EASTERN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Ms. Carolyn Riley, President, called the public meeting of the Joint Operating Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom 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
Mr. Grant Rounds	Upper Moreland
Mr. Justin O'Donoghue	Solicitor
Dr. Scott Eveslage	Superintendent of Record
Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski	Executive Director
Ms. Katie Braun	Secretary/Business Manager

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Lucas Smith 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

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of the August 12, 2026 Joint Operating Committee minutes of the regular and agenda session minutes.
Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Justin O'Donoghue announced that an Executive Session was not held before the public meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Informational:

Practical Nursing Graduation

Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski attended the Practical Nursing Class #170 that was held on August 27, 2026 at Upper Moreland High School auditorium.

EASTERN Foundation and SkillsUSA Fundraiser

The EASTERN Foundation and Skills USA will co-sponsor a Designer Bag Bingo to be held on October 13, 2026, in Upper Moreland High School's cafeteria from 6 to 8 p.m. Seating is limited. Purchase your tickets!
https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2026-eastern-designer-bag-bingo/items

FINANCIAL REPORT – For the Period Ending August 31, 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 August 31, 2026, showing cash and investment balances of $1,460,377.97 as presented.

Action:

Treasurer's Report *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the period ended August 31, 2026, showing General Fund cash and investment balances of $5,422,182.83 and total assets of $7,751,666.00 and the current status of the Student Activity account.
Motion carried unanimously.

Disbursements *

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of accounts payable checks #39373 through #39564 disbursed during the period of 8/01/2026 through 8/31/2026 in the amount of $610,515.65.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of general fund expense wire/ACH transfers #WT270031 through #WT270049 disbursed during the period of 8/01/2026 through 8/31/2026 in the amount of $299,821.38.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of ACH transfer for procurement card (P-card) expenses disbursed for the month of July in the amount of $1,723.94.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of payroll vouchers #013501 through #013692 disbursed on 8/7/2026 and 8/21/2026 in the amount of $323,679.15.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey Bedard moved approval of capital reserve disbursement checks #11285 through #11289 disbursed during the period of 8/01/2026 through 8/31/2026 in the amount of $279,020.15.
Motion carried unanimously.

There were no disbursements for the Student Activities fund in August.

There were no budget transfers in August.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Action:

Student of the Month *

Ms. Jennifer Wilson moved to approve a resolution recognizing Lucas Smith, a senior at Hatboro-Horsham High School and in the Protective Services program, as Outstanding Student of the Month for September. Ms. Carolyn Riley presented Lucas Smith with the Resolution and EASTERN shirt; the Rotary plaque will be presented on October 8, 2026; and the Association's contribution was presented by Mr. Jeffrey Pakula, Educators' Association President.
Motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Informational:

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Administrative Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 3, 2026
- August Activities Report
- MOU – BCTE Technical Assistance Program

Action:

Cosmetology Curriculum Hours

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval to offer Cosmetology instruction during the four in-service days on November 3, 2026, March 22, 2027, March 23, 2027 and May 18, 2027.
Motion carried unanimously.

Donation

Mr. Grant Rounds moved acceptance of the following donations in support of the instructional program: Culinary- Gardyne Hydroponic System and starter plants from Kevin and Karley Bunkin.
Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Informational:

Design, Photography, and Illustration Instructor Nicole Abruzzi returned from FMLA Leave effective August 25, 2026.

Action:

Classified

Administrative Assistant to Director of Practical Nursing – Extra Hours

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval ratification and approval of Administrative Assistant to Director of Practical Nursing, Kristin Waldner, to work up to 5 extra hours per week as pre-approved by the Director of Practical Nursing, between August 31, 2026, and November 20, 2026, at her hourly rate of $32.91 to assist with increased administrative workload due to increase in cohort sizes to 40 students.
Motion carried unanimously.

Practical Nursing

Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of Cathleen Evans, PhD, RN as Practical Nursing Adjunct Instructor at the rate of $46.19/hour for the 2026-2027 school year.
Motion carried unanimously.

