

**EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026**

Ms. Carolyn Riley, President, called the public meeting of the Joint Operating Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. 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
	Upper Dublin
	Upper Moreland
Mr. Justin O'Donoghue	Solicitor
Dr. Jeffrey Fecher	Superintendent of Record
Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski	Executive Director
Ms. Katie Braun	Business Manager

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Carolyn Riley 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 April 8, 2026 Joint Operating Committee minutes of the regular and agenda session meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Justin O'Donoghue announced that an Executive Session was held before the public meeting to discuss personnel matters.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Informational:

SkillsUSA State Competition

Twenty-four students attended the SkillsUSA State Competition in Hershey, PA from April 8-10, 2026. Students from all over Pennsylvania took part in the competition. SkillsUSA is a national student leadership organization that encourages students to be productive individuals in our democratic society, work to their potential, become responsible, be proud of their accomplishments, and be supportive of their community.

Student Focus Group

On May 4, 2026, EASTERN hosted a Student Focus Group meeting during the AM and PM session. The agenda included the following items: Results of the Climate and Culture Survey and discussed ways to help new teachers.

Decision Day

EASTERN recognized students on Decision Day, Friday, May 8, 2026. It was a great opportunity for us to celebrate our EASTERN seniors who have chosen to pursue postsecondary education related to their career program, signed on with a company to begin their career as a professional in the skilled trades, or selected a military branch!

National Technical Honor Society

On June 3, 2026, EASTERN will host the National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony. Congratulations, inductees!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>District</u>
Jackson Butts	Business and Technology Professional	Abington
Santino Coccimiglio	Protective Services	Abington
Kade Dufala	Allied Health	Hatboro-Horsham
Alivia Dupont	Veterinary Science	Lower Moreland
Colton Ellis	Protective Services	Hatboro-Horsham
Bailey Fichter	Exercise Science and Rehabilitation	Upper Dublin
Mackenzie Harmon	Exercise Science and Rehabilitation	Hatboro-Horsham
Liliana Mexquititla-Martinez	Veterinary Science	Springfield
Zoe Ruth	Culinary Arts	Hatboro-Horsham

PDE Competitive Equipment Grant

PDE Competitive Equipment Grant will award EASTERN \$85,000 to purchase the following equipment:

1. Heat Pumps (2) and a Press Tool for HVAC
2. Hydraulic Punch Tool for Electrical Technology
3. Pro Brake Sidewinder for Carpentry
4. SCBA Units (8) for Protective Services
5. Dynasty Multi-process Welder for Welding Technology

Welcome and Farewells

- Welcome Brea D'Angelo as Superintendent of Jenkintown High School.
- Welcome Angela Whelan as Interim Principal at Hatboro-Horsham High School
- Welcome Dr. Meghan Markle as Principal at Springfield Township High School
- Farewell to Dr. Chuck Rittenhouse who will be retiring and enjoying time with his family, travel to Italy, and improving his golf game.

EASTERN Foundation *

The EASTERN Foundation meeting minutes from April 20, 2026 are attached for your review.

FINANCIAL REPORT – For the Period Ending April 30, 2026 *

Informational:

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as presented
- Status of the capital reserve fund revenues for the period ended April 30, 2026, showing cash and investment balances of \$1,835,017.33 as presented.

Action:

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the period ended April 30, 2026, showing General Fund cash and investment balances of \$6,287,317.27 and total assets of \$7,675,086.84 and the status of the Student Activity account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Disbursements

