

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

	<p>An executive session was held today during the regular meeting, July 15, 2025 for personnel and legal matters, and again immediately after the meeting on July 15, 2025 for personnel matters.</p> <p>The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of School Directors was held in the High School Library, 3525 Fireline Road, Palmerton, PA, on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, and called to order at 5:30 p.m. President Earl Paules presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream on the district’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p>
ROLL CALL	<p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Krawchuk, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder Absent: Director Mazepa</p>
OTHER ATTENDANCE	<p>Angela Friebolin – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities, Daniel Heaney – Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger– Solicitor</p>
SCHOOL DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS	<p>Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Haas, to nominate Michael George as School Director. Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Connell, to nominate Robert Moyzan as School Director.</p> <p>Hearing no other motions, Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Connell, to close the nominations for School Director.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>The votes were as follows:</p> <p><i>Michael George votes:</i> Director Krawchuk. <i>Robert Moyzan votes:</i> Directors Connell, Haas, King, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder.</p>
SCHOOL DIRECTOR APPOINTED	<p>Director Haas, seconded by Director Snyder, to appoint Robert Moyzan as School Director of Palmerton Area School District to serve in the position until the next board reorganization meeting.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Administered Oath of Office to Robert Moyzan who immediately took his seat on the Board.</p> <p>Director Earl Paules called an executive session at 5:35 p.m. for personnel matters. The meeting resumed at 6:07 p.m.</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date for Teacher Induction has been changed to August 11• MTSS workshop is August 12, working to roll out a unified multi-tiered system of supports across K-6• Contacted the director of Carbon County Bureau of Elections this week regarding the vacant board seat who then informed the county parties of their right to nominate a candidate for each party to appear on the November 4 general election ballot, names are due September 15 to be eligible, no action is required on the district’s part

- Mid-summer administrative retreat is tomorrow with the focus on collective planning for school opening and our initial self-assessment of PA Essential Practices for Public Schools rubric
- Welcomed Mr. Justin Petersen who presented the Athletic and Coaches Handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year; minor changes to both documents; event release form added for students who wish to take alternate transportation home from an event; process put in place for students to get out of school early; increased meal reimbursement by \$2

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS’ REPORTS:

- *Dr. Heaney* – interviewed a good pool of candidates for various positions in the last few weeks; working with our committee, Responsible AI in Learning, and Middle States on components like a mission statement, values and beliefs, and board policy work; showed preview of new website, tentative launch is August 1
- *Mr. Kish* – no state budget yet although there has been progress with a \$50b proposal, which is a \$900m reduction from the Governor’s original budget; on June 30, PDE received notification from the U.S. Dept. of Education informing them that it would not receive \$210m in Title funding, we have not received official word from PDE yet although it looks like it will affect only our Title II funding, which is budgeted around \$60k for next year; the state and federal budgets combined are roughly 42% of our budget which means our Board is mandated to pass our budget prior to June 30 each year without knowing what our revenues look like; asking for an increase in lunch prices, with inflation and wages, we have fallen behind in the food service account, general fund will subsidize the account this year. Breakfast has been free, but there are prices listed on the agenda because it’s not official until state budget passes. We also have about \$12,000 in delinquent student meal debt this past year that is contributing to the issue as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jay Clough and Gauri Gerlins from KCBA Architects presented and shared the design for the new district administration office and high school addition construction and renovation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Lori Nemeth – questioned the food service fund motion from the general fund; asked what dates define a school term; questioned the necessity of hiring a substitute facilities director
- Mary Farquhar – asked if there were any additional costs to the construction project as presented

MEETING MINUTES

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve the board meeting minutes from June 17, 2025 and June 24, 2025.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director King moved, seconded by Director Haas, to approve the consent agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

FISCAL REPORTS

Approved accounts payable reports
Approved treasurer’s reports

2025-2026 BREAKFAST/ LUNCH PRICES

Approve the following breakfast and lunch prices for the 2025-2026 school year as mandated by Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010:

Elementary Breakfast	\$1.30	Elementary Lunch	\$3.15
Secondary Breakfast	\$1.40	Secondary Lunch	\$3.25

