

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held Tuesday, June 2, 2026, after the board workshop for personnel and safety and security matters, and today, Tuesday, June 16, 2026, before the regularly scheduled board meeting and again, today, Tuesday, June 16, 2026, during the meeting for personnel matters.

The regular 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, June 16, 2026, and called to order at 5:31 p.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder
Absent: Director Moyzan

OTHER ATTENDANCE

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS:

- *Dr. Heaney* – conducted interviews in last few weeks, have strong candidates to recommend tonight, thank you to administration for their assistance throughout the process; attended Towamensing Elementary 6th grade Moving Up ceremony with Mr. Kish, great job from Mrs. George and staff, and all principals who make these year-end events outstanding
- *Mr. Kish* – Budget: state has not finalized its budget so we are forced to pass our 2026-2027 budget without knowing what state revenue will be; addressed misinformation about budget by saying deficits are not the result of any one individual—our deficit is driven by increases that every district is struggling with; these are mandated fixed costs that we are legally bound to pay, including increasing health insurance premiums which are dictated by multiyear collective bargaining agreements, rising special education costs, debt service, charter school tuition, and other unfunded state mandates; we control our building budgets and student supplies which has actually decreased, but would not recommend that we cut the deficit this year on the back of students; approving homestead/farmstead resolution which reduces property taxes of 3,429 residents by approximately \$380, this is state gaming revenue that is allocated yearly to pass on to taxpayers. Construction: held bond closing for project on June 9; met with Moody's Credit Rating Company who stated district has a healthy financial position, great stability, and strong financial management, are able to secure a more favorable interest rate of 3.79%, which will save us \$575k in interest over the life of the bond over initial projections; Recognition: high school science teacher, Jeanne Knepper, has chemicals that need to be disposed of, which is very costly to do. Ms. Knepper applied for and was awarded a chemical disposal grant through the DEP that could save \$30k in disposal costs, thank you to her for her hard work on this; also recognized Mrs. Paula Husar and her staff for the great job done with graduation, congratulations again to the Class of 2026

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Haas – CLIU: fortunate to attend an early intervention graduation for a Palmerton student recently; viewed pictures at recent meeting of all graduating students; golf outing raised \$23k which they will use for camps and adaptive bicycles
- Director Schaible – Policy: highlighted progress of House Bill 41, which aims to level the athletic playing field by giving PIAA authority to separate boundary and non-boundary schools; this legislation is backed by over 400 superintendents across the state, driven by statistics showing that non-boundary schools win a disproportionate number of state titles, particularly in basketball; requested that the Board reset on its primary duties by focusing on

	governance and planning; urged the Board and administration to collaborate on setting three governance goals tied to student success and district priorities for upcoming school year • Director Snyder inquired when the cell phone ban during school hours for students will be effective and what the plan to implement this is should the bill pass. Conversations have not been had yet by administration; it would go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year OLD BUSINESS: Director Connell stated she will be donating the \$400 yearly stipend she receives as Treasurer back to the district. She would like the funds to go to the High School Yearbook Club to help defray costs for students who wish to purchase a yearbook but are unable to buy for themselves. Director Schaible asked the Yearbook Committee to provide an actual number of students that wanted yearbooks this year and was happy to be able to donate those to all who wanted one. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: • Rich Banko – does not see need for security guard at meetings; people have been asking him why we are paying a superintendent who is on leave • Danielle Jones – stated Mr. Paules confronted her at end of last workshop and should not have spoken to her about her legal petition against him; supported security guard at meetings • Deb Kleckner – sought clarification on interest savings accrued on construction bond; against disposal or sale of district-owned property on Delaware Avenue and cell phone tower lot; concerned about accruing more district debt
MEETING MINUTES	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the board meeting minutes from May 20, 2026. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
EXECUTIVE SESSION	Director Haas called an EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:55 p.m. for a personnel matter. The meeting resumed at 6:07 p.m.
CONSENT AGENDA w/Tabling of boys' wrestling coaches	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to table consent agenda Item #2 Personnel, Item Y, boys' wrestling coaches only. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Mazepa, to approve the remaining items of the consent agenda. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
FISCAL REPORTS	CONSENT AGENDA: Approved accounts payable reports Approved treasurer's reports
BUDGET TRANSFERS	Approved all budget transfers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 in order to comply with audit requirements. The Board will be provided an itemized listing of all required budget transfers upon completion of the 2025-2026 audit.

