

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

<p>ROLL CALL</p> <p>OTHER ATTENDANCE</p>	<p>An executive session was held Tuesday, May 7, 2024 concerning personnel matters and again today after the regular board meeting concerning personnel matters.</p> <p>The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of School Directors was held in the Boardroom of the Administration Building, 680 Fourth Street, Palmerton, PA, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, and called to order at 5:34 p.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream on the district’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Krawchuk, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder Absent: Director Mazepa</p> <p>Jodi Frankelli – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Business Manager, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger– Solicitor</p> <p>STUDENT REPORT:</p> <p><u>Elementary</u> – select students were recognized for their leadership skills in the Leader in Me program with a certificate signed by the Superintendent and Board President: Jakob Gacki, Kylie Beahn, Emmersyn O’Donnell, Madison Flexer at Palmer Elementary; and Raymond Simms, Walker Craig, Mason Porvaznik; Nathan Heydt, Liam Rex, Mason Sutton, and Connie Kroboth at Towamensing Elementary</p> <p><u>Junior High School</u> – Joseph Solt, grade 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NJHS – sponsored a Spring Fling fundraiser dance for CACPAC, the local food bank; donated \$319 and non-perishable items; attending field trip to Kalahari soon• Life Skills – Ms. Owens’ class learned about gardening and planted flowers in their greenhouse; attended fishing derby at Germantown Grove on May 9 and Lehigh Valley Zoo on May 10• Student Council – sponsored roller-skating night at LaRose’s on May 16; holding Pool Day at Palmerton Pool on May 31• 8th Grade Math – students conducted research on various “ocean giants” such as great white sharks by collecting data and creating tables, plots, bar graphs, pie charts, etc.• 7th Grade Math – planned their dream USA road trip by using Google Maps; calculated costs and created slide shows highlighting places of interest• ELA – 7th grade working on MLA-style research papers on topics they chose• Band & Chorus – spring concerts performed May 9 and May 16; traveled to perform at Hershey Park along with HS band and chorus on May 18• Science – Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Landis took teams to the Envirothon on May 8; both 8th grade teams placed in top 4• Awards Banquet – students and families enjoyed the celebration• 6th Grade students visited the JH on May 16; informative posters and presentations displayed to show students clubs and activities they can get involved in• Push Up Challenge – students are pursuing the 4th marking period push-up challenge where students complete a push-up for each day of the marking period; today was Day 34 and students had the day to complete 34 push-ups <p><u>High School</u> – Cassie Hager, grade 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholastic Scrimmage – successful year; revived the Carbon County Academic Competition for this year and for future years• PYEA – all members happy with the experience they gained this year
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- NHS – attended field trip May 10 to Philadelphia Zoo with gifted students; 15 members with Mrs. Baumgardt volunteered at Iron Pigs concession stand on May 8 for Eastern PA Downs Syndrome Center
- PAAC – service work done on May 20 at the Carbon County Friends of Animals facility; annual blanket and towel drive was a huge success
- Carbon County Chapter PASR Project – Chris Garey, senior, is constructing a memorial wood bench, funded by PASR, for Denise Homlak, IA in the district who passed away a few years ago, bench will be displayed in the courtyard
- Envirothon – congratulations to Hagfish V3 team for placing first at regionals and will move onto the state competition May 22; team members are Gretchen Schaible, Kellen Trotter, Adriana Fugazzotto, Noah Marks, and Josh Rehatchek
- Student Council – hosted Spring Day on May 17
- Life Skills – participated in Spartan Games at North Schuylkill HS on May 7, fishing derby on May 9, and visited Lehigh Valley Zoo on May 10
- Athletics – spring sports post season started last week; softball team looking forward to district tournament; track and field team had many champions with 14 members qualifying for states
- Music – chorus, jazz, and concert band all had successful performances in the spring concert; jazz band traveled to North Schuylkill HS to perform in their inaugural Jazz Fest with Alexis Kulp, senior, winning outstanding soloist award; JHS and HS ensembles went to Hershey Park to participate in Music in the Parks Festival with all five ensembles awarded an “excellent” rating
- AP Biology – taught by Mrs. Dougherty for the first time this year; will receive update on the scores this summer

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Attended band and chorus concerts, have a lot of great musicians in the district
- Thanked Mr. DeSocio for organizing the Junior High Awards Ceremony last week, nice event that includes members of the community, award given by graduating class for kindness; high school awards will be after Memorial Day break
- Thank you to Giant Food Stores in Walnutport for the donation of \$3,400 through this year’s Feeding School Kids Initiative; money will be used toward student lunch debt

