FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes
Board Room
October 29, 2025

I. The October 29, 2025 Board Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board was held in the Board Room of the Ferndale Area School District, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown. The Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Boyle at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Moment of Contemplation

Notice is given that the Meeting of the Ferndale Area School Board to be conducted in this room will be tape recorded and entry constitutes consent to the taping of any individual who comments.

Policy No. 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings is posted on the bulletin board in the Board Room.

IV. Roll Call: Present: Susan Boyle, Barry Himes, Kimberly Kinsey, Richard Pavic, Kimberly Washington, Patricia Wilson. Absent: James McKendree, Jason Moschgat, Stephen Thompson.

Others in attendance were Jeffrey Boyer, William Brotz, David Gates, Administrators; Lynn Bennett, FAEA/Resident; Joyce Leberknight, Resident; Susan Sheesley, PSEA Retired; Josh Byer, Tribune Democrat, David Gates, Recording Secretary.

V. Hearing of Citizens/Ferndale Area Education Association

VI. Committees Agenda

Mr. Pavic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes to approve BD-10-10/25 through BD-12-1025.

BD-10-10/25 Approve the October 29, 2025 Board Meeting Consent Agenda items. (BD-11-10/25 through W-33-10/25)

BD-11-10/25 Approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2025 and October 22, 2025 Board Meetings, as presented.

BG-10-10/25 Authorize Katrina Kauert and Max Kauert, Ferndale Borough Recreation, to have fob access to the Elementary and Junior High gymnasiums for elementary basketball practices, drills and skills.

IE-11-10/25 The following has been assigned as student teachers (UPJ) at the Ferndale Area Elementary School, October, 2025 – November 15, 2025.

Student Teacher	Cooperating Teacher	Grade Level
Alexis Baum	Megan Carbaugh	Pre-K
Kylie Hooper	Sarah Riffle	Kindergarten
Dannika Susko	Alisha Black	Kindergarten
Abigal Grosholz	Scott Becker	Grade 2

F-06-10/25 Approve the September Treasurer's Report, as presented.

F-07-10/25 Approve the General Fund and Cafeteria Bills, as presented.

IF-05-10/25 Receipts and disbursements.

ST-17-10/25 Approve Junior-Senior students field trip to Rosedale Technical College, Pittsburgh, date to be determined. Cost: Transportation: $650.00. (District)

ST-18-10/25 Approve students field trip to Alt to College Expo at Northern Cambria on November 6, 2025. Cost: Transportation: $500.00. (District)

Approve the following workshops/conferences:

W-24-10/25 Lori McGough, Food Service Director; *Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors Monthly Meeting*, October 10, 2025, Creswick. No cost to the District.

W-25-10/25 Justin Ogline, Technology Education; *2025 Clean Currents Energy Education Workshop for Teachers*, October 15, 2025, Pittsburgh. Cost: Mileage: $98.00. Substitute: $100.00. Total Cost: $198.00. (District)

W-26-10/25 Adam Barbe, School Psychologist; *National School Psychology Week Conference*, November 7, 2025, IUP. Cost: Mileage: $21.00. (District)

W-27-10/25 Adam Barbe, School Psychologist; *All of Us for All of Them Conference*, November 10-11, 2025, Harrisburg. Cost: Registration: $215.00. Lodging: $117.00. Mileage: $190.00. Total Cost: $522.00. (District)

W-28-10/25 Damian Buksa, Maintenance Supervisor; *KAPPA 2025 Fall Conference*, November 13-14, 2025, Bedford. Cost: Mileage: $115.00. (District)

W-29-10/25 Dustin Rainey, Music Teacher; *Performance/Clinic of "Wanderlust"*, November 17, 2025, Florida. Substitute: $100.00. (District)

W-30-10/25 Nicole Babik, Arthur McClucas, Health & Physical Education Teachers; *Health & Physical Education Teacher Training*, November 25, 2025, IU8 Altoona. Cost: Mileage: $61.60. Substitutes: $200.00. Total Cost: $261.60. (District)

W-31-10/25 Lori McGough, Food Service Director; *Pittsburgh Regional Food Service Directors Monthly Meeting*, November 7, 2025, Altoona. No cost to the District.