MAKE & RELEASE PAYMENTS	Approved the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities to make and release payments for the remaining June accounts payable																
HOMESTEAD/ FARMSTEAD DEPOSITORIES	Approved the 2026-2027 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution Appointed First Northern Bank & Trust, Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) and PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PASDLAF) as district depositories for the 2026-2027 school year																
REAL ESTATE TAX RESOLUTION	Approved Resolution #6.16.25 per the Real Estate Tax Universal Installment Payment Resolution for the collection of the 2026 real estate taxes																
TAX DUPLICATES	Granted permission to release the 2026 Tax Duplicates to the respective tax collectors for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026																
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INSURANCE- Hanover Insurance	Approved retroactively Builders’ Risk Insurance coverage through Hanover Insurance Group for the high school and district administration offices construction projects for the term June 1, 2026 through November 15, 2027, in the amount of \$15,287.00																
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION	Approved the 2026-2027 workers’ compensation coverage through CM Regent Insurance Company at a cost of \$65,678.00 compared to an expiring premium of \$56,775.00																
STUDENT ACCIDENT COVERAGE	Approved the 2026-2027 student accident coverage through Axis Insurance Company at a cost of \$36,322.00 Approved the 2026-2027 voluntary student accident coverage through Axis Insurance Company for the period of August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027																
BONDING AMOUNTS	Approved the following bonding amounts for the 2026-2027 fiscal year: <table><tr><td>Board President</td><td>\$100,000</td><td>Superintendent</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr><tr><td>Board Vice President</td><td>\$100,000</td><td>Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr><tr><td>Board Secretary</td><td>\$100,000</td><td>Forgery or Alteration</td><td>\$100,000</td></tr><tr><td>Board Treasurer</td><td>\$100,000</td><td>Employee Theft</td><td>\$ 5,000</td></tr></table>	Board President	\$100,000	Superintendent	\$100,000	Board Vice President	\$100,000	Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities	\$100,000	Board Secretary	\$100,000	Forgery or Alteration	\$100,000	Board Treasurer	\$100,000	Employee Theft	\$ 5,000
Board President	\$100,000	Superintendent	\$100,000														
Board Vice President	\$100,000	Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities	\$100,000														
Board Secretary	\$100,000	Forgery or Alteration	\$100,000														
Board Treasurer	\$100,000	Employee Theft	\$ 5,000														
TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS	Approved tuition reimbursements																
TEACHERS	Approved Sarah Zaborowski as Art Teacher at S. S. Palmer Elementary/Parkside Education Center, at Master’s, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$56,890 effective August 18, 2026 Approved Brandy Welk as Second Grade Teacher at Towamensing Elementary, at Master’s, Step 2, at an annual salary of \$57,440 effective August 18, 2026 Approved Savana Serfass as First Grade Teacher at Parkside Education Center, at Bachelor’s, Step 1, at an annual salary of \$55,000 effective August 18, 2026 Approved Kristen Gemmel as Sixth Grade Teacher at S. S. Palmer Elementary, at Master’s, Step 3, at an annual salary of \$57,940 effective August 18, 2026 Approved Karissa Nenscel as Kindergarten Teacher at Towamensing Elementary, at Master’s, Step 4, at an annual salary of \$58,440 effective August 18, 2026																
BUILDING TRANSFER	Approved the transfer of Michelle Gordon, Building Secretary at Parkside Education Center, to Building Secretary at S. S. Palmer Elementary effective June 17, 2026 in accordance with Board Policy #309-Assignment & Transfer																

BUILDING SECRETARIES	Approved Kelli Horn as Building Secretary at Parkside Education Center at an annual salary of \$37,153 prorated effective June 17, 2026 with a start date to be determined		
	Approved Jessica Pastor as Building Secretary-Guidance at the High School at an annual salary of \$37,153 prorated effective June 17, 2026 with a start date to be determined		
IA	Approved Trisha Buck as Instructional Assistant at Towamensing Elementary at a rate of \$19.19 per hour effective August 18, 2026, subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified PAESPA collective bargaining agreement for the 2026-2027 school year		
FMLA	Approved the following for Family & Medical Leave:		
	Employee #538	Effective on or about August 18, 2026 not to exceed twelve (12) weeks	
	Employee #624	Effective on or about September 19, 2026 not to exceed twelve (12) weeks	
TENURE	Approved tenure status for the following Teachers who have attained three (3) years of satisfactory performance ratings in the district:		
	Rachael Parham		
	Joey Roetz		
HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS	Acknowledged the following horizontal movements effective the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year:		
	Brent Harris	From Master’s to Master’s +15	
	Jennifer Harrison	From Master’s +30 to Master’s +45	
	Lauren Salerno	From Master’s +30 to Master’s +45	
LEAD CUSTODIAN CHANGE	Approved the voluntary relinquishment of the Lead Custodian designation by Christine Greenzweig, effective June 30, 2026, and appoint Frank Rocco as Lead Custodian effective July 1, 2026, with the annual stipend in accordance with the PAESPA collective bargaining agreement, subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified PAESPA collective bargaining agreement for the 2026-2027 school year		
SUMMER FEEDING	Approved the following Food Service Workers for the summer feeding program at the contractual hourly rate per the PAESPA Agreement effective June 25, 2026 through July 30, 2026, subject to increase pursuant to any final, ratified PAESPA collective bargaining agreement for the 2026-2027 school year:		
	Michelle Altemose	Wendy Magner	
	Diane Gebhard	Adrienne Meckes	
SUMMER EMPLOYEES	Approved the following as Summer Employees at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, no more than 28 hours per week effective June 22, 2026 through August 13, 2026:		
	Soraya Amar	Gabryella Lucas	Ezra Green
	Connor Hibbell	Kynder White	
CLUB ADVISORS 2026-2027	Approved the following Club Advisors at S.S. Palmer Elementary/Parkside Education Center for the 2026-2027 school year:		
	Isabelle Beedle	Chorus	\$1,633.00
	Kimberly Nenscel	Computer	\$ 827.00
	Alexander Orr	Computer	\$ 827.00
	Elizabeth Karb	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50

Kimberly Nenscel	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50
Alexander Orr	Newspaper	\$1,055.00
Elizabeth Karb	Safety Patrol	\$ 827.00
Morgan Christman	Safety Patrol	\$ 827.00
Elizabeth Karb	Student Council	\$ 827.00
Morgan Christman	Student Council	\$ 827.00
Pamela Andrews	Yearbook	\$ 827.00

Approved the following Club Advisors at Towamensing Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year:

Natalie Madeira	Chorus	\$1,633.00
Marisa Lichtenwalner	Computer	\$ 827.00
Kathryn Malay	Environmental	\$1,257.00
Jodi Kocher	Newspaper	\$1,055.00
Marisa Lichtenwalner	Safety Patrol	\$ 827.00
Susan Warakowski	Safety Patrol	\$ 827.00
Jaclyn Ivancich	Sixth Sense Co-Advisor	\$ 421.00
Alexandrea Spalding	Sixth Sense Co-Advisor	\$ 421.00
Jaclyn Ivancich	Student Council	\$ 827.00
Trisha Green	Yearbook	\$ 827.00
Krystle Meglio	Yearbook	\$ 827.00

Approved the following Club Advisors at the Junior High School for the 2026-2027 school year:

Melissa Hoffman	ACE Co-Advisor	\$ 421.00
Sarah Smith	ACE Co-Advisor	\$ 421.00
Christina Bravo	Aevidum Co-Advisor	--
Annette Trittenbach	Aevidum Co-Advisor	--
Laura Reichard	Band	\$1,633.00
Laura Reichard	Chorus	\$1,633.00
Kimberly Seiler	Environmental	--
Holly Skrimcovsky	National Honor Society	\$1,050.00
Brian Stevko	Newspaper Co-Advisor	\$1,032.00
Kathryn Zurn	Newspaper Co-Advisor	\$1,032.00
William Zeky	STEM	--
Christopher Kery	Student Council Co-Advisor	\$ 523.50
Stephanie Blee	Student Council Co-Advisor	\$ 523.50
Brad Landis	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$1,032.00
Amy Morgan	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$1,032.00

Approved the following Club Advisors at the High School for the 2026-2027 school year:

Vicki McHugh	Aevidum	\$1,257.00
Miranda Allen	Art Co-Advisor	\$1,010.50
Brianna Frey	Art Co-Advisor	\$1,010.50
Ryan King	Buddies	--
Michele Heydt	Color Guard	\$1,467.00
Matthew Blanchard	Concert Band	\$2,258.00
Valarie Milam	Creative Writing	--
Lisa Maderic	Debate	\$2,100.00
Thomas McElhinny	Drama-Fall	\$1,836.00
Thomas McElhinny	Drama-Spring	\$1,836.00
Michael Gombert	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50
Paul McArdle	Environmental Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50

