

HOLLIDAYSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES

The Hollidaysburg Area School Board met for a Reorganization and Committee of the Whole/Voting Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 in the Senior High Library, 1510 N. Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg. Ms. Bilek called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m and opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Caldwell took roll call with eight members present. Attending were Ms. Bilek, President, Ms. Costanza, Vice-President, Dr. Sommer, Dr. Li, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Luther, and Dr. Wells. Mr. Brenneman participated virtually. Ms. Sullivan was absent.

Also present were Mr. Whitesel, Superintendent, Mrs. Boone, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Prosser, Director of Special Education, Mrs. Bell, Director of Accounting Operations, Mr. Caldwell, Director of Human Resource/Transportation, Mr. Nihart, Director of Physical Plant, Mr. Arthur, Director of Technology, Ms. Faith, Foundation Director/Grant Administrator, Mr. Walstrom, Mrs. McConnell, Mrs. Cerully, Mr. Delattre, Mr. Keagy, Attorney Dambeck, Solicitor and an Altoona Mirror representative.

Student Representative Report

Per Board Policy 004.2-Student Representatives to the Board, Senior Representatives Jefferson McCoy and Madison McLaurin, and Junior Representative Alice Haslam gave their monthly report to the board.

Tiger Paws Certified Therapy Dog Presentation

Mrs. Cerully shared a update on Callie, the Certified Therapy Dog at Foot of Ten Elementary.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Committee Report

There was no report of the Athletic Committee.

Mr. Nihart gave a report of the November 13, 2024 Physical Plant Committee.

PA Broadcaster's Foundation Grant

Deb Faith and Jennifer McConnell presented information on the PA Broadcaster's Foundation Grant for the JH Tiger TV Studio and Control Room.

Board Reorganization

Ms. Bilek announced that all board members were holdover members.

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Holdover Board Members

Carmen Bilek
Scott Brenneman
Jennifer Costanza
Ying Li
Michele Luther
Ronald Sommer
Kenneth Snyder
Missy Sullivan
John Wells

Per Board Policy 005, Local Board Procedures, Ms. Bilek opened the floor to nominations for Temporary Board President. Dr. Wells nominated Dr. Sommer. Mr. Snyder seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Ms. Bilek closed the floor. The nomination carried with eight yes and zero no votes.

Dr. Sommer assumed the role of Temporary Board Chair.

Dr. Sommer opened the floor to nominations for Board President. Ms. Luther nominated Ms. Bilek. Dr. Wells seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Dr. Sommer closed the floor. The nomination carried with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Ms. Bilek assumed the assumed the role of Board President.

Ms. Bilek opened the floor to nominations for Vice President. Dr. Li nominated Ms. Costanza. Ms. Luther seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Ms. Bilek closed the floor. The nomination carried with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Ms. Bilek announced the newly constituted board membership list which lists each board member's term and township or borough they reside in:

Name	Title	Term Expires	Township/Borough
Carmen Bilek	Board Member	12/2025	Frankstown
Scott Brenneman	Board Member	12/2025	Frankstown
Jennifer Costanza	Board Member	12/2025	Frankstown
Michele Luther	Board Member	12/2027	Hollidaysburg Borough
Ying Li	Board Member	12/2027	Frankstown
Missy Sullivan	Board Member	12/2027	Allegheny Township
Ronald Sommer	Board Member	12/2025	Blair Township
Kenneth Snyder	Board Member	12/2027	Allegheny Township
John Wells	Board Member	12/2027	Frankstown Township

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Per Board Policy 005, Local Board Procedures, Dr. Wells initiated a motion, seconded by Dr. Li, to approve the 2025 Board Meeting Calendar for Voting, Committee of the Whole and Committee meetings. The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes. **Exhibit 1**

Business Office Report / Mr. Caldwell

The board met in executive session Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:15p.m. in the Senior High Library for personnel.

January Meetings:

January 15, 2025

Committee of the Whole/Voting

Senior High Library

1510 N. Montgomery Street

Hollidaysburg PA 16648

Time: 7:00p.m.

All board meeting agendas are available in detail for public viewing (3) days prior to each meeting date on BoardDocs. BoardDocs web address is <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/hasd/Board.nsf>. Interested parties should enter the public site.

Per Board Policy 006 Meetings, Dr. Sommer initiated a motion, seconded by Ms. Luther to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

November 13, 2024 Athletic Committee

November 13, 2024 Physical Plant Committee

November 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole/Voting

The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Dr. Li initiated a motion, seconded by Dr. Sommer, to approve the Act 1 Resolution for 2025-2026:

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Hollidaysburg Area School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the next fiscal year 2025-2026 based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index applicable to the school district as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the next fiscal year is 4.9%, and the School Board will not for the next fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index

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3. The School Board has to date and in the future will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
4. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.

