

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held today, July 21, 2026, after the board meeting for a personnel matter.

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, July 21, 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, Mazepa (via telephone only), Moyzan, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Schaible.

Absent: Director King and Snyder.

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* – currently have job openings for Spanish, Music, and Special Education at the high school; interviews for instructional assistants scheduled tomorrow; several short-term and long-term substitute elementary teaching positions open; need to fill several crossing guard spots for upcoming year
- *Mr. Kish* – state budget finally passed; district will receive an extra \$465k spread through our subsidies this year; had a projected deficit of \$849k after tax increase, now deficit down to \$384k; need to demand accountability from elected representatives because every year this delay is unfair to our district and taxpayers
- Director Schaible stated the Board should work together so we can advocate for state accountability. Director Haas said the CLIU and the other 13 districts in our area would be happy to assist in this as they are all facing the same situation.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Schaible – *PSBA*: highlighted key aspects of newly passed \$50.8b state budget, which includes \$700m in education increases—\$58m for basic education, \$55m for special education, and \$100m for school safety and mental health; costs like cyber charter school funding and educational tax credits remained unaddressed. Two bills—HB 2084, higher education affordability, and HB 2307, doubling special education contingency appropriations from 1% to 2%, passed the House and are now moving to State Senate, which shows the need for ongoing district advocacy
- Director Connell – *CCTI*: working to fill positions, including replacing retired engineering instructor and launching search for new Director ahead of David Reinbold's retirement in March; new principal, Bill Mack, presented his first report, noting a successful staff development session with Ben Hartranft; carpentry students collaborating with other trade programs to build a tiny home for their next community project; administration and JOC continue to work well together to support students and deliver strong education
- Director Haas – *Library*: summer library events occurring, see website; asked for fundraising ideas; *CLIU*: shared story of 10-year-old PASD student and two Life Skills students who attended Camp Mosey Wood; despite students' challenges, they fully participated in all camp activities; encouraged our continued support

OLD BUSINESS:

Director Schaible presented a packet of information for board distribution covering governance, Sunshine Law compliance, and navigating parental conversations; encouraged Board to operate as a

	collaborative team focused on annual goals, while practicing strategic listening; work together to keep students at center of every decision				
	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.				
MEETING MINUTES	Director Moyzan moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve the board meeting minutes from June 16, 2026. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.				
CONSENT AGENDA	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Moyzan, to approve 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 budget transfers				
TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS	Approved tuition reimbursements				
IAS	Approved the following Instructional Assistants 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: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Michele Heydt-HS</td><td>Kelli Magarelli-Parkside</td></tr> </table>	Michele Heydt-HS	Kelli Magarelli-Parkside		
Michele Heydt-HS	Kelli Magarelli-Parkside				
BUILDING TRANSFER	Approved retroactively the transfer of Kristy Santee, Instructional Assistant, from the High School to Towamensing Elementary effective July 1, 2026 in accordance with Board Policy #309-Assignment & Transfer				
FMLA	Approved the following for Family & Medical Leave: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Employee #603</td><td>Effective on or about October 9, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks</td></tr> </table>	Employee #603	Effective on or about October 9, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks		
Employee #603	Effective on or about October 9, 2026, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks				
HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT	Acknowledged the following horizontal movement effective the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Kevin Carroll</td><td>From Master's +30 to Master's +60</td></tr> </table>	Kevin Carroll	From Master's +30 to Master's +60		
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UNCOMPENSATED LEAVES	Approved the following uncompensated leave requests: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Employee #695</td><td>August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; September 15, 2026; September 16, 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Employee #939</td><td>August 10, 2026, August 11, 2026; August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; August 14, 2026</td></tr> </table>	Employee #695	August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; September 15, 2026; September 16, 2026	Employee #939	August 10, 2026, August 11, 2026; August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; August 14, 2026
Employee #695	August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; September 15, 2026; September 16, 2026				
Employee #939	August 10, 2026, August 11, 2026; August 12, 2026; August 13, 2026; August 14, 2026				

MENTORS

Approved the following Mentors for the 2026-2027 school year:

Valarie Milam, Co-Mentor	<i>for Thomas McElhinny</i>	\$ 767.50
Vicki McHugh, Co-Mentor	<i>for Thomas McElhinny</i>	\$ 767.50
Jeanne Knepper, Co-Mentor	<i>for Katie Steigerwalt</i>	\$ 767.50
Andrew Remsing, Co-Mentor	<i>for Katie Steigerwalt</i>	\$ 767.50
Megan Zurn, Co-Mentor	<i>for Amy Duarte</i>	\$ 767.50
Krystle Meglio, Co-Mentor	<i>for Amy Duarte</i>	\$ 767.50
Christine Owens, Co-Mentor	<i>for Ryan King</i>	\$ 767.50
Andrew Remsing, Co-Mentor	<i>for Ryan King</i>	\$ 767.50
Jennifer Strohl	<i>for Jenifer Wargo</i>	\$ 767.50-1 st semester only
Jennifer Strohl	<i>for Savanna Serfass</i>	\$1,535.00
Shanna Kocsinski	<i>for Karissa Nenscel</i>	\$1,535.00
Joyce Paulinho	<i>for Brandy Welk</i>	\$1,535.00
Kimberly Gardner	<i>for Kristen Gemmel</i>	\$1,535.00
Bronwyn Cseh	<i>for Sarah Zaborowski</i>	\$1,535.00
Kathryn Zurn	<i>for Holly Skrimcovsky</i>	\$1,535.00
Holly Sell	<i>for Amanda Pacheaco</i>	\$1,535.00

**ADD'L CLUB
ADVISORS 2026-
2027**

Approved the following additional Club Advisors for the 2026-2027 school year effective July 22, 2026:

Theresa Hall	Chorus	\$2,258.00
Theresa Hall	Drama Volunteer	--
Sean Hall	Drama Volunteer	--
Melissa Fronheiser	Social Media	--

**ADD'L COACHES
2026-2027**

Approved the following additional Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year effective July 22, 2026:

WRESTLING-BOYS:		
Erick Kresge	Head Coach	\$6,609.00
Jared Mooney	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Matthew Lalik	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Thomas Pasquariello	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Mason Becker	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
William Gouger III	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Dillon Lombardi	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
David Lucykanish	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
WRESTLING-GIRLS:		
Trevor Bartholomew	Head Coach	\$6,609.00
Joshua Rake	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Richard Anderson	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00
Faith Rudalavage	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Lea Schaible	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
FOOTBALL:		
Logan Leshner	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,163.00
Shawn Leadbetter	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
VOLLEYBALL:		
Savannah Mickel	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--, retroactive to June 1, 2026
BOYS' BASKETBALL:		
Anthony Thomas	Assistant Coach	\$4,327.00

