

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held before the regular meeting today, Tuesday, September 17, 2024, concerning personnel matters and again after the regular board meeting concerning personnel matters.

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, September 17, 2024, and called to order at 5:32 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, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Shawn Lochinger– Solicitor

STUDENT REPORT:

High School – Derek King, grade 12

- Athletics – now halfway through fall season; 5 golfers qualified for league tournament: Ashton Leshner, Corey Serfass, Jason Carrelli, Joey Solt, and Jared Grammes; Joey Solt qualified for district tournament; soccer teams hosted a benefit night which raised \$1,119.50 in memory of a Northwestern Lehigh student who lost his life in an auto accident over the summer; thank you to Mrs. Frable and Mrs. Sell for their efforts in organizing the benefit; at the football game on August 30, we presented \$2,000 to Palmerton Ambulance which was made possible through our St. Luke’s contract; youth night will be held at the September 20th football game
- Student Leadership Conference – on Sept. 12, the Colonial League held its inaugural Leadership Conference; each school selected 10 student-athletes to foster leadership qualities and promote a positive culture; engaged with college coaches for insight on what leadership means at the collegiate level; participants were: Derek King, Logan Anthony, Nataly Walters, Aubrey Frable, Dillon Lombardi, Cameron Pengelly, Hailey Barry, Joshua Merkel, Ella Baumgardt, and Courtney Connell
- Picture Day – held on Sept. 11; makeup day is Oct. 23
- Back to School Night – open house format in an informal setting on Sept. 12; about 50 parents attended
- Student Council – homecoming events being planned and court selected; mini-THON fundraiser set for homecoming football game

SUPERINTENDENT/BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT:

- Beginning of school year going smoothly; thank you to our staff, students, and parents
- Most Meet the Teacher Nights happened last week; principals/teachers did an outstanding job
- Received a donation from Blue Mountain Resort of clothing and hygiene products; thank you to Ashley Springs, HR manager
- Both the weight room and S. S. Palmer projects received occupancy permits on Sept. 6; black glass installed at the top of the arch of the front entrance at Palmer until permanent glass arrives; contractor is finishing the retaining walls along the sidewalk at Palmer; painting being finished in weight room and rubber mats ordered; punch list walkthroughs for both projects will happen soon
- Thank you to our general contractors, Northeast Construction and RC Construction. They pushed to get these renovation projects done on time. Both of been very responsive and we appreciate their efforts.

	<p>BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Earl Paules – Buildings/Grounds: commented that the contractors on the weight room and S. S. Palmer building renovations were local contractors; would use these contractors again; weight room is being painted and it looks very good • Director Haas – Library/IU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Library</i>: fall activities planned; story time; bookmark making; annual art exhibit in October; quilt lovers bingo October 13; visit website or Facebook page for details ○ <i>IU</i>: two recipients, Margarita Rivera and Olga Stepanova, received the Annie Sullivan Award for educators who exemplify caring with students with disabilities; looking at new superintendent evaluation tool • Director King – Technology: timely postings on website continue to happen; keep submitting your events <p>OLD BUSINESS: Director Schaible asked for the draft of Policy 816 District Social Media to be discussed again at the next workshop. Director King requested looking at Policy 309 Assignment & Transfer.</p> <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
MEETING MINUTES	<p>Director King moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to approve the board meeting minutes from August 6, 2024 and August 20, 2024.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>		
CONSENT AGENDA	<p>Director Earl Paules moved, seconded by Director Connell, to approve the consent agenda.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p>		
FISCAL REPORTS	<p>CONSENT AGENDA:</p> <p>Approved accounts payable reports</p> <p>Approved Treasurer’s reports</p>		
CYBERSECURITY GRANT	<p>Accepted the Hayward Computer Career Accelerator Fund Cybersecurity Course Grant from Carbon County Community Foundation in the amount of \$20,287.70</p>		
IA	<p>Approved Jenna McHugh as Instructional Assistant at a rate of \$18.28 per hour effective September 18, 2024</p>		
GUEST TEACHERS	<p>Approved the following Guest Teachers at a daily rate of \$110.00 effective September 18, 2024:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="332 1606 609 1680"> <tr> <td>Katherine Kamm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emily Reinherz</td> </tr> </table>	Katherine Kamm	Emily Reinherz
Katherine Kamm			
Emily Reinherz			
TEACHER TRANSFER	<p>Approved the position transfer of Lindsay Fronheiser, High School Special Education Teacher to Elementary Special Education Teacher at Towamensing Elementary. The effective date of this transfer is contingent upon the start date of the High School Special Education Teacher replacement.</p>		

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENTS

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

Morgan Hesse	From Bachelor's to Master's
Kristen Perdew	From Master's +15 to Master's +30

CLUB ADVISORS

Approved the following Club Advisors for the 2024-2025 school year effective September 18, 2024:

