

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held on August 5, 2025 after the special board meeting, and today, August 19, 2025, before the regular meeting for personnel matters.

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, August 19, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Krawchuk, Mazepa, Moyzan, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder

OTHER ATTENDANCE

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- District-wide in-service days have been productive, will continue professional learning and preparation work the rest of the week
- Today, Carl Hooker, of HookerTech, was our keynote presenter to all staff for professional development and focused learning on artificial intelligence in education
- Reviewed minor changes to consent agenda for tonight: Brandi Hoffman clarified as a Learning Support Teacher; Joanne Meckes and Leon Frable withdrew our offer of employment and were removed from the consent agenda

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS’ REPORTS:

- *Dr. Heaney* – participated in kickoff meeting with Mrs. Husar, Mr. Petersen, and Mr. Sodl for the MBA Incident Creator which streamlines teachers entering referrals into PowerSchool; classroom phone installation project is now complete, thank you to Mike Johnson and Nick Goldberg; launched the Navigate360 EMS today, plan to do first test of roll call system during September fire drills
- *Mr. Kish* – still have no state budget, the holdup seems to be SEPTA funding, have a 3½ month fund balance to draw on in case of emergency; the change order on the agenda tonight is a contract deduct, which means we will not be responsible for the amount listed regarding the construction contract for the weight room renovation project

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Danielle Paules – *PSBA*: looking for members to serve on the PIAA District 11 committee, applications due August 31, term ends June 2027
- Director Krawchuk – *CCTI*: instructor Kevin Kuehner has resigned which is a big loss to CCTI as their SkillsUSA advisor
- Director Haas – *CLIU*: presentation about girls’ club involvement at Camp Moseywood, four students attended camp; Annie Sullivan Award presented to staff member, Heather Szoke; met third IU service dog. *Library*: basket raffle Sept. 6; \$2 bag sale; \$25 canvas tote; quilt bingo at Aquashicola Fire Company on Sept. 21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

MEETING MINUTES	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve the board meeting minutes from July 15, 2025. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.																
CONSENT AGENDA w/abstention	Director King moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the consent agenda. Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of an abstention from Director Snyder for Consent Agenda Item #2 Personnel, Letter H, Kayleigh Snyder, due to a conflict of interest. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.																
FISCAL REPORTS	CONSENT AGENDA: Approved accounts payable reports Approved treasurer’s reports																
TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS	Approved tuition reimbursements																
LTS	Approved retroactively Alexandra Sabino as Long-Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher at S. S. Palmer Elementary at Master’s, Step 1, with an annual salary of \$54,191 effective August 18, 2025																
LEARNING SUPPORT	Approved retroactively Brandi Hoffman as High School Learning Support Teacher at Bachelor’s, Step 1, with an annual salary of \$52,301 effective August 18, 2025 pending receipt of emergency certification																
FSW	Approved the following effective August 20, 2025: <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1039 1323 1081"> <tr> <td>MaryEllen Rhoads</td> <td>Food Service Worker</td> <td>\$17.04 per hour</td> </tr> </table>	MaryEllen Rhoads	Food Service Worker	\$17.04 per hour													
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HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS	Acknowledged the following horizontal movements effective the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year: <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1207 1156 1344"> <tr> <td>Travis Fink</td> <td>Master’s +30 to Master’s +45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeanne Knepper</td> <td>Master’s +15 to Master’s +30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brad Landis</td> <td>Master’s +15 to Master’s +30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sage Nalesnik</td> <td>Master’s +15 to Master’s +30</td> </tr> </table>	Travis Fink	Master’s +30 to Master’s +45	Jeanne Knepper	Master’s +15 to Master’s +30	Brad Landis	Master’s +15 to Master’s +30	Sage Nalesnik	Master’s +15 to Master’s +30								
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HEALTH SABBATICAL	Approved retroactively employee #879 for a restoration of health sabbatical leave effective August 18, 2025 not to exceed one-full school term subject to the guidelines set forth in board policy #338																
MENTORS	Approved the following additional Mentors for the 2025-2026 school year: <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1543 1323 1722"> <tr> <td>Krystle Meglio, Co-Mentor</td> <td><i>for Amy Duarte</i></td> <td>\$ 760.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Megan Zurn, Co-Mentor</td> <td><i>for Amy Duarte</i></td> <td>\$ 760.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Remsing, Co-Mentor</td> <td><i>for Ryan King</i></td> <td>\$ 760.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christine Owens, Co-Mentor</td> <td><i>for Ryan King</i></td> <td>\$ 760.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lindsey Serfass</td> <td><i>for Alexandra Sabino</i></td> <td>\$1,520.00</td> </tr> </table>	Krystle Meglio, Co-Mentor	<i>for Amy Duarte</i>	\$ 760.00	Megan Zurn, Co-Mentor	<i>for Amy Duarte</i>	\$ 760.00	Andrew Remsing, Co-Mentor	<i>for Ryan King</i>	\$ 760.00	Christine Owens, Co-Mentor	<i>for Ryan King</i>	\$ 760.00	Lindsey Serfass	<i>for Alexandra Sabino</i>	\$1,520.00	
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COACHES	Approved the following Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year: <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1816 1490 1959"> <tr> <td>Jared Mooney</td> <td>Boys’ Wrestling Assistant Coach</td> <td>\$4,284.00</td> <td>Effective August 20, 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisa Dietterich</td> <td>Swim Volunteer Coach</td> <td>--</td> <td>Effective August 20, 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chad Stroup</td> <td>Swim Volunteer Coach</td> <td>--</td> <td>Effective August 20, 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marlena Stroup</td> <td>Swim Volunteer Coach</td> <td>--</td> <td>Effective August 20, 2025</td> </tr> </table>	Jared Mooney	Boys’ Wrestling Assistant Coach	\$4,284.00	Effective August 20, 2025	Lisa Dietterich	Swim Volunteer Coach	--	Effective August 20, 2025	Chad Stroup	Swim Volunteer Coach	--	Effective August 20, 2025	Marlena Stroup	Swim Volunteer Coach	--	Effective August 20, 2025
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Kevin Wertz	Golf Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Retroactively effective August 5, 2025
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FALL EVENT WORKERS

