

**EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

Ms. Carolyn Riley, President, called the public meeting of the Joint Operating Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom with the following members in attendance:

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart	Abington
	Bryn Athyn
Mr. Charles Burdell-Williams	Cheltenham
Ms. Jennifer Wilson	Hatboro-Horsham
Ms. Carolyn Riley	Jenkintown
Mr. Erskine Payton	Lower Moreland
Mr. Jeffrey Bedard	Springfield
Dr. Joseph Burdo	Upper Dublin
Mr. Grant Rounds	Upper Moreland
 Christine Gallagher	 Solicitor
	Superintendent of Record
Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski	Executive Director
Ms. Katie Braun	Secretary/Business Manager

A motion carried unanimously will necessarily, by reference, include each voting member in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

David Phillips led the Joint Operating Committee and audience in a salute to the flag.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND HONOR OF INDIGENOUS AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Ms. Carolyn Riley read the Acknowledgement and Honor of Indigenous and Diverse Communities.

MINUTES

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the Joint Operating Committee minutes of the regular and agenda session meeting January 14, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Christine Gallagher announced that an Executive Session was not held before the public meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Informational:

Student Success

EASTERN will celebrate Black History Month in February by featuring some of our students, their voices and experiences.

- Tyler Little – Veterinary Science/Abington
- Makaila Dupree – Business and Technology Professional/Cheltenham
- Giovanni Francis – Automotive Technology/Cheltenham
- Infinity Miller-Broadwater – Exercise Science and Rehabilitation/Abington
- Kayla Ervin – Business and Technology Professional/Cheltenham
- Ehizele Arebamen – Allied Health/Cheltenham
- Morgan Monte – Design, Photography, and Illustration/Upper Dublin
- Cayla Brooks – Culinary Arts/Springfield
- Dena Humphries – Protective Services/Upper Moreland
- Marckus Jones – HVAC/Abington

SkillsUSA District Competitions *

SkillsUSA District 2 Competitions were hosted by Bucks County Technical High School.

EASTERN students competed in competitions on January 28, 2026.

EASTERN sent 66 competitors with 19 first place winners; 5 second place winners; and 25 third place winners; and 5 Direct to States.

The Gold Medal winners will compete at April's State championship in Hershey, PA.

Culinary Arts Re-Accreditation

Congratulations to Culinary Arts in receiving a five-year program re-accreditation from the American Culinary Federation.

School Board Orientation – Sunday, March 1, 2026

School Board Orientation – 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Open House – Sunday, March 1, 2026 (Snow Date March 8TH)

Open House: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

- Districts send invitations to all Grade 6 to 11th families.
- Programs will be available to tour and include a chance to talk to the instructor

Career Expo Report *

Carolyn Riley shared the Career Expo report of the number of students who participated in the visitation.

Practical Nursing Graduation

Carolyn Riley informed the committee that graduation exercises for the Practical Nursing Class #168 was held on January 29, 2026 at Upper Moreland High School auditorium.

EASTERN Foundation *

The EASTERN Foundation Meeting minutes from February 9, 2026 are attached for your review.

FINANCIAL REPORT – For the Period Ending January 31, 2026

Informational:

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as presented
- Status of the Capital Reserves Fund Revenues for the period ended January 31, 2026, showing cash and investment balances of \$1,894,154.79 as presented

Action:

Treasurer's Report *

Mr. Erskine Payton moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the period ended January 31, 2026, showing General Fund cash and investment balances of \$6,899,055.67 and total assets of \$8,534,397.26 and the current status of the Student Activity account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Disbursements *

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of accounts payable checks #38460 through #38576 disbursed during the period of 1/01/2026 through 1/31/2026 in the amount of \$402,497.14.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of expense disbursement wire/ACH transfers #WT260122 through #WT260146 disbursed during the period of 1/01/2026 through 1/31/2026 in the amount of \$571,707.73.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of ACH transfer for procurement card (P-card) expenses disbursed for the month of December in the amount of \$8,528.76.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of payroll vouchers #012158 through #012305 disbursed on 1/9/2026 and 1/23/2026 in the amount of \$271,435.55.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of capital disbursement checks #11254 through #11255 disbursed during the period of 1/01/2026 through 1/31/2026 in the amount of \$165,722.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of student activities disbursement checks #82180 through #82183 disbursed during the period of 1/01/2026 through 1/31/2026 in the amount of \$4,381.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of budget transfers for the month of January 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Action:

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved to approve a resolution recognizing David Phillips, a senior at Abington Senior High School and in the Protective Services program, as *Outstanding Student of the Month* for February. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Carolyn Riley acknowledged David Phillips and presented him with a Resolution and EASTERN shirt. Mr. Jeffrey Pakula, Educators' Association President, presented him with the Association's gift card. He received the Rotary plaque at the luncheon.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Presentation: Mid-Point of Annual Goals

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, Mr. Joseph Greb and Mr. Gerry Rooney presented during the Agenda Session.

Informational:

Counselor/Special Education Liaison Committee Meeting *

The Counselor/Special Education Liaison Committee meeting minutes of January 14, 2026 were presented.

Principals' Advisory Committee Meeting *

The Principals' Advisory Committee meeting minutes of January 22, 2026 were presented.

Administrative Advisory Committee Meeting *

The Administrative Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 3, 2026 were presented.

Activities Report *

The January Activities Report of the students and staff were presented.

