

CALL TO ORDER At 7:12 p.m., the January 5, 2026, meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors was called to order by President Jesse Rawls, Sr.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Mr. Jesse Rawls, Sr., Ms. Tameka Hatcher, Ms. Elise I. LeMelle, Mrs. Jackie Hill, Mr. Jayonn Folks, Mr. Eric Hedenberg, Keita Kalonji Johnson, Esq., Mr. Steven H. Johnson, Sr.

ABSENT Dr. Anita Mareno

DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENT Dr. Tamara Willis, Dr. Andrae Martin, Kathy Ciaciulli, Dr. Erika Willis, Carrie Martin, Terry Heller, Lance Deane, Ann-Marie Rathmell, Justin Green, Jonathan Bishop

SOLICITOR Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

EXECUTIVE SESSION The President announced that executive session was held immediately prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel and student matters.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 5, 2026

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hedenberg, to amend the January 5, 2026 meeting agenda by removing item 10. Discipline Committee. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED 2.A. Moved by Mr. Folks, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson, to approve the January 5, 2026 meeting agenda as amended. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

III.A. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. LeMelle read a statement outlining the guidelines for public comment.

The board had discussion on the time allotted for public comment.

SPEAKER **R. Davis Russell Davis** expressed concerns regarding student performance, the district's priorities, and the use of grant funding, and encouraged the Board to focus on raising academic standards and student achievement.

SPEAKER **A. Mussie** shared concerns with Boys Soccer and use of uniforms.

SPEAKER **W. Harmon** raised questions regarding agenda procedures and encouraged the Board to consider reviewing or developing an ethics policy related to potential conflicts of interest.

III.B. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

SPEAKER

Ms. Hatcher stated that STSD is an Equal Opportunity Employer and that all individuals are welcome to apply for positions. She thanked Mr. Davis for his comments and attendance and expressed appreciation to the families and staff in attendance for their continued service and support.

SPEAKER

Mr. K. Johnson apologized for not using the proper terminology when withdrawing his motion. He stated that he looks forward to working collaboratively with the community moving forward and noted the importance of focusing on solutions and strategies. He shared that the Board will provide additional opportunities for stakeholders to engage and work with the Board. He extended New Year's greetings and expressed appreciation for working together. Mr. Johnson also noted that the district can both acknowledge areas for improvement and celebrate student achievements, recognizing that education encompasses many components.

IV. GUEST AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Celebrating Families: Mr. David Archer, Principal of Susquehanna Township High School, honored the Esayas Family for their contributions to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment in our school community. The family was presented with a certificate and a token of appreciation from Dr. Willis.

V. OTHER

MOTION TO TABLE

5.A. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Folks, to table Item 5.A.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: Mr. K. Johnson, Mr. Hedenberg, Mr. Folks, Mr. Rawls

Nay: Mr. S. Johnson, Ms. Hatcher, Ms. LeMelle, Mrs. Hill

Abstain: None

Absent: Dr. Mareno,

Motion failed 4-4, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

5.A. Election of Board Treasurer for the term January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

MOTION TO NOMINATE

Moved by Ms. LeMelle, seconded by Ms. Hatcher to nominate Mrs. Jackie Hill as Board Treasurer.

Moved by Mr. Hedenberg to nominate Mrs. Kathy Ciaciulli as Board Treasurer.

President Rawls called three times for further nominations.

**MOTION TO CLOSE
NOMINATIONS**

Moved by Mr. S. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Hatcher to close nominations.

The Board discussed eligibility requirements for serving as School Board Treasurer. Ms. Hatcher expressed the opinion that the nomination of Mrs. Ciaciulli should be considered null and void due to her status as a paid district employee.

The board recessed to executive session at 7:53 p.m.
The board returned from recess at 8:32 p.m.

Upon returning, President Rawls stated that the Board determined it would obtain a clear understanding of the duties and eligibility requirements of the School Board Treasurer position prior to electing a Treasurer.

Mr. Hedenberg withdrew his nomination for Board Treasurer.
Ms. LeMelle withdrew her nomination for Board Treasurer.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

Moved by Mr. S. Johnson, seconded by Ms. LeMelle to postpone item 5.A., Election of Board Treasurer, until the board can have a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Board Treasurer.

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

VI. FINANCE

MOTION TO APPROVE

6.A.B.C.D.E. Moved by Mr. Hedenberg, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson to approve Items 6.A.B.C.D.E.
Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

6.A. Approve the payment of First National General Fund Checking bills from the First National General Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$2,382,189.74.

6.B. Approve the payment of Food Service bills from the Food Service Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$150,491.70.

6.C. Approve the payment of New Construction Capital Projects Fund Checking bills from the New Construction Capital Projects Fund Checking, as listed on the Computer Check Summary, totaling \$186,790.00.

6.D. Approve the attached High School Kitchen Renovation Project JOC # 2021 JOCC-31 Supplemental # 3, Job Order # 141622.00.03, in the amount of \$20,239.32.

6.E. Retroactively approve the Agreement with Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. (Hudl) to provide digital video analysis and film sharing for the Athletic Department.

VII. PERSONNEL

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.A.C.D. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hedeberg to approve Items 7.A.C.D.

Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

7.A. 1. Amend the effective date of Robert McDonald’s resignation as Science Teacher at Susquehanna Township High School to November 14, 2025.

7.A.2. Amend the effective date of Breann Fleming’s resignation as Counselor at Susquehanna Township Middle School to effective November 25, 2025.

7.A.3. Amend the effective date of Amanda Stegura’s resignation as Physical Education Teacher at Susquehanna Township Middle School to effective January 8, 2026.

