ELIZABETHTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE

BEAR BRIEF

October 13, 2026 | Workshop Session

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Board President & Superintendent Updates

- **Board Governance:** Board President Kelly Carter emphasized the Board's commitment to student success and the importance of accurate information and constructive community dialogue.
- **Accuracy & Accountability:** Superintendent Tom Strickler addressed misinformation surrounding recent District incidents, emphasizing fairness, responsible communication and the impact on students, families and staff.
- **Vaccination Data:** The District clarified that its Bainbridge figures reflect current students with at least one MMR dose, while state figures reflect kindergarten students with two doses from 2025-26.

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Recognizing Our Students

- **National Merit Recognition:** EAHS students Laura Kleis (Semifinalist), Kevin Rife and Kylee Wood (Commended Students) were recognized for their achievements in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- **Middle School Student Council:** Student leaders shared accomplishments, schoolwide contributions and how Student Council strengthens their school community.
- **Fable Olympics:** East High first graders shared their experiences participating in the Fable Olympics, highlighting how the event brought classroom learning to life through engaging activities.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Planning for Our Schools

- **Building Project:** The Steering Committee reviewed site development options, including a potential campus roadway, possible reconstruction of the baseball field and addition of a new softball field.
- **Borough Coordination:** District and Borough engineers will meet to discuss permitting, traffic requirements and the proposed campus roadway.
- **Community Engagement:** Upcoming sessions will gather input from students, families and staff, with public engagement anticipated in late October and a tentative November 9 session at Masonic Village.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stewarding Our Resources

- **Act 1 Index:** Due to the 2027–28 reassessment, EASD's property tax index remains at 4.3%. The Board reviewed its impact on budget and Secondary Building Project planning.
- **Revenue Planning:** A hypothetical 4.3% tax increase would generate $2.07 million annually, with illustrative allocations of $1.21 million for building needs and $868,000 for the general fund.
- **Community Donations:** The Board discussed donations of $4,100 from Etown Common Sense for the Facility Dog Program, $1,500 from Masonic Day Lodge #816 for students experiencing homelessness, and over $1,000 from Threads and Treads for students in need.

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING & STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Supporting Student Success

- **Student Achievement:** Reading and math screenings identified students needing support and evaluated core instruction.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Results identified academic needs, particularly in secondary mathematics, that will help guide instructional improvements and interventions.
- **Next Steps:** Priorities include evidence-based instruction, curriculum alignment, interventions and scheduling.
- **Winter Weather Planning:** Administration proposed traditional snow days instead of virtual instruction for the first two closures, with general Board support.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Guiding Our District

- **First Readings:** Six policies were presented for initial review, including a new Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks policy (204.1).
- **PSBA Revisions:** Proposed updates address social media literacy (102), AI-generated cyberbullying and reporting procedures (249), water testing (704) and school calendar provisions related to snow days (803).
- **District Revision:** Proposed changes to Policy 103 address the assignment of the Title IX Coordinator.