PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Palmerton, PA
Tuesday, September 15, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held today, September 15, 2026, after the regular board meeting for legal and 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, September 15, 2026, and called to order at 5:30 p.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King (arrived at 5:31 p.m.), Mazepa, Moyzan, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder.

OTHER ATTENDANCE

Ryan Kish – Substitute Superintendent, Daniel Heaney – Assistant Superintendent, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and David Conn – Solicitor

STUDENT REPORTS:

Junior High School – Sean Goodbred, grade 8

- Band & Chorus – signups underway; each group has about 25 students signed up and lessons have begun; students preparing music for winter concert on December 16th
- Student Council – taking applications for students interested in running in schoolwide election; students need to fill out application, design campaign posters and deliver speeches
- Cross Country – 8th grader Ryan Meixell won meet on September 9 with impressive time of 9:14, finished ahead of runners from six schools; team had fantastic showing at meet, with Nate Winninger, Will Craig, and Megan Anthony earning top-10 finishes; Coach Noyola reports team having great season with every runner improving as season progresses; on September 12 at Centaur Invitational at DeSales University, boys' team won first-place by beating 17 other teams; congratulations to the entire team
- Aevidum Club – members participated in "Chalk the Walk," decorating catwalk outside with colorful, positive, and encouraging messages to welcome students and staff back to school; held first meeting on September 9, with turnout of 23 students; will focus on schoolwide positivity/awareness campaigns, beginning with Unity Day in October, an anti-bullying initiative that brings school community together to send message that bullying is unacceptable and that every student deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued at school
- After-school Escape Room Program – will be back starting September 16, from 2:40-4:00 p.m.
- 25th Anniversary of 9/11 – Mrs. Black's 8th grade ELA class learned about hero, Welles Crowther; wrote paragraph about him and his heroic acts on 9/11; students reading book about him called "The Red Bandanna" and reflecting on his bravery, compassion, and loyalty
- 8th grade PE – completed yearly fitness testing during first week of school; three students broke some of their own records from 7th Grade; Amelia Tubbs broke her record of 100 push-ups with new school record of 125 push-ups, Christopher Wells beat his record of a 15-minute plank with a new record of 20 minutes, and Ryan Meixell beat his record of a 5:45 mile with new record of 5:31

High School – Antonio Oller, grade 12

- Scholastic Scrimmage – held informational meeting and welcomed 12 members, an increase from previous years; preparing for WLVT PBS 39 tournament this fall
- PYEA – held meeting and welcomed new members; students excited to begin developing knowledge and experience needed for future careers in education
- NHS – members assisted with Meet the Teacher Night on August 27; assisting both elementary schools with placing American flags in preparation for September 11 memorial events