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Tonight’s proposed budget to be voted on is built with a 1 mill increase; it is a formality to move the budget forward in the process for official public inspection and advertisement. The Board did ask for a 5% cut for buildings and departments at the last workshop. Because the timing of when the forms have to be filled out on state paperwork, and to give the administrators more time, those numbers are not included tonight. They will be included at our June workshop meeting and for the final budget.
- Reiterated an email sent recently to the Board that administrators, and especially our building principals, are budgeting for student supplies they genuinely anticipate needing throughout the school year, so adhering to the 5% reduction may force them to eliminate supplies that could affect the educational experience of students. If the Board wishes to pivot from this position, you can also consider just 5% for departments and leave the buildings as presented. For now, I am following the board's original direction and plan to present those cuts and how they affect our budget at our next workshop.
- Dr. Frankelli stated that we are always keeping our eye on grade level numbers not just Kindergarten, but at all grade levels. There may be a time where we need to request an additional teacher at any school building or grade level.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

- Director Mary Jo King – Technology:
 - Postings are added quickly to Facebook and our website

- Director Danielle Paules – PSBA:
 - Education innovation and research grant due in July; four webinar series available on enhancing financial strategies, facility and space design, comprehensive trauma or data driven decisions, register online; looking for speakers at the leadership conference in October. Director Schaible said she and Dan Heaney attended the AI seminar recently
- Director Connell – Safety:
 - She and Director Danielle Paules attended the district’s safety meeting this month
- Director Schaible – CCTI:
 - Wrapping up the school year
- Director Haas – CLIU/Library:
 - *IU*: gearing up for graduation, no Palmerton grads this year, will attend BHA graduation this year as we have one student from Palmerton
 - *Library*: May 30 is National Creativity Day, celebrating with sidewalk chalk creations; summer reading programs; fundraising discussed for the building

OLD BUSINESS:

- *S. S. Palmer Elementary renovation*: meeting on May 14 to discuss general construction agenda items, scheduling, and coordination of the project; roof replacement on track to start May 24 with August 26 as substantial completion date; clocktower roof slab steel beams installed May 18 with mason continuing their work this week; flagpole on clocktower roof will be removed this week
- *Weight room renovation*: meetings on May 9 and May 16 to discuss work progress; will meet weekly; project is on time with no current issues
- *Feasibility study*: RLPS Architects started their building walkthroughs today; traffic study conducted this week
- *2024-2025 solicitor fee proposals*: Director Earl Paules requested at the last meeting that multiple firms be considered for next year’s solicitors. Dr. Frankelli presented four other possible firms and fee agreements. Director Snyder brought up that some of these firms do not provide an in-person solicitor for board meetings. Dr. Frankelli stated our board policy states we shall have an in-person solicitor at our meetings. Our current firm, Sweet Stevens Katz Williams, does not charge us for drive time or mileage. Consensus was to stay with SSKW for next year’s legal counsel.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

MEETING MINUTES

Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Snyder, to approve the board meeting minutes from April 16, 2024.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director King moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve from the consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of an abstention from Director Schaible for Item #2 Personnel, Letter I, second line only, John Schaible, event worker, due to a conflict of interest.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

FISCAL REPORTS

Approved Accounts Payable Reports

Approved Treasurer’s Reports

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Approved Budget Transfers

SHOP SPECIALTIES

Approved the Shop Machinery Maintenance Agreement with Shop Specialties, Inc. for the wood lab at the high school for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$1,450.00 plus any repair parts required)

PROM PHOTO BOOTH

Approved retroactively the contract with Dan’s Camera City for the photo booth for the prom held May 3, 2024

JHS SKATING PARTY

Approved retroactively the party lease agreement with LaRose’s Roller Skating Rink for the Junior High School Student Council skating party held May 16, 2024

JNHS EVENT

Approved the Kalahari Resort banquet event order agreement for the Junior National Honor Society field trip on May 30, 2024

BHA COST-SAVINGS PROGRAM DONATION

Approved the Cost-Savings Program with Behavioral Health Associates for the 2024-2025 school year
Accepted the following donation:

The Giant Company, Feeding School Kids Initiative	toward outstanding student lunch debt	\$3,400.31
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HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT

Acknowledged the following horizontal movement effective the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year:

Brian Stevko	From Master’s +45 to Master’s +60
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UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

Approved the following uncompensated leave request:

Employee #574	June 4, 2024
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ELEM. SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS

Rescinded Karissa Nenscel as Teacher in the Elementary Summer School program from July 9, 2024 through August 1, 2024

Approved Kimberly Nenscel as Teacher in the Elementary Summer School program from July 9, 2024 through August 1, 2024 at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

RESIGNATIONS

Accepted the resignations of the following:

Margaret Morgan	Instructional Assistant	Effective at conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year
Michael Noyola	Cross Country Assistant Coach	Effective May 21, 2024
Shawn Leadbetter	Football Assistant Coach (1/4)	Effective May 21, 2024

COACHES

Approved the following Coaches for the 2024-2025 school year effective May 22, 2024:

Michael Noyola	Cross Country MS Coach (1/2)	\$1,400.00
David Frederickson, Jr.	Cross Country Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Shawn Leadbetter	Football Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,121.00
Austin Cseh	Football Assistant Coach (1/4)	\$1,061.00

WINTER COACHES 2024-2025

Approved the following Winter Coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:

BASKETBALL-BOYS:		
Joseph Krempasky	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Brian Stevko	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Chase Reph	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,121.00
Michael Egan	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,121.00