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of accounts payable checks #38939 through #39071 disbursed during the period of 4/01/2026 through 4/30/2026 in the amount of \$627,734.04.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of expense disbursement wire/ACH transfers #WT260188 through #WT260211 disbursed during the period of 4/01/2026 through 4/30/2026 in the amount of \$303,742.15.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of ACH transfer for procurement card (P-card) expenses disbursed for the month of March in the amount of \$5,607.33.
Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of payroll vouchers #012660 through #012846 disbursed on 4/3/2026 and 4/17/2026 in the amount of \$290,306.89.
Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of capital reserve checks #11262 through #11268 disbursed during the period of 4/01/2026 through 4/30/2026 in the amount of \$193,701.23.
Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of student activity disbursement checks #82193 through #82195 disbursed during the period of 4/01/2026 through 4/30/2026 in the amount of \$1,915.21.
Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of the attached budget transfers for the periods ended April 30, 2026.
Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Action:

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved to approve a resolution recognizing Naima Tijani, a senior at Abington Senior High School and in the Culinary Arts program, as Outstanding Student of the Month for May. Ms. Carolyn Riley presented Naima Tijani with the Resolution and EASTERN shirt, and Naima Tijani will receive a Rotary plaque on June 4, 2026 from the Willow Grove Rotary. The Association's gift card was presented by Chef Benjamin Vozzo, Educators' Association representative.
Motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Presentation:

SkillsUSA Advisors Allison Latzo and Rebecca Ashworth and the SkillsUSA state medalists gave a presentation during the Agenda Session.

Informational:

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Principals' Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 23, 2026
- Administrative Advisory Committee meeting minutes of May 5, 2026
- The April 2026 Activities Report of the students and staff

Action:

Conferences for the 2026-2027 School Year *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the attached list of conferences for the 2026-2027 school year for administrators, professional and classified staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing Tuition 2026-2027

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved acceptance of a student tuition increase for the Practical Nursing program to increase from \$16,850 to \$17,355 (3%) for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing Affiliations *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the 2025-2026 Practical Nursing Affiliations.

Motion carried unanimously.

SkillsUSA

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval for advisors Rebecca Ashworth, Student Success Coordinator and Allison Latzo, Allied Health instructor, to attend the SkillsUSA National Competitions in Atlanta, GA, from May 29-June 6, 2026, their cost will not exceed \$6,500.00. The cost for the ten students attending will not exceed \$27,000.00. Total cost will not exceed \$33,500.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval for Rebecca Ashworth, Student Success Coordinator and Lucas Smith, Protective Services student and SkillsUSA State Officer, to attend the following SkillsUSA state officer events. The student expenses will be paid by SkillsUSA funds, and the chaperone expenses will be paid by EASTERN's general fund.

May 4-6, 2026	Ickesburg, PA – not to exceed \$700.
June 23-25, 2026	Training – Chambersburg, PA
October TBD	Region 1 Summit – Rochester, NY
November 17-20, 2026	Fall Leadership, Kalahari, PA
February 22-24, 2027	SLSC Conference Prep (location undetermined)
March 29-April 2, 2027	State Competition, Hershey, PA

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY

Informational:

Meetings and Activities – 2026-2027 school year *

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the attached lists of meetings and activities for the 2026-2027 school year.

Action:

Joint Operating Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Jennifer Wilson moved approval and authorization to advertise the schedule of meeting dates for the Joint Operating Committee during the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

August 12, 2026	December 9, 2026	April 14, 2027
September 9, 2026	January 13, 2027	May 12, 2027
October 14, 2026	February 10, 2027	June 16, 2027
November 11, 2026	March 10, 2027	

Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding – Addendum *

Ms. Jennifer Wilson moved approval of the attached Addendum for the Memorandum of Understanding – Upper Moreland Police Department 2025 – 2027.
Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Action:

Professional

2026-2027 Final Salary Guide *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the preliminary 2026-2027 professional salary guide as attached and authorization to assign individual salaries based on this guide. This will be finalized when all districts adopt local guides for 2026-2027.
Motion carried unanimously.

Construction Careers and Management Instructor – Appointment *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval the appointment of William Shorter as Construction Careers Management Instructor effective July 1, 2026, at Step BASE - 9 of the Professional Salary Schedule, providing a salary of \$ 86,194; 31 pre-service hours at the current craft rate.
Motion carried unanimously.

