KARNS CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD ACTION

July 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

--The regular meeting was called to order by Mr. Price at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

--Approved minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting, as submitted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No Report.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

--Ms. Melissa Conklin addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Conklin stated she is the Band Parent Organization President, and also a parent of a student. Specifically, her concerns were regarding the Marching Band Director's communication and lack of participation. Ms. Conklin stated she has spoken with Dr. Stimac and feels that students are discouraged. She referenced specific events such as the parade at Riverfest, noting the Marching Band Director did not walk in the parade and the students did not complete the parade route. She also spoke about the I Believe event held on July 20th, and the lack of the bands presence, stating they were informed the afternoon of the event that the marching band would not be participating. She felt communication with the Marching Band Director is not professional and encouraged the District to pursue professional development opportunities for the Marching Band Director, as the current status is hindering the growth of the program.

--Ms. Sydney Bester addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Bester is a section leader within the marching band and stated that students are less interested in participating due to the Marching Band Director. Examples that Ms. Bester cited were the lack of breaks during band camp and the Marching Band Director not walking in the parade with the marching band. She concluded by stating that some of her peer section leaders did not want to stand up against the Marching Band Director for fear of any repercussions.

--Ms. Mary Barclay addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Barclay discussed her experience at the Riverfest Parade, stating that she has sat in the same spot for fifteen years, however, this year did not see the marching band because their participation did not include them coming up the hill. Ms. Barclay was informed that it was too hot to march up the hill, however, she questioned this as the students still had to walk up the hill to load onto the bus. Ms. Barclay discussed band camp, and stated that the Marching Band Director does not come to the field, and feels that the Director should be teaching and participating. She stated her daughter has two more years in the marching band program and seeks mutual respect from the Marching Band Director and students.

--Ms. Braylynn Thompson addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Thompson has been the captain of the Gremlinettes for two years, and has one more year in the program. She felt that band camp is discouraging to participants, and the Marching Band Director will instruct students to come to the press box, rather than meeting them on the field. Ms. Thompson stated she had been called to the press box, along with other captains, and was spoken to unprofessionally. She stated the Marching Band Director does not ride the bus with the band or other participants and felt that overall there was a lack of dedication to the program.

--Ms. Dana Brewer addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Brewer has been a band parent for fifteen years, and she stated that this year has been the worst. During band camp she shared that participants are told they can do their routine, and then get a break. She stated the

Marching Band Director speaks poorly to the kids, and does not assist or participate the way she is expected. Ms. Brewer said that the band is getting smaller and felt there is an overall lack of communication from the Marching Band Director.

--Ms. Hailee Ace addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Marching Band Director. Ms. Ace is proud to be a section leader as a Freshman, but felt that the Marching Band Director is not as dedicated as she should be. Ms. Ace stated that she felt the marching band should have participated at the I Believe event as it would show support for the community. Ms. Ace stated that she knew she could lose her section leadership by standing up to the Marching Band Director, but felt it was right to do on behalf of the community. Ms. Ace described her experience with band camp, stating that water was permitted, but could not be carried as instructed because she was holding an instrument. She continued by stating that her 9th period Honors English course conflicted with Senior High Band, which caused tension with the Marching Band Director. She also noted that the Marching Band Director does not walk with the marching band in the parade, and felt she does not care about the entire band beyond those that just play instruments.

BOARD LIAISONS

--No Report.

CAFETERIA

--Approved Cafeteria Financial Statement, as submitted.
--Approved Cafeteria Bills, as submitted.
--Approved the renewal of PrimeroEdge Subscription License for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of $3,465.00, as submitted.

ATHLETICS

--Approved the Officials Pay recommendations for the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION

--No Report.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

--Approved requests for Use of School Facilities, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

--No Report.

CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS

--Approved the letter of agreement between the Karns City Area School District and Adelphoi Education Services for extended school year/school services from June 10 – July 31, 20255, at a cost of $90.32 per day, as submitted.
--Approved the agreement between the Karns City Area School District and BAYADA Home Health Care Inc. for “In School” nursing services at a rate of $57/hour, with an effective date of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, pending Solicitor approval, as submitted.

--Approved the Program Placement Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year between the Karns City Area School District and Butler Area School District operating as Center Avenue Community School ES program, Life Skills and Autistic Support program, and the Multi Disabilities Program, as submitted.
--Approved the Karns City Area School District Jr./Sr. High Parent/Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted.

POLICY

--Approved the second and final read of Policy 626 - Federal Fiscal Compliance, as submitted.
--Approved the second and final read of Policy 626.1 - Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs, as submitted.
--Approved the second and final read of Policy 827 - Conflict of Interest, as submitted.