Action:

Summer Cosmetology Program

Dr. Joseph Burdo moved approval to operate a Summer Cosmetology Program offering 120 hours of instruction:

June 22-July 23 Monday - Thursday

8 am to 2:30 pm

6 hours per day

20 days

Total COS hours – 120

Lunch 11:30 to noon

Teacher employment is to be based upon the number of students enrolled:

15 – 25 students	-	1 teacher
26 – 34 students	-	waiting list
35 – 50 students	-	2nd teacher
51 – 59 students	-	waiting list
60+ students	-	3rd teacher

Motion carried unanimously.

Donation

Dr. Joseph Burdo moved acceptance of Caliber Collision (Wayne, PA) donated 12 gallons of reducer, 6 gallons of paint, 63 quarts of tints, 17 ½ gallon of tints, and 2 gallons of clear for our Collision Repair program and Upper Dublin Township Police Department donated Alco- Sensor FST and Portable Breath Test instruments for our Protective Services program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing Affiliation *

Dr. Joseph Burdo moved approval of the attached agreement between Eastern Center for Arts and Technology and the Philadelphia School District for students to benefit from clinical experience in gerontology.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY

Action:

2023-2029 Strategic Plan

The EASTERN Joint Operating Committee approved a six-year Strategic Plan 2023-2029 on February 8, 2023. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires it to be submitted in 3-year increments.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval to submit the second increment titled Comprehensive Plan 2026-2029.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revision – Second Reading *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the second reading of Policy C112, Admission of Students, in the Students Section and changes to the Director Procedure.

Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Action:

Professional

Substitute - Approval

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval of the following as Substitute Instructor for 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$135 per day for certified assignments and \$120 per day for general assignments.

CERTIFIED ASSIGNMENT

Veterinary Science

Business and Technology Professional

Networking and Cybersecurity

Motion carried unanimously.

INSTRUCTOR

AnnaMaria Stylianou

Jonathan Sklut

Classified

Facilities Maintenance Technician – Snow Removal

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval of Facilities Maintenance Technician, Kyle Maurer, to work up to additional 30 hours at his overtime rate of \$44.55 to assist with snow removal as approved by the Business Manager.

Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval of the following as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor at the rate of \$45.16 per hour for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Kaitlyn Conolly, BSN, RN

Julie Njoku-Anderson, MSN-ED, RN, CRRN

Motion carried unanimously.

Training Supervisors

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval of Dan Checchia of Land Rover Willow Grove as Training Supervisor for EASTERN's Automotive Technology student Leo Kuntzmann.
Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Informational:

Building Report *

The building report for January activities regarding the school plant and property was presented.

PCCD School Safety and Mental Health Grant

EASTERN has applied for the PCCD School Safety and Mental Health Grant, which is a noncompetitive, formula-based solicitation, for our allotted amount of \$70,000. The objective of this grant is to offer an opportunity for school entities to use funding to address school safety needs. We will be allocating the \$70,000 to be spent on 1) camera improvement, 2) replacement of an external door, and 3) our security personnel through SEC Shield.

Action:

Certify the 2026-2027 Budget *

The Joint Operating Committee is requested to acknowledge action by participating Board s of School Directors regarding the consideration of EASTERN's 2026-2027 operating budget as presented at the meeting.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval that the Joint Operating Committee certify the operating budget as adopted and authorize implementation and submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).
Motion carried unanimously.

Telesystem Agreement Renewal *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved acceptance of the Audit Report for the school year ended June 30, 2025, as prepared by Barbacane Thornton & Company (BTCPA) for Eastern Center for Arts and Technology.
Motion carried unanimously.

Cashnet Solutions for LPN Campus Connect (*STARS*) Student Accounting Record System

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of CashNet Solutions, an online payment platform that allows LPN students to securely view their bills and pay tuition and fees electronically. It is integrated with STARS, which will serve as the LPN program's billing system, so student balances, statements and payments are available in one place. Pricing is outlined below.

a. Cash Discount

3.99% gets added to the transaction, increasing prices, enough to cover all fees. This is paid by the students. The students will always have a discounted option to pay through ACH. Students will never be charged if they use ACH. They will see both options and be able to choose. In the case of autopay, they will set it up once, and their cards or accounts (ACH) will be charged on schedule. The school will pay a small monthly fee to be a part of the platform. If your transaction is \$100, you would collect your full \$100 no matter how the student pays, vs. IC Plus would be \$100 minus the credit card fees.

Pros:

- No credit card processing fees to pay.
- Transparency and options given to students.
- The most popular program with all of the schools we service.

Cons:

- None, the Cash Discount platform was designed to fix the problems inherent in the payment processing space.

b. ACH

ACH is set up alongside card processing as a way for students to avoid fees, while the school pays a minimal amount on the ACH transaction. Much less than any card transaction.

Pricing

Cash Discount with ACH

- \$35/month fixed for the platform, no transaction fees or %. Once annual \$99.
 - 3.99% added to the transaction and this covers all fees
- Gateway - \$14/month
- ACH Platform - \$15/month and 0.50% on transaction volume

All in costs:

- With Cash Discount the volume you process on cards makes no difference; you always only pay the fixed amount for the platform and gateway.
- **In total - \$64/month, and 0.50% only on ACH transactions.**

Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Christina Gallagher had no Solicitor's Report.

NEXT MEETING

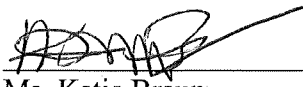
The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee is Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at EASTERN.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Riley adjourned the February 11, 2026 meeting of the Joint Operating Committee at 8:30 p.m.



Ms. Carolyn Riley
Joint Operating Committee President



Ms. Katie Braun
Joint Operating Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary: Linda McAlpine

**EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
AGENDA SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

A. Presentation: EASTERN Goals 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, Joe Greb and Gerry Rooney gave a presentation on Annual Goals.