Construction Careers and Management Instructor – Mentor

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of Jeffrey Pakula for up to 20 hours for orientation, planning and mentoring of the Construction Careers and Management Instructor at the current contracted rate.
Motion carried unanimously.

Electrical Technology Instructor – Summer Work

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of Gary Felmey to work up to 300 hours on electrical projects at the current contracted rate.
Motion carried unanimously.

Substitutes

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved ratification and approval of the following substitute instructors for the remainder of 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$135 per day for certified assignments and \$120 per day for general assignments:

<u>Certified Assignment</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
Cosmetology	Stacey Reid
Design, Photography, and Illustration	Akilah Green
Cosmetology	Shantel Wilkins
Networking and Cybersecurity	Shantel Wilkins
Business Technology Professional	Frances Cotellesse
Veterinary Science	Frances Cotellesse

Motion carried unanimously.

Classified

Student Success Aide – Unpaid Leave

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval and ratification of Student Success Aide, John Beck, to take 3.5 days of unpaid leave from April 13-16, 2026.
Motion carried unanimously.

Summer Cosmetology

Instructors

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the following Summer Cosmetology instructors at the current contracted per hour: Sandra Hummel, Leah Davis, Haley Tucker, Nikki Parke, and Mark Folkman.
Motion carried unanimously.

Student Interns

Salary Guide

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the following salary guide for Student Interns:

- High School Student Intern \$15.00 per hour 2025-2026
- High School Student Intern \$15.00 per hour 2026-2027

Motion carried unanimously.

Summer Interns

Electrical

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the following Electrical Technology Interns to work up to 1,500 hours combined as directed by Gary Felmey and Fred Fox on electrical projects per the salary guide.

- Jonah Henigan Abington SD / Welding Technology
- Anthony Drummond Abington SD / HVAC Technology
- Dawson McCain Springfield Township SD / HVAC Technology
- Noah Fuchs Upper Moreland SD / Electrical Technology
- Anthony Hairston Abington SD / Electrical Technology

Motion carried unanimously.

Technology

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the Technology Intern to work up to 300 hours combined as directed by Louis Geld on technology projects per the salary guide.

- Andre Callaway – Archbishop Wood HS / Networking and Cybersecurity

Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing

Adjunct Instructors

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval and ratification of the following as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructors at the rate of \$45.16/hour for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

Jillmarie Strumfels, MSN, RN	Corinne Davis, BSN, RN	LaToya Savage, MSN, RN
Tanara Boursiquot, DNP, RN	Rachel Womack, BSN, RN	Amy Moore, DNP, RN

Motion carried unanimously.

Volunteer**Training Supervisor**

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of the following Training Supervisors for EASTERN's students:

SUPERVISOR	COMPANY	STUDENT	PROGRAM / SD
Christian Roberts	O Donnell Metal Fabricators, Inc	Daniel O Rourke	HVAC Technology /Abington
Elaine McGuire	Rosie's Girls Pre-Apprenticeship Program - IBEW98	Molly Smith	Electrical Technology /Upper Dublin
Chris Bors	Faulkner Nissan	Elijah Carr	Automotive Technology/Abington
Irvy Boyd	Bredenbeck's Bakery	Karley Bunkin	Culinary Arts / Springfield
Ray Mamone	Caliber Collision	David Layton	Collision Technology /Hatboro-Horsham
Paul Tholey	Site Specific Design, Inc.	Christina Melnick	HVAC /Hatboro-Horsham
Blane Marks	Wissahickon Physical Therapy	Grayson Quinn	Exercise Science and Rehabilitation /Springfield

Note: There are currently 23 students out on cooperative education.
Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**Informational:****Grant Opportunities**

EASTERN has applications in for the following two grant opportunities:

PAsmart Innovation Grant: \$450,000

Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) is the lead applicant on this grant in partnership with EASTERN and Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center to expand access to Welding and Construction-related programming. Eastern Center for Arts and Technology will use its share of the total project funds (\$165,000) to strengthen instructional delivery and student support within the Electrical and Construction Careers and Management programs. Investments will focus on instructional mentoring, professional development for teaching staff, and program enhancements such

as marketing, supplies, equipment, and transportation that reduce barriers to participation and improve student engagement.

