August 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the South Williamsport Area School Board was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room in the Junior Senior High School by the President, Todd Engel.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence and Pledge to the Flag.

Board Members Present: Bachman, Brigandi, Bukeavich, Engel, Hitesman, Lewis, and Rupert.

Others Present: Kim Bollinger – Junior High Principal, Susan Zaydell – Technology, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and David Sterngold – Assistant Solicitor.

Visitors: Audrey Bear – Piper Sandler, Christopher Eiswerth, Renee Eiswerth, Christy Pinkerton, Hilarie German, and Richard Knecht.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DEBT PRESENTATION
Audrey Bear, Managing Director at Piper Sandler, presented hypothetical borrowing scenarios and their impact to debt service in the amounts of $2,500,000, $3,500,000, and $5,000,000.

PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP
Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, presented Policy No. 011 Principles for Governance and Leadership to the school board. This policy and other items surrounding the topic were discussed amongst the school board members.

ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, presented his annual report. This report reviewed his prior year goals and outcomes, presented current year goals, presented results from the PA School Climate Survey, gave information on Champions Before and After School program, provided Elementary updates, and provided High School updates.

ACTION ITEMS

TREASURERS REPORT
A motion to approve the July 2025 Treasurer's Report was moved by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE BILLS
A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of $2,059,047.15, Food Service Fund in the amount of $138,926.05, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of $38,095.00, GO Bond 2023 in the amount of $455,864.98 and GO Bond 2024 in the amount of $1,505,327.75 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

MINUTES
A motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025 as written was moved by Bachman, seconded by Lewis. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

TAX EXONERATION DUE TO LERTA

A motion to exonerate Dorothy White Mertz, Tax Collector, from collecting $2,694.56 for Parcel #51-0020-0512 and $17,270.07 for Parcel #51-001-214 in accordance with the LERTA was moved by Rupert, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER

A motion to approve change order G-027 for removing coiling door 152 and install double door for a cost of $4,937.80 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 CENTRAL ELEMENTARY TITLE I SCHOOL PLAN

A motion to approve the 2025-2026 Central Elementary Title I School Plan was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Lewis. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

RIVER VALLEY HEALTH LETTER OF AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Letter of Agreement with River Valley Health for the 2025-2026 school year which allows the dental van to visit the school district to provide free dental care to students who need support was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

RIVER ROCK ACADEMY CONTRACT

A motion to approve the River Rock Academy Contract for reservations for three secondary student slots for the Williamsport Campus at a per diem rate of $154 for a total cost of $85,470 was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

LYCOMING CLINTON JOINDER SAP AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Letter of Agreement for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) with the Lycoming Clinton Joinder Board was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Lewis. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

LYCOMING CLINTON JOINDER LETTER OF AGREEMENT

A motion to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Lycoming Clinton Joinder Board for a full-time caseworker was moved by Bachman, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

FOUNDATIONS OF TEACHING CONTRACT WITH BLAST IU

A motion to approve the Foundations of Teaching Contract with Blast IU for six sessions of face-to-face professional development opportunities and/or online offerings to teachers and staff for a cost of $1,305 was move by Hitesman, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

NITTANY LEARNING SERVICES

A motion to approve the agreement with Nittany Learning Services for an Elementary Intervention Support Staff for the 2025-2026 at a cost of $75,220 with funding from the District's Title I allocation was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

RESILITE MAT COMPANY PRICE REVISION

A motion to approve an additional cost of $4,823 for the wrestling mat purchase was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-no, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – SECOND READING
A motion to approve the second reading of Policy No. 317 – Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures, Policy No. 317.1 – Educator Misconduct, Policy No. 320 – Freedom of Speech by Employees, and Policy No. 718 – Service Animals in School was moved by Bachman, seconded by Lewis. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
A motion to approve a sabbatical leave of absence for employee #651 from August 28, 2025 through January 20, 2026 was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL
Dr. Briggs accepted letters of resignation from the following employee

- Daniel Zeigler from his Maintenance position, for retirement purposes, effective September 1, 2025.

EMPLOYMENT – DEAN OF STUDENTS
A motion to approve Christopher Eiswerth as the Dean of Students at Central Elementary, a 200-day position under the Act 93 Agreement with a starting salary of $87,000, effective at the start of the 2025-2026 school year or when released from his prior employer, was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-yes, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT
A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Rupert.

FOOD SERVICE WORKER – Ashley Liddic at the Jr Sr High School for 3.25 hours a day at $16.18 per hour in accordance with the South Williamsport Education Support Professionals Association Agreement

CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Louise Campana, Kaitlynn Davenport, Mary Geise, Phyllis McKernan, Brenda Trimble, and Marjorie Wonderlich

CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Mae Allvord (secretary), Robert Davis (custodial), Chris Gottschall (custodial), Frances Kropp (secretary), Mary Jo Marinpo (cafeteria), Jim Moser (cafeteria), Deborah Moyer (cafeteria), Ken Mundorff (custodial), and Auburn Seagraves (cafeteria)

GUEST TEACHERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Suzanne Bastian, Robin Bernstein, Robin Borick, Lisa Bower, Barth Carson, Lilly Eiswerth, Olivia Fessler, Christopher Kuriga, Pat McCormick, Melissa Mitteer-Bradley, Heidi Mnkandhla, Courtney Naugle, Christen Probst, and Megan Probst

EVENT SECURITY STAFF FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Joseph Baier, Isaac Bragunier, Richard Knecht, Teri Knecht, James Moser, Robert Perry, Thomas Waldman, and Frank Zaydell

ATHLETIC COACHES FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

- Ernie Naugle as a Football volunteer
- Scott Lowery as a JH Softball volunteer
- Avery Eiswerth as a JH Softball Assistant Coach with a stipend of $2,142
- Bryan Watson as a Boys Soccer volunteer
- Lee English as Head Golf Coach with a stipend of $2,896

GAME WORKERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Karen Geise, Jaimee Kopp, Terry Kopp, Susan Albert, Teri Knecht, Yvonne Inners, Rob Hine, Craig Kropp, Dwight Woodley, Gary Guerrisky, Donald Larson, Rob Shaw, Jason Young (volunteer), Scott Lowery, Eric Ranck, and Jack Johnson

GAME MANAGERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Karen Geise, Jaimee Kopp, Matt Bradley, and Jaiden Bradley

Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-abstain, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Lewis-abstain, and Rupert-yes; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
There will be an executive session after the meeting regarding personnel; no action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bachman, seconded by Rupert. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Attest

Jamie Mowrey

Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary