

**PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

An executive session was held August 6, 2024 after the special meeting concerning personnel matters.

The special 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, August 6, 2024, immediately following the workshop. The meeting began at 5:45 p.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream on the district’s Facebook page.

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Directors Connell, Haas, King, Krawchuk, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, Schaible, and Snyder

**OTHER ATTENDANCE**

Ryan Kish – Interim Superintendent and Business Manager, and Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

- Congratulations to recent Times News female/male athletes of the year, Sydney Frantz, Natalie Walters, Bryson Walters, and Matthew Machalik. Also, Ethan Zych, grade 11, received the General Billy Mitchell Award from the Civil Air Patrol, marking the transition between enlisted cadets and cadet officers which is only reached by 15 cadets globally.
- Recognized Junior High School Principal, Rich DeSocio for his upcoming January 2025 retirement; Mr. DeSocio spent 26 years in public education with 21 of those years at PASD. Congratulations on a great career!
- Dan Heaney, Director of Technology, has earned his doctorate in education, successfully defending his dissertation last week. Congratulations, Dr. Heaney!
- Thank you to Joe Faenza, Director of Facilities, who in spite of staff shortages and equipment issues, was able to get the 7<sup>th</sup> Street field ready for the booster club to use for camp last week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Director Earl Paules spoke of challenges with the current renovation projects and possible change orders that may be submitted.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the attached consent agenda

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**REVISED BREAKFAST/ LUNCH PRICES 2024-2025**

Approved the following revised breakfast and lunch prices for the 2024-2025 school year as mandated by Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010:

Adult Breakfast	\$2.85
Adult Lunch	\$4.65

**ELEMENTARY TEACHER**

Approved Marisa Lichtenwalner as Elementary Teacher, at Towamensing Elementary, at Master’s, Step 2, at an annual salary of \$52,612 effective August 13, 2024

<b>COACHES</b>	Approved the following Coaches effective August 7, 2024:									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 163 667 193">Alexis Hertzog</td> <td data-bbox="667 163 1227 193">Field Hockey Assistant Coach</td> <td data-bbox="1227 163 1513 193">\$2,798.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 193 667 222">Heather Long</td> <td data-bbox="667 193 1227 222">Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach</td> <td data-bbox="1227 193 1513 222">--</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 222 667 252">Alexandrea Spalding</td> <td data-bbox="667 222 1227 252">Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach</td> <td data-bbox="1227 222 1513 252">--</td> </tr> </table>	Alexis Hertzog	Field Hockey Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00	Heather Long	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Alexandrea Spalding	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
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Heather Long	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	--								
Alexandrea Spalding	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	--								
<b>FMLA</b>	Approved retroactively the following for Family & Medical Leave:									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 373 574 403">Employee #4505</td> <td data-bbox="574 373 1513 403">Effective from July 10, 2024 and intermittently through September 6, 2024</td> </tr> </table>	Employee #4505	Effective from July 10, 2024 and intermittently through September 6, 2024							
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<b>ADD'L ESY STAFF</b>	Approved retroactively the following additional staff to work in the Extended School Year (ESY) program from July 23, 2024 through August 1, 2024:									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="332 550 1513 579"><i>Nurse at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 579 1513 625">Megan Zurn</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Nurse at the Professional Services rate per the PAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:</i>		Megan Zurn						
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Megan Zurn										
<b>RESIGNATION</b>	Accepted the following resignation:									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 739 574 768">Mary K. Writer</td> <td data-bbox="574 739 927 768">School Psychologist</td> <td data-bbox="927 739 1513 768">Effective July 16, 2024</td> </tr> </table>	Mary K. Writer	School Psychologist	Effective July 16, 2024						
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<b>LCCC MEAL PURCHASES</b>	Approved the Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement with Lehigh Carbon Community College from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025									
<b>FIELD TRIP</b>	Approved the field trip request for the High School Yearbook Editors to Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights, NJ on August 9, 2024									
<b>END OF CONSENT AGENDA</b>										
<b>JHS PRINCIPAL RETIREMENT</b>	Director Mazepa moved, seconded by Director King, to accept the retirement of Richard DeSocio, Junior High School Principal, effective January 3, 2025.									
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.									
	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>									
	<b>FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:</b>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Haas reported five applicants will be interviewed for the open superintendent position later this week</li> <li>• Director Earl Paules stated Mr. Kish would be a good option as the next district superintendent; Director Haas thanked Mr. Kish for the great job he is doing and for stepping up as interim superintendent, also for handling corrections needed with grants recently</li> <li>• Director King wished resigning school psychologist, Mary K. Writer, all the best</li> <li>• Director Danielle Paules asked if another date/time can be set up for returning Chromebooks; also reported the playground equipment replacement piece at Towamensing is now on order</li> <li>• Director Haas stated an executive session will be held immediately following this evening's special meeting for personnel matters</li> </ul>									
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Director King moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m.									
	Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.									

	<p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary</p>
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