

Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
2/24/2025

Present: Director Devine, Director Fleurkens, Director Sainsbury, Director Adams, Ken Murray,
Student Representatives to the Board: Charles Flynn and Roberto Araujo

1. Call to Order

Director Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Flag Salute

Director Adams asked all present to stand for the flag salute.

3. Public Comments

There were no individuals signed in to speak to the Board.

4. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

There were no changes or additions to the posted agenda.

5. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda

Director Sainsbury made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Fleurkens seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2025

ii. Hires

1. Issela Navarro, 6.5 Hr Para at Columbia Ridge
2. Casey Miller, EHS Assistant Fastpitch Coach
3. Samantha Bair, 7.25 Para at Grant School
4. Larry Redfield, EHS Assistant Boys Golf Coach
5. Lauren Rathbone, EHS Assistant Girls Golf Coach

iii. Donations

1. BSN is donating new dumbbells for the weight room, value of \$954, because the current weight room equipment we ordered through the grant is delayed.
2. Weinstein Beverage, \$5,273.57 to purchase a new scoreboard for the JV baseball field. The current JV scoreboard is 30 years old and in need of replacement.
3. Tiger Boosters, \$2,400 to help purchase new backstop padding for the baseball and softball fields. Total estimated cost is \$5,145.21. The remaining will be covered by EHS Extracurricular.

iv. Surplus Items

EHS Track Pole Vault: Complete pit with all pads including top cover, condition of pit is in poor condition

EHS Track High Jump: Complete high jump pit with all pads including top cover, condition of pit is average and can be used for competition

EHS Wrestling Mats: Condition of wrestling mats is poor and have been taken to the dump

Transportation:

Buses:

- Bus 2 - 2006 Blue Bird - Type D (estimated value \$1500) Miles: 264,174 Vin: 1BABNBKA26F234376
- Bus 3 - 2004 Thomas - Type D (estimated value \$1500) Miles: 268,704 Vin: 1T7YT4C2241137250
- Bus 34 – 2000 Blue Bird - Type C (estimated value \$1200) Miles: 238,196 Vin: 1HVBBAAL8YH355359

Vehicles:

- #126 - 2005 Chevy Suburban (estimated value \$2500) Miles: 190,225 Vin: 3GNFK16Z55G120807
- #132 – 2001 Dodge Intrepid (estimated value \$500) Miles: 122,558 Vin: 2B3HD46R11H707059

v. Accounts Payable & Payroll

b. Consider out of State Travel for Parkway LEGO Robotics Team

Parkway LEGO Robotics coaches, Rachel Boruff and Julie Jenne, along with 10 students representing Parkway School, requested approval to attend a national competition in New Jersey on May 17-18, 2025. This event will provide students with a valuable opportunity to visit the Liberty Science Center, home to the largest planetarium in the United States. Beyond robotics, the LEGO Robotics program emphasizes STEM education, teamwork, and future readiness.

Five parents have volunteered as chaperones to ensure student safety throughout the trip. Funding for the coaches and students is available through the Extra-Curricular budget, while chaperones will be responsible for covering their own expenses.

Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel request for the Parkway LEGO Robotics Team. Director Devine seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

c. Approve Quote for High School Kitchen Panel Upgrade

At the October 2024 regular meeting, the Board approved quotes for electrical upgrades at Grant Elementary, Parkway Intermediate, and Ephrata High School. During the High School project, it was discovered that the existing electrical panel needed full replacement, as its breakers were obsolete and irreplaceable. Holmes updated their original quote to include the new panel, increasing the cost by approximately \$5,000. Director Sainsbury moved to approve the revised quote, with Director Fleurkens seconding. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

d. Approve Renewal of the District Firewall and Content Filtering

The Technology Department requests approval for renewal of the district firewall and content filtering through Cruxial Technology Group. This is an annual recurring expense for Primary and Secondary Fortigate 600E Firewalls as well as the 200F FortiAnalyzer which handles all the analytics of the firewalls. The total renewal cost is \$17,043 + Tax. The renewal was quoted using the OMNIA cooperative purchasing agreement. Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the renewal through Cruxial Technology Group. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

e. High Demand CTE Grant - \$20,000

Ephrata School District was recently awarded \$20,000 to develop or upgrade high-demand career and technical programs. These funds will be used to update one of the four business labs at Ephrata High School. The grant was written to address equipment upgrades to the Computer Science program that offers courses such as Cybersecurity, Video Game Design, and Intro to Computer Science. In the 2025-26 school years, students will also have the option to enroll in two new courses, including Introduction to Engineering and AI Essentials. These courses address workforce needs in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industries. According to labor market projections, IT careers such as information security analysts, software developers, and computer and information systems managers are growing at rates of 20-30%, significantly above the national average for job growth. A motion to accept the High Demand CTE Grant for \$20,000 was made by Director Sainsbury. Director Fleurkens seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