FINANCE

--Approved General Fund Bills, as submitted.
--Approved Treasurer's Report, as submitted.
--Approved Student Activity Fund Report, as submitted.
--Appointed the firm of Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter, and Graham as Solicitor of the Karns City Area School District at a rate of $200/hour, as submitted. ($5 increase from 2024-2025)

PERSONNEL

--Approved a per diem rate to Substitute School Nurse in the amount of $200.00, effective July 21, 2025, as submitted.
--Approved setting the Support Staff Substitute Rate for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate equal to the year 1 rate of the respective position, per the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
--Approved the Superintendent's/Karns City Area School District's membership in the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) at a cost of $1,356.00 as submitted. (Increase of $43.00 from 2024-2025)
--Approved the child rearing leave request for Mrs. Brooke Burgdorfer, Administrative Assistant, beginning approximately September 4, 2025 through December 2, 2025, utilizing available vacation, sick, and personal days, in conjunction with an unpaid leave request for the following dates: July 11, 2025, July 24, 2025, August 7, 2025, August 14, 2025, August 21, 2025, August 28, 2025, and September 4, 2025, as submitted.
--Approved the following mentor assignment for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school year:
- Mr. Cullen Farrell as a mentor to Ms. Mykaela Lipscomb

--Set the salary for Administrators and Assistant Business Manager effective July 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, as submitted.
--Approved addition(s)/deletion(s) to the Karns City Area School District's Driver List, as submitted.
- Add: Jalen Price – Basketball Coach

--Approved the Superintendent to be able to attend meetings as needed throughout the 2025-2026 school year that pertain to School District business. Examples of such: the Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting at the MIU IV, Butler County Area Vocational Technical School meetings, and the Western Pennsylvania Schools Health Care Consortium meetings.
--Approved the Pennsylvania Principals Association membership for Mrs. Brenda Knoll, Mr. Shane Spack, Dr. Michael Stimac, and Mr. Jeff Wagner for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of $605 per membership.
--Approved the Director of Business Affairs and Assistant Business Manager, to attend required meetings as needed throughout the 2025-2026 school year such as the Western Pennsylvania Schools Health Care Consortium meetings, Butler County and KSAC Business Managers, Butler County Tax Collection Committee meetings, and PDE/PASBO/ACCESS/MIU4 trainings, and the Director of Business Affairs

in the capacity as Food Service Director to attend PDE Training, PRFSD, SNAPA as approved by Superintendent.

--Approved hiring Ms. Carley Serafine for the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher – Life Skills at a salary of $50,920, Step 1 Bachelors, per the current collective bargaining agreement, effective the start of the 2025-2026 school year, pending successful completion and receipt of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, and Act 168, as submitted.

--Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Katie Foster, Elementary Music Teacher, effective July 14, 2025, as submitted.

-- Authorized the administration to post/advertise for the following positions:

- Music Teacher

--Approved travel request(s), as submitted.

--Approved the addition(s)/deletion(s) to the volunteer list, as submitted for the 2025-2026 school year pending successful completion of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, and Act 168, as submitted.

- Add: Tara Hackwelder – NJHS

--Approved addition(s)/deletion(s) to supplemental position(s) for the 2025-2026 school year pending successful completion and receipt of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, and Act 168, as submitted.

- Hire: Allison Mayberry – Second Assistant Soccer Coach (Boys/Girls)

CAPITAL RESERVE

--Approved Capital Projects Bill(s), as submitted.

--Approved Capital Fund Bill(s), as submitted.

--Accepted the proposal from Tower Engineering, Inc. for the High School Stadium Lighting Upgrade, as submitted.

BCAVTS REPORT

--No Report.

MISCELLANEOUS

--Approved the renewal of BoardDoc LT for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of $2,700, as submitted.

--Declared the list of items submitted by Dr. Michael Stimac of no value to the District and authorized the Administration to donate or dispose of items, as submitted.

--Declared the list of items submitted by Dr. Eric Ritzert of no value to the District and authorized the Administration to donate or dispose of items, as submitted.

- Donate the Playground Equipment & Swing set to Sugarcreek Township.
- Donate the Architectural Plaques to the Dennis Steiner Family.
- Donate the Exterior School Lettering to the Sugarcreek Volunteer Fire Department.

--Approved authorizing the Superintendent to be able for the 2025-2026 school year, approve requests from the bus contractor to utilize a new bus driver for a period not to exceed 30 days is the bus contractor provides the Superintendent all of the required paperwork for the candidate to be used as a driver. The name of the driver(s) temporarily approved by the Superintendent will be shared with the Board of School Directors before being used as a driver and added to the next scheduled School Board meeting for formal approval.

ADJOURNMENT

--The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.