Jennifer Danzeisen	FBLA Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50
Brandyn Miller	FBLA Co-Advisor	\$ 628.50
Brent Harris	Film	--
Matthew Blanchard	Fishing	--
Miranda Allen	Freshman Class	\$1,467.00
Christopher Walkowiak	Gridiron	--
Craig Borland	International Travelers	--
Matthew Blanchard	Jazz Band	\$2,258.00
Jennifer Danzeisen	Junior Class Co-Advisor	\$ 733.50
Brandyn Miller	Junior Class Co-Advisor	\$ 733.50
Vicki McHugh	Leo	\$1,257.00
Matthew Blanchard	Marching Band	\$4,957.00
Audrey Hoffman	Marching Band Assistant	\$2,737.00
Alexander Knoll	National Honor Society	\$2,100.00
Katherine Baumgardt	Newspaper (Avenger)	\$4,130.00
Kerry Palumbo	Oratory	\$1,257.00
Miranda Allen	PAAC	\$ 842.00
Alexander Knoll	PYEA	\$1,257.00
Vicki McHugh	SADD	\$ 842.00
Alexander Knoll	Scholastic Scrimmage	\$1,050.00
Kayla Field	Senior Class Co-Advisor	\$1,046.50
Alyssa Miller	Senior Class Co-Advisor	\$1,046.50
Travis Fink	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor	\$ 733.50
Tammy-Lynn Muniz	Sophomore Class Co-Advisor	\$ 733.50
Susan Dellicker	Souled Out	--
Sean Hall	Stage Crew	\$2,165.00
Julia Dougherty	STEM Co-Advisor	--
William Zeky	STEM Co-Advisor	--
Brianna Frey	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$2,065.00
Brandyn Miller	Yearbook Co-Advisor	\$2,065.00

**CAC REPS
2026-2027**

Approved the following Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) representatives Grades K-6 at S.S. Palmer Elementary/Parkside Education Center for the 2026-2027 school year:

Katherine Gilmartin Palazzo-Grades K & 1	\$1,845.00
Lindsay Serfass-Grade 2 & 3	\$1,845.00
Meghan Barclay-Grade 4	\$1,845.00
Tanya Hess-Grade 5	\$1,845.00
Lisa Ward-Grade 6	\$1,845.00

Approved the following Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) representatives Grades K-6 at Towamensing Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year:

Kathryn Malay-Grade K & 1	\$1,845.00
Brittany Zeky-Grade 2 & 3	\$1,845.00
Alexandrea Spalding, Co-Advisor-Grade 4	\$ 922.50
Susan Warakomski, Co-Advisor-Grade 4	\$ 922.50
Monique Hofford-Grade 5	\$1,845.00
Jaclyn Ivancich-Grade 6	\$1,845.00

Approved the following Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) representatives Gr. 7-8 at the Junior High School for the 2026-2027 school year:

Kimberly Seiler	\$1,845.00
Kathryn Zurn	\$1,845.00
Brad Landis, Co-Advisor	\$ 922.50
Amy Morgan, Co-Advisor	\$ 922.50

Approved the following Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) representatives Gr. 9-12 at the High School for the 2026-2027 school year:

Miranda Allen	Dept. Chair, Art/Music/Technology Education	\$1,845.00
Jennifer Danzeisen	Dept. Chair, Business Education	\$1,845.00
Kerry Palumbo	Dept. Chair, English	\$1,845.00
Susan Dellicker	Dept. Chair, Foreign Language	\$1,845.00
Jeremy Coleman	Dept. Chair, Health/Physical Education	\$1,845.00
Tammy-Lynn Muniz	Dept. Chair, Math	\$1,845.00
Jeanne Knepper	Dept. Chair, Science	\$1,845.00
Michael Gombert	Dept. Co-Chair, Social Studies	\$ 922.50
Paul McArdle	Dept. Co-Chair, Social Studies	\$ 922.50

COMPUTER COACHES

Approve the following Computer Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year:

Holly Sell	Parkside	\$1,920.00
William Acierno	S.S. Palmer	\$1,920.00
Tyler Svetik	S.S. Palmer	\$1,920.00
Brittany Zeky	Towamensing	\$1,920.00
Krystle Meglio	Towamensing	\$1,920.00
Brianna Carroll	Junior High	\$1,920.00
Amy Morgan	Junior High	\$1,920.00
Tammy-Lynn Muniz	High School	\$1,920.00
Alexander Knoll	High School	\$1,920.00
Andrew Remsing	High School	\$1,920.00

WINTER COACHES (partial)

Approved the following Winter Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year:

BASKETBALL-BOYS:		
Joseph Egan	Head Coach	\$6,609.00
Joseph Krempasky	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Brian Stevko	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Anthony Thomas	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Dylan Knouse	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
BASKETBALL-GIRLS:		
Travis Fink	Head Coach	\$6,609.00
James Hay	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Chase Reph	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Jason DeWalt	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Jarrad Hedes	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Thomas Reabold	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
SWIM:		
Chad Stroup	Volunteer Coach	--
Marlena Stroup	Volunteer Coach	--

**PAMPA
CHAPERONES**

Approved the following Palmerton Area Music Parents' Association (PAMPA) Volunteer Chaperones for the 2026-2027 school year:

Kristin Dunleavy	Stephen Pisulak
Marcey Goodbred	Christa Pursell
Carly Heist	Bryan Pursell
Grace Heist	Rachael Schafer
Michele Heydt	Tara Spiker
Linda Marlatt	Chad Sommers
Jennifer Mertz	Jennifer Sommers
Clare Papay	Marlena Stroup
Zachary Pinczok	Jessica Suarez
Heather Pisulak	

SUB REMOVALS

Removed the following from the current Substitute list effective June 17, 2026:

Bethany Long	Heather Meixell
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**TEXTBOOK
ADOPTIONS**

Approved the following textbook adoptions per the curriculum cycle for the 2026-2027 school year:

Teen Health	McGraw Hill Publishing	Grade 7-8 Health
AP Biology	Kendall Hunt Publishing Company	Grade 10 AP Biology
Concepts of Biology	Kendall Hunt Publishing Company	Grade 10 Essentials and Academic Biology
Earth Science	Pearson Education	Grade 9 Natural Science
Learn by Doing-Google Apps	B.E. Publishing	Grade 9 Google Apps

CLASS OF 2026

Accepted the status that the designated members of the Senior Class of 2026 have completed the graduation requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Board of School Directors of the Palmerton Area School District

**FACILITIES
CONTRACTS**

Approved the following facilities contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

ABE Laboratories	Domestic well water testing – Towamensing
George's Sewer & Drain	Pump out septic system – Towamensing
Johnson Controls	Fire alarm system-3 year – district wide
Kistler O'Brien	Fire extinguishers & Ansul system testing – district wide
Kleen Air Systems	Kitchen grease exhaust systems – HS/JHS/Towamensing
McClure Company	Boiler maintenance-3 year – district wide
NRG Controls	Electric controls system – district wide
Otis Service	Elevator maintenance - Parkside
ProAsys	Heating/cooling water treatment – district wide
Security Service Company	Security & fire alarm monitoring – district wide
Seitz Brothers	Exterminator service – district wide
Spotts, Stevens & McCoy	Asbestos inspection; asbestos awareness training – facility staff
TK Elevator	Elevator maintenance-3 year – Palmer/HS/JHS
Trane Technologies	HVAC/BAS equipment

KRE SECURITY

Approved the security services agreement with KRE Security, LLC, for the 2026-2027 school year

**SETTLEMENT/
RELEASE**

Approved the settlement agreement and release for student #37110 effective June 17, 2026

**HARRIS
EDUCATION
(edINSIGHT)**

Approved the Harris Education Solutions, edInsight data management system agreement for 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$10,150.27

CEDAR CREST	Approved the affiliation agreement with Cedar Crest College beginning June 17, 2026 through June 16, 2031
PATHSTONE	Approved the Letter of Understanding with PathStone Child & Family Development Services beginning June 17, 2026 through June 17, 2027 Approved the Public Preschool Memorandum of Understanding and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information with PathStone beginning June 17, 2026 through June 17, 2027
INDEPENDENT PSYCHOLOGISTS	Approved the Independent Contractor Agreement with Casey Craddock, certified school psychologist, beginning June 17, 2026 through June 17, 2027 Approved the independent contractor agreement with Kelsey Schultz, certified school psychologist, beginning June 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027 Approved the independent contractor agreement with Kristy Gruber, certified school psychologist, beginning June 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027 Approved the independent contractor agreement with Susie A. Sepulveda for bilingual school psychology services beginning June 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027 Approved the independent contractor agreement for bilingual speech and therapy evaluations with Doreen Cruz-Delgado effective June 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027
1st READINGS 202-236.1-607-810	Approved the first reading of the following policies: 1) Policy #202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students 2) Policy #236.1 Threat Assessment 3) Policy #607 Tuition Income 4) Policy #810 Transportation END OF CONSENT AGENDA
BUDGET 2026-2027	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve the Palmerton Area School District General Operating Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year with a real estate tax levy of 69.0130 mills with budgetary expenditures of \$43,765,764. The Board also authorizes, as a part of the General Operating Budget adoption, the Section 679 Per Capita Tax of \$5.00: Act 511 Earned Income Tax of 1.00%; Act 511 Per Capita Tax of \$10.00: Act 511 Realty Transfer Tax of 1.00%; Local Services Tax of \$5.00. The Board reaffirms and reenacts all collection procedures that are applicable to the local service tax, Section 679 and 511 Per Capita tax, Act 511 Earned Income Tax, and Act 511 Realty transfer tax. Aye Votes: Directors Connell, Haas, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Schaible. Nay Votes: Directors King, Mazepa, and Snyder. Motion Carried.
HOMETOWN TICKETING	Director King moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the agreement with Hometown Ticketing, Inc., for digital ticketing, event management, and athletic website/mobile application services for the Athletic Department with a term beginning upon execution and continuing through June 30, 2029, including automatic renewal provisions as outlined in the agreement. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
RETIREMENT	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to accept the retirement of Sharon Westermann as Third Grade Teacher at S. S. Palmer Elementary effective August 4, 2026.

PAID ADMIN. LEAVE	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to extend the paid administrative leave for employee #735 through December 31, 2026. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.
BUS CONTRACT 2026-2028	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Connell, approve the contract with Leon A. George II School Buses, Inc., for transportation of school students beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: • Constance Banko – doesn't see need for security guard at meetings • Jamie Tomsic – stated that a board's duty is to exercise oversight and must ask questions to understand multi-million-dollar projects; criticized district's leadership and legal counsel for a lack of transparency, accountability, and investigative action regarding official complaints; was allowed to keep a facility key after being terminated and is returning it this evening • Pinar Angun – disagrees with decision to end classroom switching for first and second graders; stated moving between classrooms keeps children engaged and accommodates their shorter attention spans; interacting with multiple teachers helps students adapt to different environments and gives them a chance to build connections with an educator; asked who made this decision and urged the school board to reverse it • Danielle Jones – opposes building a recreation center at the Seventh Street field and charging fees to use it; families are financially strained by taxes and should not be treated as a source of revenue; stated that Earl Paules, after being against constructing a new administration building, ultimately voted in favor of the project • Deb Kleckner – urged Board to act responsibly without increasing tax burden on residents; find ways to balance budget without overspending; the Board must prioritize students; security officer is money well spent • Lori Nemeth – questioned why construction is occurring on both ends of high school building at the same time • Lynn Passerini – spoke against district's decision to eliminate rotating classrooms and teachers for early grades; stated a lack of transparency from administration who made changes without proper input; asked Board to make sure educators are included in future choices FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: • Director Snyder thanked Mr. Kish, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Stroup and social workers for their help and cooperation so Raising The House could hold a community meal recently. They plan to do more events like this in the future. • Director Haas remarked that the recipient of her mother's senior award thanked her in person and in writing. Ms. Haas asked Mr. Paules if he plans to provide ice cream to the summer recreation program this year and he said yes and stated everything needed will be donated. • Director Danielle Paules stated Danielle Jones has a vendetta against Earl Paules by posting misleading and incomplete information on Facebook; Earl Paules' opposition to the administration building construction was due to cost differences, and explained that moving administrative offices out of Parkside addressed student safety; read from a news article Earl Paules' vision for the Seventh Street Field and that it is not a finalized plan; stated Ms. Jones requested a two-month delay on her court petition to seek legal counsel, only to appear legally unrepresented in the end.

ADJOURNMENT	Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. Respectfully submitted, Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary
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