The motion carried on a roll call vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes. **Exhibit 2**

Mr. Snyder initiated a motion, seconded by Dr. Wells, to authorize the transfer of funds (retroactive) in the amount of \$2,542,716.63 from the general fund to the capital reserve fund to close out 2023-2024. The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Per Board Policy 006 Meetings, Dr. Sommer initiated a motion, seconded by Ms. Luther to approve the following contracts/agreements:

1. Agreement with Scotch Valley Country Club, effective the 2025-2026 calendar year for practices and PIAA contests Cost: \$3,000 (Budgeted -No Increase, District Paid \$20/per player for 9-hole or 18-hole match (tryouts at match rate) and \$20/player for 9-hole course practice round \$5 Increase each (Parent Paid) **Exhibit 3**
2. Independent Contractor Agreement with Debra Henry effective December 4, 2024 through June 30, 2025 to provide Infinite Campus training services to the District Cost: \$125/hr. (Budgeted) **Exhibit 4**
3. Virtual Author Appearance Confirmation and Letter of Agreement with Gordon Korman effective April 11, 2025 through April 11, 2025 for virtual guest author visit for 6th grade students at Charles W. Longer, Frankstown and Foot of Ten Elementary Schools Cost: \$1,500 (Budgeted) **Exhibit 5**
4. Memorandum of Agreement with Saint Francis University effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026 to operate a District Field Experience and Student Teaching Program No Cost **Exhibit 6**
5. Contract with Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 effective October 24, 2024 through October 30, 2024 for Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Initial Training at Blair Christian School for the 2024-2025 school year Cost: \$280 (Budgeted) **Exhibit 7**
6. Master Service Agreement with Language Lane Services, Inc., effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 to provide qualified and trained interpreters for effective communication with HASD and limited English individuals (typically parents) by converting English into other languages. Cost: Charged per usage (Budgeted) - Exact amount will be determined based on usage through the year. **Exhibit 8**

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7. Collection Service Agreement with Credit Control Collections effective November 21, 2024 through November 20, 2026 for to collect assigned account balances for the HASD tax office No Cost **Exhibit 9**

The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Mr. Caldwell announced that the business manager had entered into the following contract with Peoples Natural Gas.

Peoples Natural Gas	September, 2025 through August, 2028
Western PA Natural Gas Consortium (AIU)	NYMEX minus \$0.500/DTH (budgeted)
	NYMEX is \$0.06/DTH less than current price

Mr. Snyder initiated a motion, seconded by Dr. Wells, to approve items D5 through D9:

Federal Program Budget Adjustments:

2024-2025 Budget:

2023-2024 Title II Increase (Carryover) \$5,030

2022-2023 Title II Increase (Carryover) \$5,521 **Exhibit 10**

Blair County Tax Claim Bureau Repository Bid:

Accept Bid from:

Hollidaysburg Borough: \$250 (Land Only)

Map No: 11.01.09..-022.00-000 **Exhibit 11**

Resolution of Board of School Directors Establishing Fund Balance Policies as required by GASB 54

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Hollidaysburg Area School District recommits the following portions of its June 30, 2025 Capital Reserve Projects Committed Fund Balance as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Hollidaysburg Area School District recommits \$170,000 from the Capital Reserve Projects Committed Fund Balance and transfers \$170,000 to the Unassigned Capital Reserve Fund Balance. **Exhibit 12**

Resolution of Board of School Directors Establishing Fund Balance Policies as required by GASB 54

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Hollidaysburg Area School District recommits the following portions of its June 30, 2025 Retirement Rate Stabilization Committed Fund Balance as follows:

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Hollidaysburg Area School District recommit \$300,759 from the Retirement Rate Stabilization Committed Fund Balance and transfers \$300,759 to the Unassigned General Fund Balance. **Exhibit 13**

Per Board Policy 706.1 Disposal of Surplus Property/Textbooks/Supplies, disposal of various obsolete equipment and books. **Exhibit 14**

The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes.

Superintendent's Report / Mr. Whitesel

Dr. Li initiated a motion, seconded by Ms. Luther, to approve, Per Board Policy 202, Eligibility of Non-Resident Students and Policy 239, Foreign Exchange Students, a Grade 12, Senior High foreign exchange student, and Per Board Policy 614 Payroll Authorizations, personnel actions 1 through 44 dated 12/4/2024 REV 12/3/2024 at 2:14PM. The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero on votes. **Exhibit 15 and 16**

Mr. Whitesel reported that as a result of a recent RVATE assessment, (risk and vulnerability assessment), the state police reported that the districts open campus policy is dangerous and not very secure. District campuses were closed per past policy; however, it hasn't been enforced. New and larger signs are being made and for the safety of students and staff, all campuses will be closed to the community during school hours. The closure includes the track, tennis court, frisbee area, and the Tiger Paw Path. The campuses will remain open in the evenings and in the summer.

President's Report / Ms. Bilek

Dr. Wells initiated a motion, seconded by Mr. Snyder, to approve a Statement of Rights, Waiver of Hearing and Agreement in the case of student ID# ending in 88. The motion carried on a voice vote with eight yes votes and zero no votes. **Exhibit 17**

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Ms. Bilek declared the meeting adjourned at 7:01p.m.



Ben Caldwell
Assistant Board Secretary