Nathaniel Dougherty	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Kyle Kern	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Dylan Knouse	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

BASKETBALL-GIRLS:		
Jeremy Coleman	Head Coach	\$6,480.00
James Hay	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Travis Fink	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Jason DeWalt	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,121.00
Jarrad Hedes	Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$2,121.00

WRESTLING:		
Justin Petersen	Head Coach	\$6,480.00
Joshua Rake	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
John Hard	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Alfredo Ortiz, Jr.	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Thomas Pasquariello	Assistant Coach	\$4,242.00
Jacob Christman	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Zachary Christman	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Shawn Gardner	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Matthew Lalik	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Aaron Suranofsky	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Dennis Lombardi	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Jamie Tomsic	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

CHEER ADVISORS

Approved the following Cheerleading Advisors for the 2024-2025 school year:

Joy Devino	Advisor	\$2,609.00
Christine Ruzicka	Advisor	\$2,609.00
Colby Ruzicka	Advisor MS (1/2)	\$1,305.00

ADD'L SPRING EVENT WORKERS

Approved retroactively the following Spring Event Workers at a rate of \$23.00 per event for the 2023-2024 school year effective April 9, 2024:

Sage Nalesnik
John Schaible

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS

Approved tuition reimbursements

REVISED 2024-2025 CALENDAR

Approved the revised 2024-2025 school district calendar

FID 2024-2027

Approved the Flexible Instructional Days application for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years

FIELD TRIP

Approved the field trip request for the grades 7-12 music trip to Norfolk, Virginia, tentatively from May 15, 2025 through May 18, 2025

BUS DRIVER

Approved retroactively Robert Schaninger as George's Transportation bus driver for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year effective May 8, 2024

CLIU TRANSPERFECT

Approved the CLIU #21 Agreement for TransPerfect Remote Interpreters Products & Services beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

CLIU LIBRARY CONSORTIUM	Approved the agreement for CLIU#21 OverDrive Consortium for the high school library for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$2,275.00		
COMMONWEALTH UNIV. OF PA	Approved the affiliation agreement with Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania for the five (5) year period beginning May 22, 2024 through May 21, 2029		
CONFERENCES	Approved the following conferences:		
Jamie Schuler	PASCD’s (PA Assoc. for Supervision & Curriculum Development) AI Ready: Leading Through Change in the Age of AI – via Zoom	June 17, 2024	Estimated cost of \$125.00
Jamie Schuler	PASCD’s Curriculum Leadership Academy sponsored by PASCD at NEIU 19, Archbald, PA	June 24, 2024 and June 25, 2024	Estimated cost of \$500.00
CHEER ADVISOR MOU	Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Palmerton Area Education Association regarding the cheerleading advisors		
1st READING POLICIES 214-217-247	Approved the first reading of the following policies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policy #214 Class Rank 2) Policy #217 Graduation 3) Policy #247 Hazing 		
END OF CONSENT AGENDA			
PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET 2024-2025	Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the proposed final budget for 2024-2025 with a 1 mill index increase and expenditure totals of \$39,921,692. The 2024-2025 Real Estate Tax mills will be set at 65.9150. The final budget is set to be approved at the June 18, 2024 board meeting. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
WINDOW GRANT RESOLUTION	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Resolution in the amount of \$1,200,000 to be used for replacing all external windows at S. S. Palmer Elementary School and Parkside Education Center with the remainder of the cost provided by the District. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
SUPERINTENDENT RESIGNATION	Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to accept the resignation of Dr. Jodi Frankelli, Superintendent, effective May 10, 2024. Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
TREASURER	Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve Mary Jo King as Treasurer of the Palmerton Area School Board effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at the rate of \$400.00 per year. Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of an abstention from Director King due to a conflict of interest. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.		
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH	Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to approve the Letter of Understanding between the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit and the Palmerton Area School District outlining the		

terms, conditions, and fees for executive search services.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present with the exception of an abstention from Director King due to a conflict of interest.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Lori Nemeth – questioned why there is so much student lunch debt and why is the debt allowed; sorry to see Dr. Frankelli leave the district; asked about process of hiring a superintendent and an interim superintendent
- Mary Farquhar – public should have input as to the criteria in choosing a new superintendent
- Lynn Passerini – asked if our social worker is contacting those who have lunch debt to see what the issue might be; stated she is the Towamensing PTO President and looking for a response from the Board to her email to them about an ongoing issue with a parent regarding attendance on an upcoming field trip

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Danielle Paules stated LCCC student, Marie Alexis, and Palmerton graduate and LCCC student, Hailey Hottenstein, have been named members of the 2023-2024 All-Pennsylvania Academic Team, both receiving scholarship money. Hailey also was named 2024 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, receiving scholarship money and the ability to receive two years of tuition at any state college as well. Director Krawchuk said these are fantastic achievements by these students.
- Director Haas stated an executive session will be held immediately following this evening’s meeting for personnel matters

ADJOURNMENT

Director Krawchuk moved, seconded by Director Schaible, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.

Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless
Board Secretary