- Golf – team is 6-2 and off to strong start; Jared Grammes and Joey Solt leading team with some of the best averages in league; all 12 members have participated in at least one match; team has strong core of freshmen and sophomores gaining valuable experience
- German 1 – students will explore the cultural traditions surrounding Oktoberfest while enjoying pretzels and creating traditional gingerbread hearts
- Student Council – Homecoming planning underway; officers meeting to finalize activities, with a general meeting scheduled to complete preparations; events include spirit week, Powder Puff game, Homecoming Pep Rally, and Homecoming game festivities
- Oratory Club – held first meeting today; members can participate in Poetry Out Loud, will select, memorize, and perform three poems from the Poetry Out Loud catalog, with hopes of holding a local competition at the high school in November; encouraging FBLA Performance Event, Role Play, and Presentation competitors to participate as way to strengthen their public-speaking skills; seeking a community speaker to discuss how they prepare for public speaking in their profession
- Aevidum – participating in variety of activities throughout September in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month
- FBLA – held first meeting and has more than 60 members; began first fundraiser, selling Capriotti's frozen foods, orders due October 2; will attend the Regional Leadership Workshop at East Stroudsburg University on October 21, bringing 10 student officers who will participate in a business pitch competition; will take over operation of the school store to raise funds and possibly hosting another Safe Trick-or-Treat event for the community in October; two students also attended the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas this summer where they participated in workshops, events, and networked with students from across the country
- Mrs. Freed's Physics Class – to commemorate September 11, students participated in a stair-climbing activity at the stadium; each student climbed the stadium steps twice, for a total of 104 steps providing students with physical representation of the 2,200 steps that first responders climbed inside the Twin Towers; designed to help students remember lives lost and heroes who responded that day while reflecting on their courage, selflessness, determination, and humanity they demonstrated
- Drama Club – fall production, *Puffs: Two Acts for Young Wizards*, underway following auditions, cast selected and rehearsals began on September 8; Mr. McElhinny conducted a puppeteering activity based on workshop he attended, introducing students to the art form that will be incorporated into production; stage crew members organizing and preparing backstage; cast and crew made strong and promising start to fall production
- Marching Band – completed first run of their show during Friday's football game; students receptive to feedback and implementing suggestions; becoming comfortable with stand tunes introduced during band camp and will begin working on more advanced musical selections during rehearsals this week
- Guitar – students enrolled in guitar are developing their musicianship and demonstrating a curiosity and enthusiasm for exploring new music; also becoming comfortable using musical vocabulary when discussing music and gaining confidence in completing and sharing their weekly composition assignments and original works

SUBSTITUTE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Fantastic start to school year with energy, passion, and positivity across classrooms; recognized hard work of students, teachers, staff, and administration; expressed gratitude for the team and family support across district
- Attended special assembly at Towamensing Elementary with Rep. Doyle Heffley on civic awareness and 9/11 history; received an official American flag flown over the Capitol from Rep. Brian Smith's office
- Sixth-grade students at S. S. Palmer Elementary held 9/11 memorial ceremony with families, staff, and local leaders, including Police Chief Kromer, Fire Chief Chris Weiss, veteran Mr. Josh Nenscel, and Mayor Bo Rodriguez

- Junior high school students reflected on 9/11 events and ended with community 9/11 remembrance ceremony with first responders and veterans before Friday night's football game
- Recognized Neffs National Bank and Covered Bridge Inn for supporting students through recent school supply drives
- Honored three school board members for reaching their 5-year service milestone through the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Honor Roll Program: Stacey Connell, Danielle Paules, and Erin Snyder

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Attended CLIU Assistant Superintendent Network meeting; key updates included new virtual student wellness-check requirements, Act 20 bullying/cyberbullying changes, lead testing, flexible instructional and virtual instructional days, AI use, and return of PDE audits; will discuss lead testing and FID/VID at workshop as part of our school calendar discussion
- Attended Carbon County School Safety Committee meeting today; committee includes school safety and security personnel, local law enforcement, county sheriff's office, and representatives from district attorney's office; focused on developing consistent procedures for Children and Youth reports with the goal of reducing duplicate reporting, ensuring necessary information included, and streamlining process to minimize unnecessary follow-up
- Commended Mrs. Stroup, Mrs. George, and Mr. Nenscel for the excellent job they did with our 9/11 remembrance ceremonies; very well done and provided opportunity for students and staff to remember and reflect on events of September 11

