

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>OTHER ATTENDANCE</p>	<p>An executive session was held today before the regular board meeting concerning personnel matters and again today after the regular board meeting concerning 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, April 16, 2024, and called to order at 5:35 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 Haas, King, Krawchuk, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder Absent: Director Connell</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 in the Leader in Me program with a certificate signed by the Superintendent and Board President: Henry Lang, Mylee Arnold, Ibrahim Khan, and Natalie Piggott at S. S. Palmer Elementary; and Sawyer Graves, Aubrey Rodgers, Tanner Kovacs, Gabrielle Tegethoff, Kimberly Tegethoff, Trentin Pasquariello, and Jenna Cwierniewicz at Towamensing Elementary</p> <p><u>Junior High School</u> – Geno Hardy, grade 7, Angel Avila, Seth Eyrich, grade 8, submitted video report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pizza party – on Pi Day for designing creative children’s book posters for Read Across America• Math classes – held fun Pi Day activities using cookies and the HS track• ACE Team – competed at Tamaqua on March 18-19• Life Skills – learned about the solar eclipse and astronomers• PSSA – getting ready for start on April 25• Attorney General’s office spoke to students about cyber security and safety on April 4• NJHS – volunteered at Lehigh Gap Nature Center on April 20 for annual Earth Day cleanup• 7th Grade Social Studies – focusing on collaboration and communication by creating cross-sectional assessments, developing marketing strategies, designing storyboards, and working idioms into conversations• March Mammal Madness – Zachary Borger, grade 8, achieved the top score in the bracket; Mr. Landis won in the teacher bracket <p><u>High School</u> – Maddie Everett, grade 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Envirothon – Team Hagfish V.3, Gretchen Schaible, Kellen Trotter, Adriana Fugazzotto, Noah Marks, and Josh Rehatchek, moving on to state competition on May 22. Also joining them are Nature Nerds, Katie DeAngelo, Brielle Weaver, Makenzie Hilton, Chris Garey, and Breonna Alvarado• Scholastic Scrimmage – finished 5-4 record in league• PYEA – students developing their skills and relationships in the classroom; sharing experiences with each other• Guidance – five students attended the Carbon County Student Advisory Council Meeting on April 15, accompanied by Ms. Bravo, Social Worker, and Mr. Wertz, Guidance Counselor; Mr. Wertz put survey out for students to help create counseling groups for next year• Earth Day – 9th and 10th graders used specific lessons from the PA STEELS standards to study the importance of the human impact on global ocean systems; AP Biology will focus on human
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impact on organism diversity in global ecosystems; Lehigh Gap Nature Center will be at HS to give presentation

- Buddies Club – will participate in running, throwing, and jumping event with their peers and members; provides students from 20 districts the opportunity to participate in activities they may not otherwise be a part of
- Like Skills – Mr. Wysocki, new Life Skills teacher, seen eating lunch in the cafeteria with his students; also had a musical instrument lesson which the students loved
- Science Award – Emma Fugazzotto, grade 11, is recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Science Award, given to a junior who displays exemplary work in the science classroom; eligible for scholarship
- NHS – played games, painted eggs, made arts and crafts with Charley Brown Nursery students on March 28; thank you to Dr. Frankelli for entering article on this in *The Great PA Schools*
- Athletics – halfway through spring season; had a number of postponements due to weather; boys' tennis favored in upcoming matches; baseball team is currently 2-7; softball team is 6-1 so far; track and field boys are 4-0 and the girls are 2-2

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Congratulations to Sixth Sense team who place 4th in annual competition recently
- Congratulations to FBLA students; watched awards ceremony online
- Scholastic Scrimmage competed at CLIU; thank you to Mr. Knoll, advisor
- Earth Day activities celebrated today at Palmer/Parkside; held bee presentation by Gretchen and Kris Schaible; thank you to 6th grade leaders who did an exceptional job
- Great job to our Drama Club in the presentation of *Chicago*; kudos to our advisors and students for an amazing show
- Mr. Brian Stevko, JHS teacher, will be defending his doctoral dissertation next week; will be serving on his committee as a reader

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Proposed budget presentation will be held at next workshop; state revenue still undetermined