Stephanie Bles	Student Council-JHS Co-Advisor	\$ 513.50 prorated
Christopher Kery	Student Council-JHS Co-Advisor	\$ 513.50 prorated
Sean Hall	Drama Club-Volunteer	--

UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

Approved the following uncompensated leave request:

Employee #5694	October 3, 2024 and October 4, 2024
----------------	-------------------------------------

SPRING COACHES

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

Baseball:		
Tyler Svetik	Head Coach	\$4,261.00
Joseph Trimmel	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Matthew Solt	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Ryan King	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Alex Matika	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Chase Reph	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Michael Svetik	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Softball:		
Robert Hock	Head Coach	\$4,261.00
Phillip Acker	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Craig Marlatt	Co-Assistant Coach (3/4)	\$2,099.00
Trisha Sterling	Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,399.00
Jenna Turner	Co-Assistant Coach (1/4)	\$ 700.00
Tori Gollie	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Megan Green	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Tennis:		
Jennifer Danzeisen	Head Coach	\$2,562.00
Track:		
Michael Gombert	Head Coach	\$4,261.00
Andrew Nosti	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Francis Gough	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
James Hay	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Darris Rodrigues	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Michael J. Horvath	Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00
Kris Hoffner	Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,399.00
Matthew Lalik	Co-Assistant Coach (1/2)	\$1,399.00
Jamie Hibell	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Michael Martinez	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Margaret Morgan	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

Sage Nalesnik	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
Michael Noyola	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--
John Schaible	Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

COACHES Approved the following Coaches:

Brandyn Miller	Volleyball Assistant Coach	\$2,798.00 prorated	Retroactively effective August 21, 2024
Connor Russo	Girls' Soccer Volunteer Assistant Coach	--	Effective September 18, 2024

PAMPA CHAPERONE Approved Jennifer Sommers as Palmerton Area Music Parents' Association (PAMPA) Volunteer Chaperone for the 2024-2025 school year effective September 18, 2024

RESIGNATIONS Accepted the following resignations:

Rhianna Rivera	Volleyball Assistant Coach	Effective August 19, 2024
Tara Frantz	Field Hockey Volunteer Assistant Coach	Effective August 15, 2024
Connor Russo	Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach	Effective September 17, 2024
MaryEllen Rhoads	Contracted Crossing Guard	Effective August 23, 2024
Mary Bowman	Contracted Crossing Guard	Effective August 23, 2024

SUB IA Approved Jessica Mooney as Substitute Instructional Assistant at a rate of \$10.00 per hour effective September 18, 2024

SUBSTITUTE REMOVALS Removed the following from the Substitute list effective September 18, 2024:

Albert Dommel	Substitute Teacher
Gerard Donati	Substitute Teacher
Chloe Flecha	Substitute Teacher
Kelley Guedes	Substitute Teacher
Spencer LaRiviere	Substitute Teacher
Michelle Lawrence	Substitute Teacher
Tara Marques	Substitute Teacher
Meghan Miller-Brown	Substitute Teacher
William Schwartz	Substitute Teacher
Bernadette Sukley	Substitute Teacher
Sharon Eagan	Substitute Instructional Assistant
Jenna McHugh	Substitute Instructional Assistant
Brandylee Veanus	Substitute Instructional Assistant

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS Approved tuition reimbursements

FIELD TRIPS Approved the following field trip requests:

PIAA Golf State Championship, State College, PA	October 20, 2024 through October 22, 2024
PIAA Cross Country State Championship, Hershey, PA	November 1, 2024 through November 2, 2024

2025 PSBA CANDIDATES

Authorized the Board Secretary to cast votes in the election for the following 2025 Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) officer candidates:

Sabrina Backer	President-Elect
Matt Vannoy	Vice President
Holly Arnold	Eastern Zone Representative
David Hein	Section E2 Advisor
Nathan Mains	Trustee
Richard Frerichs	Trustee
William LaCoff	Trustee

CONFERENCE

Approved the following conference:

Jamie Schuler	PASCD Annual Conference, Hershey, PA, November 24, 2024 through November 26, 2024	Estimated cost of \$862.50
---------------	---	----------------------------

1st READING POLICIES 103-103.1-104-234-247-249

Approve the first reading of the following policies (enclosures):

- 1) Policy #103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
- 2) Policy #103.1 Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities
- 3) Policy #104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
- 4) Policy #234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students
- 5) Policy #247 Hazing
- 6) Policy #249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY-PROJECT STAY

Director Schaible moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Lehigh University for Project STAY beginning September 18, 2024 through September 17, 2029.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- None

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Director Haas thanked everyone involved in the interviews/tours for the superintendent candidates yesterday
- Director Haas stated an executive session was held today prior to this meeting for personnel matters, and another will be held after this regular meeting for personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Connell moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline McCandless
Board Secretary