W-32-10/25 Christine Eash, Grade 5 Teacher; *IU8 Math Teacher Network*, September 20, 2025, November 25, 2025, February 26, 2026, April 30, 2026, Altoona. Cost: Meals: $60.00. Substitute for four days: $400.00. Total Cost: $460.00. (District)

W-33-10/25 Melanie Duffy-Engel, Music Teacher; *Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Annual In-Service Conference*, April 23-25, 2026, Poconos. Cost: Registration: $180.00. Lodging: $340.00. Meals: $100.00. Mileage: $165.90. Substitute: $200.00. Total Cost: $985.90. (District)

BD-12-10/25 Approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FERNDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT URGING THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO END THE STATE BUDGET IMPASSE

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has not yet enacted a state budget for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, resulting in a budget impasse that has persisted for over 100 days; and

WHEREAS, this impasse has withheld over $3 billion in education funding statewide, forcing school districts to borrow funds, deplete reserves, delay essential services, and consider program cuts that directly impact students, educators and families;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Court has ruled Pennsylvania's school funding system unconstitutional, and the state has a responsibility to continue addressing the inequities raised by the court;

WHEREAS, school districts are legally required to adopt annual budgets by June 30 and operate with fiscal responsibility and transparency, while the state legislature has failed to meet its own budgetary obligations;

WHEREAS, the ongoing impasse threatens the stability of public education, undermines the ability of districts to plan for the future, puts current and future educational initiatives and capital improvements at risk, and places undue financial burdens on local taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ferndale Area Board of Directors, as a member of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), calls upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Governor to immediately pass a complete and responsible state budget that:

1. Fully funds public education, including basic, special, and career and technical education;
2. Releases all appropriated federal funds owed to school districts without further delay;
3. Honors the Commonwealth Court's mandate to address funding adequacy and equity;
4. Establishes a process by which any interest and fees accrued due to borrowing throughout the impasse is repaid to districts;

5. Includes meaningful cyber charter funding reform by establishing a uniform statewide tuition rate for students attending a cyber charter school; and
6. Demonstrates bipartisan cooperation and leadership in the interest of Pennsylvania's students and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Pennsylvania, the leadership of the Pennsylvania House and Senate, and the district's elected state legislators.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, Kinsey, Pavic, Washington, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: McKendree, Moschgat, Thompson. The motion carried.

2. Buildings and Grounds

IBG-04-10/25 Discussion of sewage project at the ballfield (David Gates)

3. Cafeteria

None.

4. Education

Mrs. Washington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve E-13-10/25 through E-16-10/25.

E-13-10/25 Approve an Education Services Agreement with Educere for virtual education programs and courses and other educational services.

E-14-10/25 Approve a three-year Contract Agreement with Health eTools for the student health software for the 2025-2026 ($1,473), 2026-2027 ($1,473), 2027-2028 ($1,473) school years.

E-15-10/25 Approve an Agreement with Ignite Education Solutions, Johnstown, for Aides for 2025-2026 school year:

-- Special Education Aide, HS – Durell Hutzell-Ellis
-- Special Education Aide, HS – Jessica Jones
-- Special Education Aide, HS – Brianna Merringer

E-16-10/25 Approve Samatha Litko, as a PTO Volunteer for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of all appropriate paperwork.

Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, Kinsey, Pavic, Washington, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: McKendree, Moschgat, Thompson. The motion carried.

IE-12-10/25 District-wide Highlights (William Brotz, Amy Mykut, Bernard Conway, Sutton Barron, Adam Barbe)

IE-13-10/25 GJCTC Joint Operating Committee Highlights (Stephen Thompson)

5. Finance

IF-06-10/25 Review Act 1 Index (David Gates)

IF-07-10/25 Discussion on State Budget (David Gates)

IF-08-10/25 Discussion on Financing (David Gates)

6. Personnel

None.

7. Student Activities

ST-19-10/25 Mr. Himes made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve *Katie McGough, Johnstown, as Head Junior High Cheerleading Advisor, salary is based on the Coaches Contract. Record vote for the motion: Boyle, Himes, Kinsey, Pavic, Washington, Wilson. Against the motion: None. Abstained: None. Absent: McKendree, Moschgat, Thompson. The motion carried.

8. Workshops/Conferences

None.

The November Workshop Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025. The November Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Pavic made a motion, seconded by Mr. Himes to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. All were in favor.