

January 12, 2026

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: Mrs. Cathy Bachman, Mr. Ben Brigandi, Dr. Summer Bukeavich, Mr. Todd Engel, Mr. John Hitesman, Dr. Kimberly Kohler, Mr. Steve Rupert, and Mr. Jason Young.

Others Present: Kimberly Bollinger – Junior High Principal, Dyan Frame – Central Elementary Principal, Kristin Bastian – Director of Special Education/School Psychologist, Dwight Woodley – Director of IT/Innovative Learning, Technology, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and David Sterngold – Assistant Solicitor.

Visitors: Christy Pinkerton, Shannon Hine, Melissa Lawson, Tina Pulver, Jeanette Spagnuolo, Daniella Brigandi, Olivia Avery, Brendan Carpenter, Blake Barckley, Shawn Millard, Lacie Millard, Heather Millard, John Shaffer Jr, Lindsay Sartori, Amanda Stanzione, Charles Haefner, Alli Nolan, Jodi Nolan, Richard Knecht, Damion Spahr – SitelogIQ, and Ernest Graham – ELA Sports.

#### **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Students from the Music Department were recognized. 2025 Lycoming County Band Directors Association Senior County Band participants are Olivia Avery, Jocelyn Bentley, Dani Brigandi, Luci Brigandi, Jack Carithers, Brendan Carpenter, Owen Cawley, Sawyer Fry, Daniel Lauber, Levi Lauber, Lacie Millard, Cici Pulizzi, Nicholas Rissel, Ryan Saxe, and Althea Street. 2026 PMEA District Orchestra students are Matthew He and Althea Street. 2026 PMEA District Band students are Cici Pulizzi, Olivia Avery, Matthew He, Althea Street, and Blake Barckley. 2026 PMEA District 8 Chorus student is Alli Nolan.

#### **PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The following individuals spoke about the following topics:

- Melissa Lawson – Central Elementary playground and PTO donation

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **FACILITY PROJECT UPDATES**

Damion Spahr from SitelogIQ, reviewed a list of priority items at the Junior Senior High School with a target estimate of \$2,660,000, Off-Site Athletics with a target cost of \$2,500,000, and future projects planning items at the Junior Senior High School of \$3,710,000. Ernest Graham from ELA Sports provided three cost scenarios. Option A is a running track and synthetic turf athletic field at an anticipated project cost of \$3,919,333; Option B is a synthetic turf athletic field as phase 1 at an anticipated project cost of \$1,817,705; Option C is a synthetic turf athletic field at the cul-de-sac location at an anticipated project cost of \$1,756,361.

##### **CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND UPDATE**

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, provided an update on the Central Elementary playground. In 2025-2026, the South Williamsport PTO donated \$45,000 to a playground fund. The current South Williamsport PTO will donate an additional \$25,000 to a playground fund. Dr. Briggs then presented cost options for rubber flooring, accessible swing, tube slide, spiral slide, and a GaGa pit.

##### **GYMNASIUM SCOREBOARDS/SHOT CLOCKS**

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, discussed a potential agreement with Digital Scoreboards to provide 2 digital scoreboards at the Junior Senior High School main gym which includes advertising done by Digital Scoreboards.

## **PANORAMA SURVEY DATA FOLLOW UP**

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, presented additional information from Panorama that discussed the Survey Content, Data Overview, Key Findings, and Support for Taking Action.

## **2026-2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR**

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, reviewed a draft version of the 2026-2027 School District Calendar.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

### **APPROVE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$1,878,014.74, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$35,043.11, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$123,408.91, GO Bond 2023 in the amount of \$4,458.08, and GO Bond 2024 in the amount of \$537.92 as funds become available was moved by Young, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025, as written was moved by Bachman, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **SCHOOL VAN**

A motion to approve the purchase of a 10-passenger Chevrolet Express Cargo Van from Hondru Fleet at a price not to exceed \$66,995 using funds from the General Fund was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **MOU WITH LYCOMING CLINTON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES**

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Lycoming Clinton Behavioral Health Choices to provide more Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) to students and teachers during the school day for the 2025-2026 academic year at no cost to the District was moved by Bachman, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **NEW STORY SCHOOL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

A motion to approve the New Story School Services Agreement to provide educational and related services for one student at their facility located in Selinsgrove, PA was moved by Bachman, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **ACT 1 INDEX OPT OUT RESOLUTION**

A motion to adopt a resolution for the 2026-2027 fiscal year that any increase in real estate property taxes will not exceed the adjusted 2026-2027 index of 4.9% was moved by Rupert, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **LITTLE LEAGUE INCORPORATED AGREEMENT**

A motion to approve the agreement with Little League Incorporated to allow SWASD baseball and softball teams to use Little League's batting cage facilities for practices at no cost was moved by Young, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **APPROVE POLICIES – FIRST READING**

A motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 105.2 – Exemption from Instruction, Policy No. 122 – Extracurricular Activities, Policy No. 122.1 – Non-Curriculum Related Non-School Sponsored, Student Initiated Groups, and Policy No. 816 – District Social Media was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Young. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

### **CHILD BEARING/CHILD REARING LEAVE**

A motion to approve the following Child Bearing/Child Rearing leave requests was moved by Young, seconded by Brigandi.

- EE #1447 from March 16, 2026 through June 5, 2026
- EE #1397 from April 6, 2026 through June 2, 2026

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

### **OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

A motion to approve the following overnight field trip requests was moved by Young, seconded by Kohler.

- Robyn Rummung's overnight field trip request to take a District 8 Chorus student to Susquehanna University on January 7-9, 2026, for the PMEA District 8 Choral Festival.
- Jessica Kaledas' overnight field trip request to take two Orchestra students to Bloomsburg University on January 22-23, 2026, for a PMEA District Orchestra performance.
- Jessica Kaledas' overnight field trip request to take five District Band students to Towanda High School on February 4-6, 2026, for a PMEA District Band performance.

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

### **EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL**

Dr. Briggs accepted letters of resignation from the following employees:

- Jamie Bloom from his High School Math Teacher position, for retirement purposes, effective June 5, 2026
- Scott Manning from his High School Science Teacher position, for retirement purposes, effective June 5, 2026
- Tom O'Malley from his Head Varsity and Head JV Softball coach position effective December 31, 2025

### **EMPLOYMENT**

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

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY COORDINATOR – Dr. Eric Briggs

MAINTENANCE WORKER – Jacob Steppe as a full-time Maintenance employee at a rate of \$16.00 per hour plus benefits in accordance with the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Agreement effective January 13, 2026 or when clearances are received.

CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR – Port Habalar and Karrie Tillotson

ATHLETIC COACHES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

- Head Track Coach – Scott White with a stipend of \$4,042
- Head Varsity Softball Coach – Jeanette Spagnuolo with a stipend of \$4,767
- Assistant Varsity Softball Coach – Daniel Pinkerton with a stipend of \$2,674
- Baseball Volunteers – Joe Engel, Steve Sennett, and Casey Waller
- Elementary Boys Basketball Volunteer – Eric Hine

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There will be an executive session after the meeting regarding real property matters; no action to follow.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Young, seconded by Bukeavich. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Mowrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jamie Mowrey  
Board Secretary