

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

	<p>An executive session was held February 17, 2026 and February 19, 2026, and today, March 3, 2026, after the special meeting for personnel and legal matters.</p> <p>A special board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of School Directors was held in the High School Library, 3525 Fireline Road, Palmerton, PA, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, immediately following the workshop, and called to order at 6:37 p.m. President Sherry Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream.</p>
ROLL CALL	<p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Mazepa, Moyzan, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder</p>
OTHER ATTENDANCE	<p>Angela Friebolin – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities, Daniel Heaney – Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and David Conn – Solicitor</p>
	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenneth Sutton – asked about costs for special counsel for negotiations
AMEND AGENDA	<p>Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to amend the agenda to make a motion to add an alternate to the construction project at the high school. The reason to amend the agenda is the timing of the pre-bid meeting requires action before that meeting takes place.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
MODIFY BID DOCS FOR HS CONSTRUCTION	<p>Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to direct KCBA Architects and KCE Engineering to modify the bid documents for the construction project at the high school to include Alternate #7-without the construction of a district administration office.</p> <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terry Kuehner – wanted to ask architect and engineer questions about project; should have contacted state agencies about unstable ground before moving forward• Kenneth Sutton – look at other real estate for district office; questioned why extra money must be spent on project; stated there is a mine shaft beneath surface; do not be pressured by others and do the right thing• Jay Clough – KCBA architect, stated contractors must be vetted after bids are received; district paid for a study/report from a geotechnical engineer in which the findings were that solid ground exists where the district wants to build on <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
HS ASBESTOS ABATEMENT	<p>Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to award the high school asbestos abatement project to Sargent Enterprises, Inc., Jim Thorpe, PA, at a cost of \$39,812.00.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>
SPECIAL COUNSEL-NEGOTIATIONS	<p>Director King moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to acknowledge that the Education Department of Fox Rothschild, LLP, the appointed special counsel for negotiations, will become the Education</p>

Group of McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC, effective April 1, 2026. No changes are being made to the terms of the representation, current rate structure, or personnel.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Mary Farquhar – read summary on history of teachers’ unions; quoted bible verse; asked for Dr. Friebolin’s resignation
- Daniel Heaney – spoke against taking cheap shots at our teachers; against using broad generalizations about teachers from the internet; our teachers work hard every day; test scores being weaponized against our teachers, currently in Portrait of a Graduate meetings where not one person want good test takers, but well-rounded, successful students; thinks we do have successful students in district and something would have to be given up if we just have good test takers and nothing else
- Jenna McHugh – asked about support staff negotiations and whether custodians are receiving a budget cut; stated there are issues with allowing youth groups to use facilities because of custodians’ contractual obligations
- Kenneth Sutton – asked why a custodian doesn’t have to be at the 7th Street field during use; asked if a custodian has to be present in all places; asked why classroom pets were removed and who is responsible; spoke about benefits of classroom pets

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Haas asked status of Delaware Avenue property that is for sale and asked for approximate costs to renovate. Mr. Kish stated it was between \$3-4m to renovate plus purchase price of property, and we are unsure of what additional costs might be. We won’t know unless an architect or engineer walks through the property and gives an assessment. Next steps would be to see what the district administration office would cost and then we will be able to do a comparison.
- Director Haas stated the Board will go into an executive session following adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless
Board Secretary