroactively accept the resignation of Earl Paules as the CCTI Representative to the Joint Operating Committee effective February 15, 2024.		
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
	Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to retroactively accept the resignation of Danielle Paules as the CCTI Alternate Representative to the Joint Operating Committee effective February 15, 2024.		
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		

APPOINTMENTS TO CCTI JOC-unexpired terms	<p>Director Krawchuk was appointed as CCTI Representative to the Joint Operating Committee for the completion of the unexpired three-year term through December 2024</p> <p>Director Schaible was appointed as Alternate CCTI Representative to the Joint Operating Committee for the completion of the unexpired one-year term through December 2024</p> <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None <p>FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director Haas stated an executive session will be held immediately following this evening’s regular meeting for personnel reasons
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Connell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary</p>