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Danielle Paules – PSBA:
 - New school director online monthly exchange, next date April 18
 - PHEAA now accepting applications for next school year for student teachers; provides stipends and additional funds to student teachers with a commitment for teacher to work a minimum 3 years in PA. Director King remarked there is a big push now to have students enter education field
- Director Krawchuk – CCTI:
 - Requesting transparency on field trip allocations; currently working through contract negotiations; addressing goals for improving student attendance
- Director Haas – CLIU/Library:
 - *Library*: Recent bingo grossed \$5,500; Mother's Day Craft Day for children on May 3 & 7; book journal workshop ongoing; National Creativity Day on May 30; National Screen-Free Week Challenge May 6-11
 - *IU*: will attend some of the upcoming graduations; Dr. Koons with IU for one year now

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Palmer Elementary clocktower roof replacement*: Mr. Joe Faenza stated on April 8 a structural forensic engineer checked the integrity of the clocktower roof. He noticed some corrosion of the reinforcing steel and deterioration of roof slab. We are currently installing some temporary shoring by our maintenance staff which was recommended by the engineer as a precaution until the permanent repair is complete. On the agenda this evening, is a vote to approve Barry Isett engineers to further observe the conditions and recommend structural design and sketches for proper repairs and opinion of cost. No imminent danger to structure. Hopeful to get work done

before the end of May as it needs to be complete before roof is replaced. The flagpole should be relocated to ground level close to where the building sign is now.

- *Weight room renovation:* pre-construction meeting this morning, contracts signed
- *S.S. Palmer Elementary renovation:* pre-construction meeting was held this afternoon. Dr. Frankelli stated a discussion was held with all the contractors present about moving the construction start date to before school is over this year; contractors are willing to start earlier before school is out for the year. Would like to transition students to virtual learning before end of this school year, as the goal is having the building ready on time for students for next year. Issues that need to be discussed such as allowing enough time to notify parents of upcoming virtual days, breakfast and lunch availability for students, schedule of synchronous/asynchronous learning times, special education services, transportation, technology access, and end-of-year events and happenings were brought up. Much further discussion followed as to whether to go virtual at end of May into early June and also if district should delay start of 2024-2025 school year to after Labor Day. Principal Andrews stated it would be beneficial to give construction as much time possible to get the project done; better to start the 2024-2025 year in person, so Palmer could go virtual at end of next month and delay start for the entire district until after Labor Day 2024. Consensus is not to approve the calendar as presented on consent agenda this evening and vote on a new calendar on May 7th with a start for the district after Labor Day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

MEETING MINUTES

Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the board meeting minutes from March 19, 2024.

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

REMOVE 2024-2025 CALENDAR from CONSENT AGENDA

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director King, to remove from the consent agenda Item #3, Other, Letter A, 2024-2025 school calendar.

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

2024-2025 CALENDAR FAILED

Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to approve the 2024-2025 school district calendar including the following official local school district holidays pursuant to Section 1502:

November 29, 2024	December 31, 2024	May 23, 2025
December 24, 2024	April 18, 2025	

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

CONSENT AGENDA WITH TABLED EXCEPTIONS

Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the consent agenda except to table Item #1, Fiscal, Letter A, accounts payable line item, payment #32713 only, and to table Item #3, Other, Letter E, #10, first reading of policy 816 only.

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

AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA

Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Snyder to approve the amended consent agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

FISCAL REPORTS

Approved Accounts Payable Reports

Approved Treasurer’s Reports

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Approved Budget Transfers

FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL DONATION

Approved the food service contract renewal with Metz Culinary Management, Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year

Accepted the following donation:

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Towamensing	to FBLA Activity Club	\$840.00
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MEMORIAL TREE

Accepted the replacement memorial tree donation from the Class of 1999 in memory of classmate Stacey Cotton

PSSA SPANISH INTERPRETERS

Approved the following as Spanish Interpreters for PSSA testing for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$36.00 per hour effective April 17, 2024:

Alfred Bravo
Alysia Phillips

UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

Approved the following uncompensated leave request:

Employee #632	May 9, 2024 and May 10, 2024; May 20, 2024 through May 23, 2024
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MENTORS

Approved retroactively the following Co-Mentors for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year effective April 9, 2024:

Christine Owens	for Benjamin Wysocki	\$745.00 prorated
Kristen Perdew	for Benjamin Wysocki	\$745.00 prorated

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Approved Melissa Hoffman to teach five (5) hours a week of homebound instruction at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement through June 30, 2024

SUBSTITUTES

Approved the following Substitutes effective April 17, 2024:

Cindy Kuntzman	Substitute Teacher	\$110.00 daily rate
Spencer LaRiviere	Substitute Teacher	\$110.00 daily rate

SUB REMOVAL

Removed the following from the current substitution list effective April 17, 2024:

Renee Schuler

RESIGNATION

Accepted the following resignation effective April 19, 2024:

Jennifer Hedmeck	Food Service Worker
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**TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS
CLIU TECHNOLOGY POOL**

Approved tuition reimbursements

Approved the CLIU #21 Technology Pool Legal Services Consultation Agreement beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

<p>CLIU FACILITIES PLAN</p> <p>POWERSCHOOL ALL CALL</p>	<p>Approved the 2024-2025 CLIU #21 Facilities Plan Recommendation</p> <p>Approved agreement with PowerSchool Group, LLC, for the SchoolMessenger Communicate All-Call system beginning May 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025</p>
<p>1st READING POLICIES 203-203.1-209-209.1-209.2-239-250-251-254</p>	<p>Approved the first reading of the following policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policy #203 Immunizations & Communicable Diseases 2) Policy #203.1 HIV Infection 3) Policy #209 Health Examinations/Screenings 4) Policy #209.1 Food Allergy Management 5) Policy #209.2 Diabetes Management 6) Policy #239 Foreign Exchange Students 7) Policy #250 Student Recruitment 8) Policy #251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care & Other Educational Instability 9) Policy #254 Educational Opportunities for Military Children
<p>1st READING TO REPEAL 203.2-203.3</p>	<p>Approved the first reading to repeal the following policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policy #203.2 AIDS 2) Policy #203.3 Universal Precautions
<p>2nd READING & ADOPTION POLICIES 006.2-237-815-815.1</p>	<p>Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policy #006.2 Broadcasting Board Meetings 2) Policy #237 Electronic Devices 3) Policy #815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers & Network Resources 4) Policy #815.1 Use of Livestream Video on School District Property
<p>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</p>	
<p>CCTI BUDGET 2024-2025</p>	<p>Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve the 2024-2025 Proposed Secondary Budget for Carbon Career & Technical Institute, calling for Receipts and Expenditures in the amount of \$9,305,429.00 to be forwarded as presented to the Boards of School Directors in each of the participating school districts for final adoption by Resolution.</p> <p>Aye Votes: Directors Haas, King, Krawchuk, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Schaible, and Snyder Nay Votes: Director Earl Paules. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>FEASIBILITY STUDY-RLPS</p>	<p>Director King moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to accept the proposal from RLPS Architects, Lancaster, PA, for the feasibility study at a cost of \$13,900.00 and for the demographic study at a cost of \$4,900.00 for a grand total of \$18,800.00.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>PALMER ROOF BID</p>	<p>Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to award the bid for the S. S. Palmer Elementary School roof replacement project to Centre Roofing & Coatings, LLC, Belleville, PA, at a cost of \$434,000.00.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>

**PALMER RENO-
EC**

Director King moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to award the Electrical Construction bid for the S. S. Palmer Elementary renovation project to West Side Hammer Electric, Bethlehem, PA, at a cost of \$168,750.00.

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

**PALMER
CLOCKTOWER
ROOF**

Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to accept the Proposal For Structural Engineering Services for the S. S. Palmer Elementary clocktower roof replacement at an estimated cost of \$6,000.00.

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

**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
PLAN**

Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the Special Education Plan for the 2024-2027 school years.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Constance Banko – asked what the job description and responsibilities of the Director of Human Resources will be; asked what the benefits to taxpayers on adding this position’s expenses to the budget will be
- Richard Banko – asked if there was a probation period for hiring of salaried positions

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Haas stated an executive session will be held immediately following this evening’s regular meeting for personnel matters

ADJOURNMENT

Director King moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless
Board Secretary