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Snyder – *CCTI*: introduced Mr. Bill Mack, new principal; he is visiting the five sending school board meetings to introduce himself and build communication; students have transitioned back after summer break; Open House on October 14 featuring a car show, craft/food vendors, graphic design art show/sale, and tours of all 14 technical programs; reaffirmed that career and technical education is core of CCTI, with ongoing machinery/technology upgrades funded through grants and guided by advisory committees; emphasized that trades and academics go hand-in-hand, highlighting after-school academic support, dual enrollment with LCCC, and military preparation
- Director Schaible – *PSBA:* On October 2, PSBA hosting webinar with State Ethics Commission on common violations and ethical pitfalls for Boards; district actively staying ahead of state mandates, including screening students for reading proficiency three times a year with targeted interventions, a requirement district already meets
- Director Danielle Paules – *PSBA*: PDE permits schools to use course containing personal financial literacy content to fulfill high school requirements under Section 1551, a requirement the district already satisfies; federally funded schools must hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution every year on September 17th, which the district continues to carry out; middle and high school nicotine vaping fell to 5.2% last year, lowest level since 2019 peak when rates reached 27.5% in high schools and 10.5% in middle schools; PDE is accepting nominations for the 2028 Teacher of the Year through December 11, PA educators have received National Teacher of the Year award for past two consecutive years
- Director Haas – *Library*: tote bag for sale with free refills, dine-and-donate at PJ Whelihans; luminaries for Christmas in the Park day, send photos to library

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Deb Kleckner – stated the start time of meetings is difficult for some working residents to attend board meetings in person; supporting documents and change order details are not made available online or disclosed during meetings

MEETING MINUTES

Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the board meeting minutes from August 18, 2026.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the consent agenda with an abstention from Director King of Item #2 Personnel, Letter E, Ryan King line only due to a conflict of interest.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present with Abstention as noted above.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

FISCAL REPORTS

Approved accounts payable reports

Approved treasurer's reports

DJ SERVICE-H'COMING

Approved the agreement with Romano DJ Service for the High School Homecoming Dance on October 17, 2026 in the amount of $500.00

DONATIONS

Accepted the following donations:

From Covered Bridge Inn	*to Parkside/Palmer/Towamensing schools*	School supplies
From Neffs National Bank	*to district schools*	School supplies

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS

Approved tuition reimbursements

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS

Acknowledged the following horizontal movements effective the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year:

Isabelle Beedle	Bachelor's +24 to Master's +15
Craig Borland	Master's to Master's +45
Kimberly Carlson	Master's to Master's +15
Travis Fink	Master's +45 to Master's +60
Brent Harris	Master's +15 to Master's +30
Jennifer Harrison	Master's +45 to Master's +60
Shanna Koscinski	Master's +30 to Master's +45
Kimberly Nenscel	Master's +15 to Master's +30
Lauren Salerno	Master's +45 to Master's +60
Sarah Smith	Master's +15 to Master's +30
Emily Turek	Bachelor's +24 to Master's
Lisa Ward	Master's +15 to Master's +30

ADD'L MENTORS 2026-2027

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

Ashley Hummer	*for* Emily Sangiuliano	$1,535.00 prorated	Effective from August 18, 2026 through the second marking period of the 2026-2027 school year
Michael Gombert	*for* Michael Noyola	$1,535.00 prorated	Effective from August 18, 2026 through the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year

ADD'L CLUB ADVISORS 2026-2027

Approved the following additional Club Advisors for the 2026-2027 school year:

Caitlin Goldberg	Jazz Band	$2,258.00	Effective September 16, 2026
Kevin Wertz	Student Council-HS	$2,093.00 prorated	Retroactively effective to September 4, 2026

Hannah Citron	Stage Crew-Assistant	$1,710.00 prorated	Retroactively effective to August 28, 2026

Add'l PAMPA CHAPERONES 2026-2027

Approved retroactively the following additional Palmerton Area Music Parents' Association (PAMPA) Volunteer Chaperones for the 2026-2027 school year effective August 26, 2026:

Nicole Strausberger	April Wainwright

SPRING COACHES 2026-2027

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

Baseball:		
Tyler Svetik	Head Coach	$4,347.00
Matthew Solt	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Ryan King	Assistant Coach (1/3)	$ 951.00
Chase Reph	Assistant Coach (1/3)	$ 951.00
Joseph Trimmel	Assistant Coach (1/3)	$ 951.00
Kaleb Eitner	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Softball:		
Robert Hock	Head Coach	$4,347.00
Trisha Buck	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Phillip Acker	Assistant Coach (3/4)	$2,141.00
Jenna Turner	Assistant Coach (1/4)	$ 714.00
Kate Hanchick	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Tennis:		
Jennifer Danzeisen	Head Coach	$2,614.00
Track:		
Michael Gombert	Head Coach	$4,347.00
James Hay	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Andrew Nosti	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Michael Noyola	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Kris Hoffner	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Travis Fink	Assistant Coach	$2,854.00
Matthew Lalik	Assistant Coach (1/2)	$1,427.00
Darris Rodrigues	Assistant Coach (1/2)	$1,427.00

