KARNS CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD ACTION

March 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

--The regular meeting was called to order by Mr. Price at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

--Approved minutes of the February 9, 2026, regular meeting, as submitted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

--Nathan Hess provided updates regarding the Student Council's recent activities as well as those for the balance of the school year. He noted that recently the Student Council has funded fan buses to support the girls' basketball playoff games, which has not been done in the recent history. The Student Council also recently sold carnations for the Valentine's Day holiday. On February 20th, a successful blood drive was held, with the final blood drive of the year scheduled for May 15th. Mr. Hess also stated that on April 16th, the Student Council would be attending its annual Pirate Game. He elaborated on the upcoming events of the three subcommittees. The Government Committee will be interviewing Mr. Greg King to learn more about his role with the School District. The Appreciation Committee will be hosting a luncheon for teachers to acknowledge all their hard work. Finally, the Spirit Committee has put together a March Madness bracket. Mr. Hess stated that upcoming is a trip to Indiana University to participate in mock trials. He concluded by sharing they will be planning for the Fun Day held at the end of May in celebration of a successful school year.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

--Mr. Zachary Scherer addressed the Board regarding Sugarcreek Elementary. He began by sharing that he filed a Right to Know Request the week prior and included in that, he received information pertaining to items declared of no value for both Sugarcreek Elementary School and the then Chicora Elementary School. He noted that an estimated 6,000 books were declared of no valued, and at an average cost of $8-30 per book, he estimated this to be $50,000 in value. Mr. Scherer noted that depreciation could make this closer to $15,000 in value. He noted that some of these books were donated. Mr. Scherer stated that the Sugarcreek Administration should have recovered these items and possibly returned them to the donors. He continued by stating that there were 18 smart panels, with a valuation of $36,000, but a depreciated value of $18,000. He also estimated the promethean projectors to be worth between $5-10,000. Finally, kitchen equipment that was left, he estimated to be between $2-15,000. In total, Mr. Scherer stated that there was approximately $100,000 in assets left behind. Mr. Scherer questioned why the community was not made aware. He also stated that there was Journey Instrumental kits left behind and concluded by stating that the District could have made a profit on the sale of these items.
--Mr. Morgen Mogus addressed the Board regarding Sugarcreek Elementary. He also asked why the community was not made aware of the remaining assets at Sugarcreek Elementary. He suggested that the District could have hosted a community rummage day to sell the items. Mr. Mogus also questioned if the contractor was permitted to sell the items of no value.
--Mr. Erich Myers addressed the Board regarding the annual operational costs of the UAA. He shared a listing of expenses and suggested that there were likely more than what was documented. He stated that the UAA has had a relationship with the District and even co-schedules the Junior High programs. Mr. Myers acknowledged that the two entities have had a good relationship, however, because it is a nonprofit organization, they need financial help. Recently, Mr. Myers attended a Brady Township meeting with a similar request, and was approved funding to support additional dirt. He shared that this year the UAA

purchased a pitching mat for $2,000, however was in need of another. He asked that the District provide additional funds, specifically $7,000, to support the purchase of two loads of dirt and an additional pitching mound. He also discussed the possible liability of the District employees utilizing their equipment and questioned who would be responsible if it were to be damaged. Finally, Mr. Myers shared that he disagreed with the possible dissolution of the Junior High Baseball and Junior High Softball programs as the UAA may not be able to support the increase in athletes. He stated that the Pony League at the UAA already travels far distances and does not feel that the UAA could support that age group.
--Ms. Cindy Hildebrand addressed the Board regarding Sugarcreek Elementary. She shared that her kids are raised and gone from the school system and noted that the closure of Sugarcreek Elementary has been known for two years. She stated that she felt things could have been done better, specifically maybe the contract with the demolition contractor could have been more specific. She also felt that the District could have been more diligent in removing items from Sugarcreek Elementary. Ms. Hildebrand noted that the County no longer does auctions of assets of no value as it costs too much money. She shared that the contract that the District agreed to, saved the District money. She continued by stating that the Board has a tough job, and it is difficult to make everyone happy. She noted that despite the number of comments on Facebook, there were only 15-20 community members who attended the Board meeting. She encouraged community members to stay informed by calling the school district, or by attending the Board meetings.
--Ms. Kristi St. Onge addressed the Board regarding Sugarcreek Elementary. Ms. St. Onge stated she is not a parent of a student, but has lived in the District for approximately 5.5 years. She is active on Facebook and has a list of questions for the District. Ms. St. Onge stated she would file a Right to Know Request and would like to read all the bids. She noted that items were being sold on Facebook on a personal account, and from what she could tell, has been sold for nearly $10,200. Ms. St. Onge felt the District should have utilized funds from the sale of assets to support causes like supporting students in need. She felt the District could have utilized an auction house, sharing that their commission is approximately 30%. She felt that there was questionable decision making regarding Sugarcreek Elementary, and also noted about the cost of the additional asbestos abatement that was being approved at the meeting. She felt this should have been known, and questioned about the availability of blueprints. She stated that the District is the steward of taxpayer funds and reiterated that the District should treat taxpayer money tighter than our own. She concluded by stating that only two of the contractors who bid on the demolition of Sugarcreek Elementary had a rating on the Better Business Bureau, and had further financial questions.
--Mr. Scott Dittman addressed the Board on behalf of the Hardball Club. He is the President of the Hardball Club and thanked the Board for the ongoing support, specifically for their upcoming Myrtle Beach trip. He shared that fundraising went well. He addressed the Board regarding a baseball field on District property, however shared that they have identified primary and secondary sponsors to cover the costs of a field. He reiterated that the sponsors had a level of urgency and were very interested in getting it done quickly. He wanted to share this information to address any additional hurdles in getting a baseball field on District property.

CAFETERIA

--Approved Cafeteria Financial Statement, as submitted.
--Approved Cafeteria Bills, as submitted.

ATHLETICS

--No Report.

TRANSPORTATION

--Approved the addition(s)/deletion(s) to the bus driver list submitted by Shriver Bus Contracting Services for the 2025-2026 school year, pending successful completion and receipt of all required clearances and forms.

- Add: Paula Nulph - Bus Driver
- Add: Joseph Altman - Bus Driver

BUILDING & GROUNDS

--Approved requests for Use of School Facilities, as submitted.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

--Approved field trip(s), as submitted.

CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS

--Approved the second and final read of the Junior High and Senior High Curriculum Guides for the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted.
--Approved the agreement between the Karns City Area School District and Watson Institute Social Center for Academic Achievement (WISCA – Sewickley) program for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 21, 2025, as submitted.
--Approved Summer Physical Education with a maximum course fee of 4200 with tentative dates of June 9 – June 26, 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year, contingent upon a minimum of ten students enrolling in the course, as submitted. (same fee structure as last year)
--Approved the Letter of Agreement for services between Karns City Area School District and Pressley Ridge, as submitted.
--Approved the Karns City Area School District Cyber Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted.
--Approved the agreement between KeySolution Staffing and the Karns City Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost not to exceed $96,900.00, as submitted. (This agreement shall replace that which was approved at the September 8, 2025 board meeting).

POLICY

--Approved the first read of the draft Cell Phone/Personal Device Policy, as submitted.