7.C.1. Rescind the employment of Alice Watore Ongwenyi as Business Teacher at Susquehanna Township High School.

7.C.2. Approve Hannah Morton as Physical Education Teacher at Susquehanna Township Middle School at a salary of \$56,720.00, pro-rated, effective date January 6, 2026. Hannah is replacing Amanda Stegura.

7.D.1. Approve the following Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Stipend
Christian Vaughn	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	STHS	\$0
Matthew Herniack	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	STHS	\$0
Alec Merry	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	STHS	\$0
Delonne Wilbourn	Head Track and Field Coach	STMS	\$2,700.00

7.D.2. Rescind Wendy Sweigart as mentor for Alice Watore Ongwenyi at Susquehanna Township High School.

7.D.3. Approve the following mentors for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Position	Location	Stipend
Ashleigh Heagy	Mentor for Hannah Morton	STMS	\$1,000.00 (pro-rated)
Brittany Pendelton	Mentor for Eric Brooks	SLAC	\$1,000.00 (pro-rated)
Wendy Sweigart	Mentor for Lauren Pettis	STHS	\$1,000.00 (pro-rated)

MOTION TO APPROVE

7.B. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson to approve Item 7.B. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

7.B. Approve the transfer of Eric Brooks from Paraprofessional (STESPA) to K-2 Teacher (STEA) at Sara Lindemuth / Anna Carter Primary School, at a salary of \$56,720.00 pro-rated, effective date TBD. Eric will be filling Brittany Pendelton's position.

VIII. PROGRAMS

MOTION TO APPROVE

8.A. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Folks to approve Item 8.A. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

8.A. Approve the creation of an Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) as required for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) application.

IX. EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

CALL TO ORDER

At 8:40 p.m., the Education and Athletics Committee was called to order by Mr. Rawls.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9.A. Mr. Lance Deane, Athletic Director, reported that three student-athletes participated in Early Signing Day and signed National Letters of Intent to play football. Yendor Mack will attend West Virginia University, Joshua Nengite will attend Temple University, and ZiKhere Leeks will attend the University of Connecticut. The next signing day is scheduled for February 4.

Mr. Deane shared that the girls' basketball team won the Reading Holiday Tournament. Jaycee Martin was named the tournament MVP, averaging 20 points per game, and both Jaycee Martin and Ava London were selected to the All-Tournament Team. Four members of the football team—Torin Evans, Yendor Mack, Jayden Riley, and Joshua Nengite—were named to the All-State Team. Mr. Deane also reported that the cross country team and the field hockey team received the Mid-Penn Sportsmanship Award. Mr. Deane noted that participation in the cheerleading program continues to grow. He shared that the junior high girls' basketball team is having a successful season and recently volunteered at the Hanna Pantry. Mr. Deane acknowledged the high school guidance department and high school administration for ensuring elective courses meet NCAA eligibility requirements. He also commended the district office, administration, and Board of Directors for their presence at athletic events, as well as Mr. Heller, Mrs. Dudley, and the grounds crew for their work during the fall season. In addition, Mr. Deane recognized Ms. Vaughn for the AAP program at the high school.

Mrs. Hill thanked Mr. Deane for the Athletic Newsletter.

PRESENTATION

9.B. 2026-2027 School Calendar – Patrick Raugh, Federal Programs and Data Specialist, presented a draft of the 2026-2027 school calendar. (attached to BoardDocs)

PRESENTATION

9.C. 2026-2027 High School Course Planning Guide – Dr. David Archer, High School Principal presented. (attached to BoardDocs)

MOTION TO APPROVE

9.D. Moved by Mr. K. Johnson, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson to approve Item 9.D. Motion passed 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

9.D. Approve the new high school course, Spanish IB MC (modified curriculum), for the 2027-2028 school year. This course is a continuation of MC Spanish 1A.

DISCUSSION

9.E. Discuss the overnight field trip request for one student, contingent upon the student being selected for All-State Band, to attend the All-State Band rehearsals at Carlisle Area High School from March 19–21, 2026. No transportation is required.

DISCUSSION

9.F. Discuss the overnight field trip request for one student, contingent upon the student being selected for All-State Band, to attend the All-State Band Festival at the Kalahari Resort from April 22–25, 2026. No transportation is required.

Note: the agenda was amended to remove item X (10) from the agenda.

Ms. LeMelle presented two proposed initiatives aimed at strengthening community engagement and transparency. The first proposal requests a dedicated public meeting, either as a separate Education and Athletics Committee session or a standalone public meeting, to address community concerns regarding school performance, state testing results, and student operations. The meeting would be publicly advertised and include opportunities for community members to submit questions in advance and participate in an open dialogue.

The second proposal focuses on increasing student and community involvement in the Wayne Avenue property project. The Board member suggested engaging the high school Nature and Hiking Club to collaborate with the Board and administration in developing and maintaining a public newsletter that would provide ongoing updates on the project's environmental impact and progress.

The initiatives were presented as a means to promote transparency, encourage collaboration, and strengthen partnerships among students, families, staff, and the broader community.

IX. PERSONNEL UPDATES

None

X. FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:50 p.m., the Finance and Facilities Committee was called to order by Mr. Rawls

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
REPORT**

Mr. Terry Heller, Director of Maintenance and Operations, presented. (attached to BoardDocs)

Note: the remaining discussion items on the agenda were postponed until the January 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Ms. Hatcher, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed: 8-0, 0 abstentions, 1 absent (Dr. Mareno)

Meeting adjourned 10:07 p.m.


Elise LeMelle
Board Secretary