f. Accept Perkins Reserve Grant

The Ephrata School District was recently awarded \$30,000 through the Perkins Reserve Grant to support approved CTE activities. These funds will be used to support Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO's) in the district. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Future Health Science Professionals (HOSA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), National FFA Association, Technology Student Association (TSA) & Skills USA empower students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Funds will be used to pay for registration and travel expenses to state and national conferences in 2025. A motion to accept the Perkins Reserve Grant for \$30,000 was made by Director Devine. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

g. Dell Computer Lab

This computer lab will replace one of the four business labs at EHS in the CTE Department. Career and Technical Education (CTE) plays a critical role in preparing students for high-demand careers by providing hands-on learning experiences that mirror real-world industry settings. To maintain the highest level of career readiness, it is essential that CTE programs have access to up-to-date equipment and technology that align with current industry standards. This lab will be acquired through the NASPO purchasing contract, eliminating the need for additional quotes. Funding will come from CTE funds, supplemented by the High Demand CTE Grant. A motion to approve the purchase of a new Dell computer lab was made by Director Sainsbury. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

h. Approve Purchase Through the Expanding Health Science in the High School Grant

The district recently was awarded a \$95,000 Expanding Health Science in Health Science Grant and the Health Science Department would like to purchase some human body models for their classrooms with these funds. They would be purchased using the Sourcewell Purchasing Contract. Director Fleurkens made a motion to approve the purchase through the Expanding Health Science in the High School Grant for \$18,32917. Director Sainsbury seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

i. Approve Student Chromebook Purchase

The IT Department would like to order 600 student Chromebooks with Hard Cases and 3 Year Warranties (Including Accidental Damage) for the coming school year. These Chromebooks are part of our annual refresh to support the district learning model. The district needs to replace approximately 25% each year to maintain the 1:1 device program for students. This purchase was quoted using the WSIPC Purchasing Contract. A motion to approve the purchase of 600 student Chromebooks was made by Director Sainsbury. Director Devine seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

6. Non-Action Items

a. Budget Report

Allison Razey, Finance Director, reviewed the budget report with the board.

b. February is CTE Month

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to recognize the invaluable impact of CTE programs in preparing students for high-demand careers. Our district is proud to offer various CTE pathways that equip students with real-world skills, industry certifications, and hands-on learning experiences that set them up for success in college and careers. We celebrate our dedicated educators, industry partners, and students who make CTE a driving force for innovation, workforce readiness, and economic growth in our community.

c. Superintendent Report

1. Congratulations to our EHS wrestlers who competed last weekend at the Mat Classic. Our Girls Wrestling team placed 7th overall. We sent 9 girls to the tournament with 5 making it onto the podium. Adylene Sanchez came home a state champion in her weight class. 4 other girls came home with state medals as well, Jasmine Hernandez (4th), Carolina Monico (4th), Alexandra Estrada Rangel (6th) and Rayn Castillo (6th). Our boys team sent 4 wrestlers as well.
2. Thank you Ephrata community for once again supporting our schools with a 66.33% approval vote of our recent levy.
3. We are continuing our work on safety and security around the district.
Grant's new roof has a plugged drain
Grant's new secure vestibule is making progress, we need to update and upgrade some door hardware
EHS secure vestibule is complete and implementation has begun and we are upgrading the cameras and intercom system
Parkway we are in the process of finalizing some door upgrades
Columbia Ridge has a transition issue from the black top to the playground area, new concrete will be put in as soon as weather permits
4. Community facility study work continues. We will have three meeting between now and the end of the school year. A community facility study group survey will begin 3/3/25 to help understand the what the community feels is important in the future of our facilities.

d. Legislative Update

Special Education Funding: SB 5263 and HB 1310, both addressing special education funding, are progressing through the legislature. SB 5263 is scheduled for an executive session with the

Senate Ways and Means Committee this week, while HB 1310 is set for a hearing with the House Appropriations Committee on February 27. This progress is an encouraging sign for continued movement through the session. SB 5307, another special education bill introduced earlier, has seen no movement since January and is likely to stall, possibly due to amendments incorporated into SB 5263.

MSOC Funding: SB 5192, concerning school district Maintenance, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOCs), is advancing and scheduled for an executive session with the Senate Ways and Means Committee on February 27. Local Senator Judy Warnick, a member of this committee, has received an advocacy email from Director Fleurkens emphasizing the need for increased MSOC funding. Additionally, HB 1338, a more favorable bill that moves closer to fully funding MSOCs, is also in consideration. Director Fleurkens has sent similar advocacy emails to Representative Ibarra and Representative Dent.

e. First Reading Policy/Procedures

3210/3210P Nondiscrimination

5005 Employment Disclosures, Certification Requirements, Assurances and Approval

5010/5010P Nondiscrimination Affirmative Action

5011 Sexual Harassment of District Staff Prohibited

6106P Allowable Costs for Federal Programs

6600 Transportation

7. Adjournment

Director Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. and invited attendees to stay for a demonstration of the virtual welders, encouraging those interested to try it out.

Josh Sainsbury, Board Vice-Chair

Ken Murray, Secretary to the Board