FINANCE

--Approved General Fund Bills, as submitted.
--Approved Treasurer's Report, as submitted.
--Approved Student Activity Fund Report, as submitted.
--Approved the agreement between Karns City Area School District and the PSBA Insurance Trust for participation in the Better Unemployment Compensation System BASIC Program (BUCS Basic), commencing on July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, at a cost of $4.50 per employee, as submitted.
--Approved the two-year agreement between Karns City Area School District and Vision Benefits of America (VBA) for vision benefits, as submitted. (Individual $7.35, Family $15.98 an increase from Individual $5.50, Family $11.94)
--Accepted the WPSHCC Medical and Prescription rates for the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted:
- Employee - $799.47
- Employee + Child(ren) - $1,638.97
- Employee + Spouse - $1,830.85
- Employee + Family - $2,110.64

--Approved the Regent Solutions, United Concordia Dental Rates for the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted: Employee $34.02; Employee + Spouse $68.03; Employee + Child(ren) $71.45; Employee + Family $102.04 (Increase from 2025-2026).

PERSONNEL

--Approved the unpaid leave request for Mrs. Peggy McElravy, effective April 13, 2026 through April 15, 2026, exhausting all personal day, as submitted.
--Accepted the resignation of Ms. Carli Crawford, Paraprofessional, effective February 18, 2026, as submitted.
--Approved addition(s)/deletion(s) to the Karns City Area School District's Driver List, as submitted.

- Add: Troy Zediker
- Add: Carrie Miles
- Add: Marc Christie
- Remove: Travis Twentier

--Approved the Homeless Liaison Job Description, as submitted.
--Approved the addition(s)/deletion(s) to the volunteer list, as submitted for the 2025-2026 school year, pending successful completion of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, Act 168, as submitted.

- Add: Anna Michael – Junior High Softball
- Add: William Michael – Junior High Softball
- Add: Travis Trimbur – Junior High Softball

--Approved the contract renewal between Karns City Area School District and Dr. Eric Ritzert, Superintendent, as submitted.
--Authorized the administration to post/advertise for the Supplemental positions listed below, until the position is filled.

- Third Assistant Girls Basketball Coach (Junior High)
- Assistant Golf Coach
- Marching Band First Assistant
- Marching Band Fourth Assistant

--Motion to approve addition(s)/deletion(s) to supplemental position(s) for the 2025-2026 school year pending successful completion and receipt of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, & Act 168, as submitted.

- Hire: Mrs. Adrienne Fallecker - Marching Band Third Assistant

--Motion to approve the addition(s)/deletion(s) to the substitute list for the 2025-2026 school year pending successful completion of all required clearances under Act 24, Act 34, Act 114, Act 151, Act 168, and results of a current tuberculosis test, as submitted.

- Add: Ms. Victoria Ganter - Substitute Cafeteria Worker & Instructional Aide

--Approved travel request(s), as submitted.
--Motion to authorize the administration to post/advertise for the Instructional position(s) listed below, until the position is filled.

- Health & Physical Education Instructor

CAPITAL RESERVE

--Approved Capital Projects Bill(s), as submitted.
--Approved Capital Fund Bill(s), as submitted.
--Approved the General Contractor Change Order 01 for the Sugarcreek Demolition Project, with an increase of $25,000.00, as submitted.

--Approved Musco Lighting as the Karns City Area School District Stadium Lighting vendor in the amount of $540,000, which includes the work scope for Option 4 New. This work has been quoted using state cooperative pricing, and final terms of the proposal are subject to Solicitor's final review and approval, as submitted.

BCAVTS REPORT

--No Report.

MISCELLANEOUS

--Approved the resolution of the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV General Operating Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Karns City Area School District's estimated share is $12,216, no change from the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted.
--Approved the Crowdfunding Solicitation Project request, per Policy 702.1, as submitted.
--Approved the agreement between Karns City Area School District and Mrs. Amanda Robinson as the 2026 Graduation Sound Coordinator at a fee not to exceed $600.00, as submitted.
--Tabled the Chromebook Protection Plan, effective the 2026-2027 school year, as submitted.
--Approved the first read of the Special Education Plan, as submitted.
--Accepted the donation of $2,000 from the United Way, as submitted.
--Approved the five-year Affiliation Agreement between Karns City Area School District and PennWest University for field placement of student teaching and internships, pending Solicitor approval, as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

--The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. Executive Session adjourned at 10:06 p.m.