

**PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**  
**High School Library, 3525 Fireline Road, Palmerton, PA**  
All public meetings are video recorded and viewable via livestream for the purpose of public broadcast.

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Dr. Connell	Ms. Haas	Ms. King	Ms. Krawchuk-Boschen	Mr. Mazepa	Mrs. Paules
Mr. Paules	Ms. Snyder	Dr. Friebohn	Mr. Kish	Dr. Heaney	Atty. Conn

**3. STUDENT REPORTS:**

**4. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

A. JHS Environmental Club proposal

**5. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS’ REPORTS:**

**6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

**8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (POLICY #903):**

There shall be time available for public participation at the beginning and end of each board meeting. The beginning session is open for agenda items only and the ending session is open for any agenda times or issues relating to school district policies and operations. Informal requests shall be afforded five (5) minutes for presentation. Should the speaker find the five (5) minute time allotment to be insufficient for his/her presentation, a more detailed written presentation shall be an option. Please note that public interruption of the meeting will detract from the meeting.

**9. MEETING MINUTES:**

A. Motion for the Board of School Directors to approve the board meeting minutes from November 25, 2025, December 6, 2025 (reorganization meeting), and December 6, 2025 (regular meeting) (enclosures).

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

**10. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Motion for the Board of School Directors to approve the attached consent agenda.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

**11. FISCAL:**

A. Motion for the Board of School Directors to adopt the 2026-2027 Act 1 Resolution stating that the Palmerton Area School District will not increase taxes by more than its 2026-2027 adjusted index of 4.7%, as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (enclosure).

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

**12. OTHER:**

A. Motion for the Board of School Directors to approve the 2026 calendar of regular monthly meetings and workshop meetings as presented (enclosure).

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

B. Motion for the Board of School Directors to accept the resignation of Magin Gursky as School Director of the Palmerton Area School Board effective January 18, 2026.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

C. Motion for the Board of School Directors to censure Earl Paules in his capacity as a member of the Board of School Directors for the following reasons: (1) disruption of meetings of the Board of School Directors; (2) disclosing confidential information; (3) interfering with the operations of the School District and School District staff; and (4) unethical behavior.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

**13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**14. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

**15. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

# PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CONSENT AGENDA

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

### 1. FISCAL:

- A. Approve accounts payable reports (enclosures)
- B. Approve treasurer’s reports (enclosures)
- C. Approve budget transfers (enclosure)
- D. Appoint Ryan Kish as 2026 delegate to the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee
- E. Accept the following donations:

<i>From</i> Tricia Wagner	<i>to</i> Aevidum Activity Club, IM of Tyler Kravetz	\$ 100.00
<i>From</i> Steven & Jennifer Mertz	<i>to</i> Towamensing Elementary Chorus	\$ 500.00
	<i>to</i> S. S. Palmer Elementary Chorus	\$ 500.00
	<i>to</i> High School Chorus	\$ 500.00
	<i>to</i> Towamensing and S. S. Palmer Elementary Band	\$1,000.00
	<i>to</i> Junior High Chorus & Band	\$1,000.00
	<i>to</i> High School Marching, Jazz, and Concert Bands	\$1,500.00
<i>From</i> PAHS Class of 2026 Parent Group	<i>to</i> help defray prom costs	\$3,000.00
<i>From</i> Palmerton Football Parents Club	<i>to</i> Gridiron Activity Club for purchase of 5 Man-S-Advantage sled	\$8,400.00

- F. Approve tuition reimbursements (enclosure)

### 2. PERSONNEL:

- A. Approve Mark Blees as Full-Time Custodian at an annual salary of \$32,970.00 prorated effective January 21, 2026. Shift differential, if applicable, will be paid in accordance with the PAESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- B. Acknowledge the following horizontal movements effective the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year:

Jennelle Billingsby	Master’s +15 to Master’s +30
Michael Gombert	Master’s +45 to Master’s +60
Kathryn Malay	Master’s +30 to Master’s +45
Alexander Orr	Bachelor’s +24 to Master’s

- C. Approve the following for Family & Medical Leave:

Employee # 421	Effective on or about February 3, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks
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Employee #180	Effective on or about May 1, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks
Employee #651	Effective on or about May 24, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks

D. Approve the following uncompensated leave requests:

Employee #456	Effective from January 27, 2026 through January 30, 2026
Employee #314	Retroactively additionally effective from January 5, 2026 through March 2, 2026

E. Approve retroactively the following Mentor for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year effective January 5, 2026:

Tanya Hess	to Amy Negley	\$1,520.00 prorated
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F. Approve the following Club Advisors effective January 21, 2026:

Sean Hall	Stage Crew	\$2,144.00 prorated
Thomas McElhinny	Social Media	--
Kimberly Seiler	Environmental-JHS	--

G. Approve the following Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year effective January 21, 2026:

Travis Fink	Track Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,413.00
Nellianne Parr	Track Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,413.00

H. Approve the following as Spring Event Workers at a rate of \$30.00 per event effective January 21, 2026:

Pamela Andrews	John Hrebik
Jeana Baumgardt	Alexander Knoll
Katherine Baumgardt	Paul McArdle
Craig Borland	Vicki McHugh
Jessica Cohen	Christine Owens
Austin Cseh	Nellianne Parr
Heather DeReamus	Andrew Remsing
Julia Dougherty	Kimberly Seiler
Darlene Dugan	Thomas Smelas
Robert Falkenstein	Brian Stevko
Travis Fink	Nicole Swartz
Kelly Heinrich	Kevin Wertz

I. Accept the following retirement:

Darlene Smale	Instructional Assistant-Parkside	Effective August 1, 2026
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J. Remove the following from the Current Substitute list effective January 21, 2026:

Jessica Hansen	Substitute Teacher
Holly Sutterfield	Substitute Instructional Assistant

K. Accept retroactively the following resignation effective January 7, 2026:

April Rehrig	Stage Crew Advisor
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**3. OTHER:**

A. Approve the affiliation agreement with Widener University effective January 21, 2026 (enclosure)

B. Approve the affiliation agreement with Liberty University from January 21, 2026 through January 20, 2027 (enclosure)

C. Approve the formation of Environmental Club-JHS as an extracurricular club at the Junior High School effective January 21, 2026 (enclosures)

D. Approve the following field trip request (enclosure):

Video/Newspaper/ Yearbook Club	Penn State University, State College	March 15, 2026 through March 17, 2026
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E. Approve the following conference (enclosure):

Daniel Heaney	PETE&C, Hershey	February 2, 2026 through February 4, 2026	Estimated cost of \$771.48
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F. Approve the first reading of the following policies (enclosures):

- 1) Policy #320 Freedom of Speech by Employees
- 2) Policy #335 Family & Medical Leaves
- 3) Policy #336 Personal Necessity Leave
- 4) Policy #343 Paid Holidays
- 5) Policy #351 Controlled Substance Abuse
- 6) Policy #718 Service Animals in Schools