Veterinary Science

Veterinary Science Student Interns

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of the following Veterinary Science Interns to work under the direction of the Veterinary Science Intern Supervisors at the rate of $15 per hour for the 2026-2027 school year. Daralynn Astree/Cheltenham SD, Alivia DuPont/Lower Moreland SD, Kiya Ervin/Cheltenham SD and Liliana Mexquititla-Martinez/Springfield SD.
Motion carried unanimously.

Veterinary Science Intern Supervisors

Mr. Erskine Payton moved approval of the following staff members to provide weekend supervision for Veterinary Science Interns providing animal care at the rate of $42 per hour for the 2026-2027 school year. Eileen Collins, Elena Hays, Karen McGeehan, Kyle Maurer, Shannon Rowley-Lavelle, Trisha Simmler-Totaro, and Kristin Waldner.
Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Informational:

PennDOT Grant

EASTERN has applied for the Career and Technical Education Grant to fund the implementation of the PennDOT Construction Inspector Certification Program in the Continuing Education Department. Montcoworks would assist in student and employer outreach. The program would provide 111 hours of in class instruction, supplemented by an additional 30 hours of work-based learning over two semesters. The grant proposal includes tuition for 20 adult students, work-based learning stipend for student and employer, materials, curriculum, certification, testing fess and advertising. The grant request is for $96,238.

Building Report *

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the building report for August activities regarding school plant and property.

Summer Electrical/Maintenance Work *

The Joint Operating Committee acknowledged receipt of the Summer Electrical/Maintenance report.

Action:

PAsmart Grant with Montgomery County Community College

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved acceptance of the PAsmart grant with Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) as the fiscal agent.
Motion carried unanimously.

MCCC – License to Use Agreement – Welding *

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval of the lease agreement, pending solicitor review, with the Montgomery County Community College for the use of our Welding space and equipment to offer adult evening programming for the 2026-2027 school year. This is a trial partnership

funded by a PAsmart grant where part of the grant expenditure is for MCCC to lease our Welding Lab for $10,000 to run 3 courses.
Motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Feminine Hygiene Products Grant *

Ms. Elizabeth Eisenhart moved approval to accept the Feminine Hygiene Products Grant in the amount of $1,211.24 to procure menstrual products/dispensers for student use. Governor Josh Shapiro signed Act 55 of 2024 to provide funding for school entities to provide menstrual products at no cost to students. Funding is proportional to the total number of students enrolled in a school and based on a rate of $1.81 per student.
Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

Justin O'Donoghue shared his Solicitor Report with the Joint Operating Committee.

Other Business

Action:

PSBA Voting

Mr. Grant Rounds moved approval of the following for election.

Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
Matt Vannoy	President Elect	6	0	1
Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
Kristy Bolte	Vice President	6	0	1
Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
David Hein	Treasurer	**6**	**0**	**1**
Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
Jason Mell	PSBA Eastern Zone Representative	6	0	1
Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
Dr. Tasliym Morales	PSBA Section E-4 Advisor	6	0	1
Candidate	**Position**	**Yea**	**Nay**	**Absent**
Marianne Neel	Trustee	6	0	1
Dr. Michael Faccinetto	Trustee	6	0	1

Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee is on October 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carolyn Riley adjourned the September 9, 2026 meeting at 8:27 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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

1. 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR OPENING

Dr. Plesnarski highlighted opening day and in-service activities.

2. STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Dr. Plesnarski reviewed the student enrollment for 2026-2027.

3. 2027-2028 BUDGET

Ms. Katie Braun presented highlights of the 2027-2028 Proposed Budget.

4. JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL DINNER

Dr. Plesnarski discussed the Annual Dinner scheduled to take place in November before the November JOC meeting.
6:00-8:00 JOC Dinner (with local state and federal legislators and district Board Presidents as guests)
8:00 JOC Meeting

5. PSBA ELECTIONS

Ms. Carolyn Riley discussed the candidates for the PSBA officer elections. Votes will be submitted by the JOC Secretary.