MCCC proposed grant funding will include leasing our Welding program to offer introductory welding training to adults. EASTERN is excited about this opportunity and plans to market the program to graduating seniors who were unable to gain access to our secondary Welding program.

PAsmart Planning Grant: \$75,000

EASTERN is the lead applicant for this grant, but was able to secure active partnerships with MCCC, Merck, and Keystone LifeSci Collaborative. Summary: The Eastern Region Biotechnology, Biomanufacturing, and Automated Technology Career Pathway Planning Initiative will position Eastern Center for Arts and Technology and its nine sending school districts at the forefront of workforce innovation by designing a comprehensive, future-ready CTE pathway that integrates biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and robotics/automation. Through this PAsmart Planning Grant, the Eastern Center will collaborate with industry leaders, postsecondary partners including Montgomery County Community College, and regional universities to create a seamless pathway from high school to both associate and bachelor's degree options, as well as direct entry into high-demand careers. The project will enhance the existing Robotics & Automated Technology program by embedding biomanufacturing and process control concepts, while also developing a complementary biotechnology lab pathway, ensuring students gain the cross-disciplinary skills increasingly required in today's life sciences and advanced manufacturing sectors. The outcome will be a fully developed, implementation-ready program that expands access for all students, strengthens regional workforce pipelines, and aligns education with Pennsylvania's fastest-growing, high-wage industries.

Renewal of MCIU Regional WAN (RWAN) Services Contract *

The administration will be renewing our MCIU Regional Wan (RWAN) Services contract for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027 for an amount not to exceed \$10,964.75 as per the attached contract. This is an increase of 11.09% (or \$1,094.75) over last year's contract. This contract provides EASTERN with our primary internet connection along with support and monitoring of internet services.

Building Report *

The attached building and capital project reports for April activities regarding the school plant and property were presented.

Action:

PDE Competitive Equipment Grant - \$85,000

Mr. Erskine Payton moved acceptance of the PDE Competitive Equipment Grant in the amount of \$85,000 to purchase the following equipment:

- ✓ Heat Pumps (2) and a Press Tool for HVAC
- ✓ Hydraulic Punch Tool for Electrical Technology
- ✓ Pro Brake Sidewinder for Carpentry
- ✓ SCBA Units (8) for Protective Services
- ✓ Dynasty Multi-process Welder for Welding Technology

Motion carried unanimously.

Change Order No. EC-01 for a Credit of (\$21,276.43) for Unused Allowances *

Mr. Erskine Payton moved ratification and approval of Change Order No. EC-01 from Albarell Electric, Inc, our Electrical Contractor, for the HVAC Equipment Replacement Project (Phase 4) for a credit of (\$21,276.43) for unused allowances per the attached document.

Motion carried unanimously.

Change Order No. MC-01 for a Credit of (\$10,700.00) for Unused Allowances *

Mr. Erskine Payton moved ratification and approval of Change Order No. MC-01 from JBM Mechanical, Inc, our Mechanical Contractor, for the HVAC Equipment Replacement Project (Phase 4) for a credit of (\$10,700.00) in unused allowances per the attached document.

Motion carried unanimously.

Change Order No. GC-02 for Additional Hardware and to Increase Size of Rooms for cost of \$9,157.10 *

Mr. Erskine Payton moved ratification and approval of Change Order No. GC-01 from SB Conrad, our General Contractor, for the LPN Relocation Project for a cost of \$9,157.10 (Phase 6), for costs associated with changes to Sketch CSKA-1 to increase size of rooms as well as some additional door hardware changes per the attached document.

Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Designation of Depositories

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval to use the following depositories for the 2026-2027 school year:
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT)

TD Bank

Motion carried unanimously.

Authorized Signatures

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of the recommendation that the following personnel be authorized as its official signatures during the 2026-2027 school year:

1. Payroll, Capital Reserve Fund, Student Activity Fund and General Fund Checks
Signatures of the Board President and Business Manager/Board Secretary for payroll, general, capital reserve and student activity fund checks.
2. Purchase Orders
Signature of Executive Director and/or the Business Manager/Board Secretary.
3. Contracts – Secondary, Practical Nursing and Continuing Education
Signature of either the Board President, Executive Director, or Business Manager/Board Secretary.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cooperative Purchasing

Mr. Erskine Payton moved authorization to participate in the following joint purchasing programs to make joint purchases of materials, supplies and equipment for the 2026-2027 school year when needed:

- Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of General Service Contracts (COSTARS)
- Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN)
- Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Consortium
- Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 Catalog Discount Bids
- Sourcewell
- National Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing
- National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA)
- Pennsylvania Capital City Automotive and Equipment Contract (PACC)
- Pennsylvania Educational Purchasing Program (PEPPM)
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Buying Group (SEPA)
- The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN)
- The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS)
- U.S. Communities
- U.S. General Services Administration Cooperative Purchasing

Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

PSBA Voting Delegate

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved to appoint Carolyn Riley as PSBA Voting Delegate to represent EASTERN for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

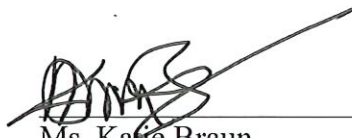
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee is Wednesday, June 17, 2026 via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Riley adjourned the May 13, 2026 meeting of the Joint Operating Committee at 8:29 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, MAY 13, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Preliminary Enrollment

Dr. Plesnarski presented preliminary enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. Addendum for the MOU – Upper Moreland Police Department 2025-2027

Gerry Rooney discussed the attached Addendum for the Memorandum of Understanding – Upper Moreland Police Department 2025 – 2027.

3. Ricoh Copier Lease Renewal

EASTERN will be renewing its copier lease for four (4) more years (48 months) on July 1 at a monthly cost of \$1,839 for our three copiers located in our administration, practical nursing, and directors' areas. This lease includes upgrading our three copiers to include OCR, hole punching, stapling, and scanning features. The monthly cost includes: 1) 40,000 monthly black and white copies and 14,000 color copies with all supplies and services included except for staples, 2) excess copies billed at \$.007 per black and white copy and \$.0455 per color copy and 3) pickup and disposal of our current copiers. This is an overall increase of \$569 per month compared to our current lease. The lease agreement is attached for your review. This will be put on the agenda for approval in June.

4. Solicitor Proposal for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Years

EASTERN received the attached proposal from Wisler Pearlstine, LLP for solicitor services for 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Ken Roos will be transitioning the role of solicitor to Justin O'Donaghue effective July 1, 2026, with Christina Gallagher remaining actively involved as Assistant Solicitor. The proposal does contain our first rate increase in three years from Wisler Pearlstine. For Basic Services, we currently pay \$4,800 annually and this will be increasing to \$6,000 annually, which is an overall increase of 25% or \$1,200 per year. They will keep this rate the same for the next two years as outlined in their proposal. This proposal will be put on the agenda in June for approval.

5. Treasurer

The Joint Operating Committee discussed the election of Marta Mecray as Treasurer for a one-year term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The Treasurer will be approved at the June meeting.

6. PSBA Voting Delegate for PSBA Delegate Assembly

Carolyn Riley discussed the selection of a voting delegate representing EASTERN at the PSBA Delegate Assembly.

7. Presentation: SkillsUSA State Medalists

SkillsUSA State Medalists gave a presentation.