	Adult Breakfast	\$3.00	Adult Lunch	\$4.85
	Milk	\$.55		
CSIU 2025-2026	Approved retroactively the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) Computer Service Rates Agreement providing the district’s accounting, payroll, personnel, and inventory software for the 2025-2026 school year			
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Authorized the establishment of a capital projects fund (Fund 39) for the purpose of bond proceeds for the new district administration office and high school renovation and addition			
FUND TRANSFER	Approved retroactively a transfer of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund			
DONATIONS	Accepted the following donations:			
	TBB Realty	to Towamensing Elementary for student-run broadcasting	\$500.00	
	Carbon County Community Foundation	to High School Video Club	\$5000.00	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS	Approved tuition reimbursements			
TEACHERS	Approved Holly Skrimcovsky as Junior High School English Teacher at Bachelor’s, Step 2, at an annual salary of \$52,801 effective August 18, 2025			
TEACHERS	Approved Thomas McElhinny as High School English Teacher at Bachelor’s, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$52,301 effective August 18, 2025			
TEACHERS	Approved Lisa Maderic as High School Business, Computer, & Information Technology Teacher at Master’s +30, Step 9, at an annual salary of \$63,601 effective August 18, 2025			
CUSTODIAN	Approved William Yesik as Full-time Custodian at an annual salary of \$32,970 prorated effective July 16, 2025, shift differential, if applicable, will be paid in accordance with the PAESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement			
HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS	Acknowledged the following horizontal movements effective the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year:			
	Andrew Remsing	From Master’s +15 to Master’s +30		
	Michael Gombert	From Master’s +30 to Master’s +45		
RETIREMENT	Accepted the following retirement:			
	Paula Frey	Grade 5-S. S. Palmer Elementary	Effective end of business day August 18, 2025	
CLUB ADVISOR	Approved the following Club Advisor at the High School for the 2025-2026 school year:			
	Sage Nalesnik	SADD	\$834.00	
RESIGNATIONS	Accepted retroactively the following resignations:			
	Jessica Cohen	Central Office Secretary for Facilities, Technology & Curriculum	Effective end of business day June 30, 2025	
	Brandyn Miller	Social Media Club Advisor	Effective June 17, 2025	

ATHLETIC & COACHES HANDBOOKS	Approved the Student Athletic Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year
	Approved the Coaches Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year
ATHLETIC SEASON PASSES	Approved the athletic season passes and ticket prices for the 2025-2026 school year
KRE SECURITY	Approved the KRE Security, LLC, Athletic Security Services Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year
	Approved the KRE Security, LLC, District Security Services Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year
SCHOOL PSYCH	Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Kristy Gruber, certified school psychologist, beginning July 16, 2025 through June 30, 2026
HOOKERTECH	Approved the contract for professional services with HookerTech LLC for August 19, 2025
PATHSTONE	Approved the Letter of Understanding with PathStone Child & Family Development Services beginning August 20, 2025 through August 19, 2026
	Approved the Public Preschool Memorandum of Understanding and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information with PathStone beginning August 20, 2025 through August 19, 2026
CLLIU TECH POOL	Approved retroactively the Technology Pool Legal Services Consultation Agreement with the CLIU #21 beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
CLIU TITLE 1	Approved the Intergovernmental Agreement for Title I Equitable Services with the CLIU #21 for the 2025-2026 school year
PENTELEDATA-Classroom phones	Approved the general agreement with PenTeleData Services for classroom telephones effective July 16, 2025
	END OF CONSENT AGENDA
CHANGE ORDER #2-BRUCE GEORGE PAVING	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to accept Change Order #2 from Bruce George Paving & Excavating, Inc. for the final tonnage amounts used for the S. S. Palmer Elementary parking lot improvement project in the amount of \$1,097.06.
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
HEALTH SABBATICAL	Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve retroactively employee #776 for a restoration of health sabbatical leave effective July 2, 2025 not to exceed one-half school term subject to the guidelines set forth in board policy #338.
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
REMOVE FROM TABLE-2 MOTIONS-Substitute Facilities Director	Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Haas, to remove from the table Trahn Thompson as substitute Director of District Facilities at an annual salary of \$90,000 prorated effective July 16, 2025 not to exceed one-half school term and to remove for the table Trahn Thompson for a leave of absence from his current maintenance position effective July 16, 2025 not to exceed one-half school term.
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried to Table.

<p>KCBA ARCHITECTS- DAO & HS CONSTRUCTION AND RENO</p>	<p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the schematic design package as presented from KCBA Architects and proceed with the design development for the district administration office and high school addition construction and renovation.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Banko – went to township regarding imposing amusement tax on Blue Mountain Resort • Constance Banko – many people could benefit from imposing an amusement tax • Lori Nemeth – liked the S. S. Palmer parking lot paving job <p>FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Friebolin welcomed teachers Mr. McElhinny and Ms. Maderic to our professional staff • Director Earl Paules thanked Mr. Fred Leshner who fixed an issue at Parkside Elementary roof, Bruce George Paving for a fine job on the paving, and Ms. Pamela Andrews for running the summer recreation program; Ice Cream World will be donating the treats for end of season • Director Danielle Paules thanked staff for getting the AC working properly in the weight room
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 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>