ADD'L COACHES 2026-2027

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

Zoe Hathaway	Field Hockey Assistant Coach	$2,854.00	Retroactively effective August 17, 2026
David Loew	Boys' Soccer Assistant Coach	$2,854.00	Retroactively effective August 17, 2026
Jacqueline Lang	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Retroactively effective August 24, 2026
Kelly Taylor	Boys' Soccer Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Effective September 16, 2026
Lucas Christman	Boys' Wrestling Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Effective September 16, 2026

Zackary Anthony	Boys' Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Effective September 16, 2026

SUB

Approved the following Substitute at prevailing substitute rates effective September 16, 2026:

Timothy Kleintop	Substitute Nurse

RESIGNATIONS

Accepted the following resignations:

Zoe Hathaway	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective August 16, 2026
David Loew	Boys' Soccer Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective August 16, 2026

WRIGHT-INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

Approved the agreement with Mary Ann Wright for instructional leadership coaching for the 2026-2027 school year

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Approved the following public performance, per policy 230:

Chorus-HS	Singing at The Palmerton (to assisted living residents)	November 25, 2026
Chorus-HS	Singing at Concourse Club meeting	December 3, 2026

FIELD TRIPS

Approved the following field trip requests:

FBLA State Workshop	Kalahari Resorts & Convention, Pocono Manor	November 1-2, 2026
Golf PIAA State Championships	Penn State University Golf Courses, State College	October 18, 2026 through October 21, 2026
Boys' Wrestling Team tournament	Rocky Top Sports World, Gatlinburg, TN	December 3, 2026 through December 7, 2026
Boys' Wrestling Team tournament	Carlisle High School, Carlisle	December 11, 2026 through December 12, 2026

1st READINGS 102-204.2-246-249

Approved the first reading of the following policies:

1) Policy #102 Academic Standards
2) Policy #204.2 Virtual Attendance & Wellness Checks
3) Policy #246 School Wellness
4) Policy #249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Connie Banko – spoke of property tax assessment for Blue Mountain Ski Area, working with officials to complete reassessment
- Richard Banko – complimented S.S. Palmer Elementary School's 9/11 flag display; stated that Blue Mountain Resort should contribute to local property taxes to support community revenue; suggested the district purchase the golf course; communication issues between tax collector and county commissioner
- Deb Kleckner - expressed concern for district using contingency funds and change orders for construction project; asked whether interest rate and repayment schedule for loan will be public

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Schaible stated Mr. Kish published great article in PA Great Schools highlighting September 11th events held at our schools.

	• Director Earl Paules thanked everyone who organized the Palmerton Festival and thanked volunteers of festival. • Director Haas attended the 9/11 memorial at S.S. Palmer on Friday, where high schoolers helped set up flag display, had a student speaker, and a sixth grader performed on trumpet; at Friday's football game, Mayor Rodriguez, Mr. Petersen, and Mrs. Husar organized a pre-game ceremony that brought together players from both teams and community members to hold massive U.S. flag; best moment was seeing band members remove their uniform hats before everyone sung national anthem • Director Mazepa acknowledged Suicide Awareness Month, encouraged anyone who is struggling or knows someone who needs help to reach out and offer support. • Director Haas announced there will be an executive session immediately following this meeting for legal and personnel issues.
ADJOURNMENT	Director Moyzan moved, seconded by Director King, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried. Respectfully submitted, Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary