

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>OTHER ATTENDANCE</p> <p>CONSENT AGENDA</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, December 3, 2024, and called to order at 5:41 p.m. immediately following the annual reorganization meeting. President Earl Paules presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream on the district’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Present: Directors Haas, Krawchuk, King, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder Absent: Director Connell</p> <p>Angela Friebolin – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger – Solicitor</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanked everyone from the district for their warm welcome• Received Access to Care funding of \$2,000 from the Bo Tkach Foundation; will report use of funding in June• Applied for and guaranteed funding through the Opioid Settlement Funds Grant via the Carbon County commissioners to secure a speaker for our secondary students on addiction awareness• Will attend the Lehigh University School Study event on December 11 with Mr. Kish, Ms. Schuler, and Ms. Rohlfing <p>BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State has released the adjusted Act 1 index which determines the maximum allowable tax increase for the upcoming school year. The adjusted index is set at 5.4%, which would enable the district to raise just over \$1m in revenue. Recommended that the Board approve this resolution on tonight’s agenda stating the Board will not exceed the 5.4% limit.• District awarded a safety and security grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency totaling \$133k; funding will be used to strengthen our district's security measures• Expects to have the first preliminary budget presentation at the February workshop. Reviewed the LCCC budget today, which shows a modest decrease of \$3,500. CCTI confirmed that our portion of their budget will likely decrease based on five-year enrollment averages. Representatives from LCCC, CCTI, and CLIU#21 will be scheduled to present their budgets at the February workshop. <p>BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director Krawchuk – CCTI: students are visiting fifth grade schools around the county to talk about their experiences; a student won the Asa Packer Museum logo design contest; Honor Society hosted a Veterans Day ceremony; Nate Rinda, eSports coach, showed off the club’s new uniforms and stated the team is ranked tenth in the state• Director Haas – CLIU: basket raffle ongoing, viewable on website, drawing December 16 <p>OLD BUSINESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director King mentioned the need to vote for a new Treasurer at the next meeting as she will now resign from this position because she has been elected Vice President. <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None <p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the consent agenda.</p>
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Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
 Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

DECEMBER ACCTS. PAYABLE

Authorized the Superintendent and Business Manager to make and release payments for the remaining December accounts payable

DONATION

Accept the following donation:

From Towamensing Elementary PTO	To the general fund towards playground equipment purchased in August 2024	In the amount of \$2,192.03
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INTERIM SUPT. RESIGNATION

Accepted retroactively the resignation of Ryan Kish as Interim Superintendent effective December 1, 2024

FSW

Approved Rose Smith as Food Service Worker at the contractual hourly rate of \$16.38 effective December 4, 2024

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT

Acknowledged the following horizontal movement effective the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year:

Monique Hofford	From Master's +30 to Master's +45
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FMLA

Approved the following for Family & Medical Leave:

Employee #7775	Effective from January 13, 2025 through approximately February 21, 2025
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COACH

Approved the following Coach for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year effective December 4, 2024:

Gretchen McCarty	Girls' Wrestling Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
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SUBS

Approved the following Substitutes effective December 4, 2024:

Laura Filchner	Substitute Teacher	\$110.00 daily rate
Michael Adams	Substitute Teacher	\$110.00 daily rate
Holly Sutterfield	Substitute Instructional Assistant, Substitute Secretary, Substitute Food Service Worker	\$10.00 per hour

SUB REMOVAL

Removed the following from the current substitute list effective December 4, 2024:

Kelly Warner	Substitute Secretary
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RESIGNATION

Accepted the following resignation effective November 20, 2024:

Samantha Haas	Instructional Assistant
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BILINGUAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Approved the independent contractor agreement for a bilingual school psychologist with Susie A. Sepulveda beginning on December 4, 2024 through June 30, 2025

1st READING TO REPEAL POLICY 815.1

Approved the first reading to repeal the following policy:
 1) Policy #815.1 Social Media

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

<p>ACT 1 RESOLUTION</p>	<p>Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director Haas, to adopt the 2025-2026 Act 1 Resolution stating that the Palmerton Area School District will not increase taxes by more than its 2025-2026 adjusted index of 5.4%, as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>SPECIAL COUNSEL- RAFFAELE PUPPIO</p>	<p>Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve retroactively the fee agreement with Raffaele Puppio, LLP, of Media, PA for special counsel matters effective November 21, 2024.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</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 Earl Paules stated he would do the best he can as president and have a smooth start for 2025. • Director Danielle Paules welcomed Ms. Friebolin and Director Schaible thanked Mr. Kish for his work as interim superintendent.
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director King, to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 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>