Approved the following as Fall Event Workers at a rate of \$30.00 per event for the 2025-2026 school year:

Pamela Andrews	Miriam Krzton
Jessica Cohen	Vicki McHugh
Robert Falkenstein	Alexander Orr
Michael Gombert	Michael Pascoe
Jyneal Green	Thomas Smelas
Jarrad Hedes	Kayleigh Snyder
Jodi Hedes	William Zeky
Kelly Heinrich	Robert Moyzan- <i>volunteer (unpaid) only</i>
John Hrebik	

PAMPA CHAPERONES

Approved Grace Heist as Palmerton Area Music Parents' Association (PAMPA) Volunteer Chaperone for the 2025-2026 school year effective August 20, 2025

CROSSING GUARDS

Approved the Contracted Crossing Guard Employment Agreements with the following for the 2025-2026 school year:

Linda Duyka	Rose Smith
Linda Koch	Ann Woginrich
MaryEllen Rhoads	

SUB TEACHER

Approved the following Substitute at the prevailing substitute rates:

Nicole Smith	Substitute Teacher	Effective August 20, 2025
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RESIGNATIONS

Accepted retroactively the following resignations:

Rachel DeMicco	Instructional Assistant	Effective August 8, 2025
Tracy George	Part-Time Custodian	Effective August 10, 2025

BUS ROUTES

Approved the bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year

BUS DRIVERS

Approved the following George's Transportation bus drivers for the 2025-2026 school year:

Kyle Ahner	Dennis Erking	Faro Hager	Cynthia Marx
Lori Ahner	Craig Fenoff	Donna Hahn	Anthony Nichol
Emma Beal	Kimberly Frable	Barry Hoffman	Colleen Rubin
Virgie Behler	Barry George	Pamela Imler	Matthew Ruch
David Berger	Benjamin George	Robert Jennings	John Sabo
Jolene Black	Danielle George	LeRoy Kemmerer	Robert Schaninger
Nicole Capuano	Dean George, Jr.	Katelin King	Gary Stahler
Lyle Cetnar	Leon George	Tracey Kline-Carey	Diane Strohl
Kelli Crostley	Lonnie George	Johnette Kralik	Roxanne Stroup
Angel Delgado Vellon	Amber Getz	Walter Kroboth	Sarah Trimble
Henry Dorward	Francis Goss	Karen Laub	Cynthia Vivona
Susan Dorward	Gerald Hadinger	Rebekah Lorah	Thomas Williams
Donald Duffield III	Kimberly Hadinger	Timothy Lorah	Trudy Ziegenfuss

**2ND READINGS &
ADOPTION 113.1-
205-206-207-212-
215-216.1-219-220-
223-224-226-227-
228-229-230-231-
232-236.1-626-
626.1-827**

Approved the second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- 1) Policy #113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 2) Policy #205 Postgraduate Students
- 3) Policy #206 Assignment Within District
- 4) Policy #207 Confidential Communication of Students
- 5) Policy #212 Reporting Student Progress
- 6) Policy #215 Promotion & Retention
- 7) Policy #216.1 Supplemental Discipline Records
- 8) Policy #219 Student Complaint Process
- 9) Policy #220 Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
- 10) Policy #223 Use of Motor Vehicles
- 11) Policy #224 Care of School Property
- 12) Policy #226 Searches
- 13) Policy #227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 14) Policy #228 Student Government
- 15) Policy #229 Student Fundraising
- 16) Policy #230 Public Performance By Students
- 17) Policy #231 Social Events & Class Trips
- 18) Policy #232 Student Involvement in Decision-Making
- 19) Policy #236.1 Threat Assessment
- 20) Policy #626 Federal Fiscal Compliance
- 21) Policy #626.1 Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs
- 22) Policy #827 Conflict of Interest

**2ND READING &
ADOPTION TO
REPEAL 211-213-
225**

Approved the second reading and adoption to repeal the following policies:

- 1) Policy #211 Student Accident Insurance
- 2) Policy #213 Grading of Student Progress
- 3) Policy #225 Students & the Police

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**CHANGE ORDER
-WEIGHT ROOM
RENOVATION**

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to accept Change Order #EC-001 for West Side Electric Service decreasing the contract amount by \$10,235.00 due to unused allowance money on the weight room renovation project.

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

**GRAND RIVER
SOLUTIONS**

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to retroactively approve the agreement with Grand River Solutions, Inc., through July 31, 2026.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Richard Banko – favorable reviews from the township about the amusement tax, want money every year, not as a donation; questioned the security guard rate of pay for board meetings
- Constance Banko – pursuing the amusement tax on Blue Mountain Resort, thanked Terry Ahner at Times News for covering issue
- Joshua Mason – questioned policy 201, admission of students, tried to register 1st grade student and was unable to do so because of age requirements of the policy
- Danielle Mason – questioned board policy 201 language regarding entry requirements

ADJOURNMENT	<p>Director Haas moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 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>
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