	<i>FIELD HOCKEY:</i>			
	Jillian Frank	Head Coach	\$4,347.00, retroactive to July 2, 2026	
	<i>BOYS' SOCCER:</i>			
	David Loew	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	
RESIGNATIONS	Accepted the following resignations:			
	Matthew Blanchard	Music Teacher-HS	Effective June 19, 2026	
	Matthew Blanchard	Concert Band Advisor	Effective June 19, 2026	
	Matthew Blanchard	Jazz Band Advisor	Effective June 19, 2026	
	Matthew Blanchard	Fishing Club Advisor	Effective June 19, 2026	
	Matthew Blanchard	Marching Band Advisor	Effective July 12, 2026	
	Christine McCarroll	Learning Support Teacher-HS	Effective June 18, 2026	
	Perla M. Javier Perdomo	Spanish Teacher-HS	Effective July 13, 2026	
	Kurtisha Berger	Food Service Worker	Effective June 18, 2026	
	Megan Leadbetter	Field Hockey Head Coach	Effective June 15, 2026	
	Jillian Frank	Field Hockey Assistant Coach	Effective July 2, 2026	
	Abigail Wortmann	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective July 9, 2026	
	Shawn Leadbetter	Football Assistant Coach (1/2)	Effective July 21, 2026	
	Logan Leshner	Football Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective July 21, 2026	
	Jordan Nelson	Football Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective July 9, 2026	
	Anthony Thomas	Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach (1/2)	Effective July 21, 2026	
CHORAL ACCOMPANISTS	Approved the following Choral Accompanists for the 2026-2027 school year:			
	Frank Hall	Joseph Plechavy		
SUB	Approved the following Substitute at prevailing substitute rates effective July 22, 2026:			
	Felicia Garcia	Substitute Teacher		
SUB REMOVALS	Removed the following from the current Substitute list effective July 22, 2026:			
	Sydney Christman	Substitute Teacher		
	Laurissa Rex	Substitute Teacher		
	Margaret Morgan	Substitute Teacher		
C-M-P D&A	Approved the letter of agreement with Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the 2026-2027 school year			
LVCC	Approved the formal agreement with Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, Inc., for the PreK Counts program for the 2026-2027 school year			
CLIU NON-PUB IIA	Approved the letter of agreement with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for Title IIA nonpublic programs and services from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027			
WESTERN GOVERNORS U.	Approved the placement agreement with Western Governors University from July 22, 2026 through July 21, 2029			
CENTRAL PENN SETTLEMENT & RELEASE	Approved the psychoeducational evaluation agreement with Central Penn Education Associates, Inc., for the 2026-2027 school year			
	Approved the settlement agreement and release for student #35018 effective July 22, 2026			

GRAHAM ACADEMY	Approved the special education services agreement with Specialized Education of Pennsylvania, Inc., for Graham Academy for the 2026-2027 school year			
CONFERENCES	Approved the following conferences:			
	Ryan Kish	PASA New Superintendents' Academy, Harrisburg	September 16-17, 2026	Estimated cost of \$763.00
	Ryan Kish	PASA New Superintendents' Academy, Harrisburg	November 5-6, 2026	Estimated cost of \$655.00
	Kristen Schaible, School Director	2026 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Pocono Manor	October 18-19-20, 2026	Estimated cost of \$909.72
2 ND READING & ADOPTION 202-236.1-607-810	Approved the second reading and adoption 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			
REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve the revised school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year dated July 21, 2026.			
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present.			
	Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.			
	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:			
	• Heather Pasquariello – spoke of establishing a nonprofit to run a community social/recreational center offering daytime nonprofit space, an after-school youth-led social club, and evening wellness classes; looking for founding board members; applications accepted through July 31			
	• Richard Banko – doesn't think we need a security guard at meetings			
	• Danielle Jones – stated she has a right as a resident to speak about public figures; clarified her Facebook posts; quoted Earl Paules' past statements, conduct, and language made during meetings; demanded his accountability for how taxpayers and female board members are treated			
	• Nicholas Masington – supports youth mental health initiatives and to remember the community might contribute to a recreational facility as well; requests that any information be shared at future meetings			
	FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:			
	• Director Schaible stated Hailey George was named Softball Rookie of the Year following a standout season where she recorded 17 wins and 178 strikeouts across 125 innings; baseball pitcher, Cameron Pengelly, earned a spot on the PA State Baseball Coaches Association Class 3A First Team All-Star roster, marking the third consecutive year a Palmerton Bomber has received this honor. Brandon Hauser achieved a 4.0 GPA at Penn State and is majoring in Civil Engineering; recent study on youth voter registration across 30 states placed PA in last place, only 22% of the state's 18-year-olds are currently registered to vote; encouraged young adults to register for upcoming elections			
	• Director Earl Paules spoke of the passing of Bill George, fire chief at Aquashicola Fire Company and owner of George's Plumbing and Heating; will be missed for his many years of service, generosity, and support of the community			

ADJOURNMENT	• Director Haas announced there will be an executive session immediately following this meeting for personnel matters. Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. Respectfully submitted, Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary
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