

February 9, 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. Jason Lewis, Mr. Steve Rupert, and Mr. Jason Young.

Others Present: Jesse Smith – High School Principal, Kristin Bastian – Director of Special Education/School Psychologist, Dwight Woodley – Director of IT/Innovative Learning, Technology, Bill Reifsnnyder – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and David Sterngold – Solicitor.

Visitors: Andy Brown, Rocio Retana-Callaghan, Melissa Lawson, Tara Stryker, Richard Knecht, Jessica Watson – SunGazette, and Matt Courter - SunGazette.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FACILITY PROJECTS

Mr. Damion Spahr from SitelogIQ discussed updates on future high school improvements. The original budget was updated from \$2,660,000 to \$3,043,000. The increase included additional funding of \$368,000 for gym renovations and \$15,000 for moving and installing a scoreboard at Central Elementary. Mr. Spahr shared preliminary designs for locker room renovations and provided a detailed listing of items to occur under each line item of the budget.

SUBDIVISION AND SALE OF LAND

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, provided information and proposals from various surveyors and appraisers.

BLAST IU 17 AUTISTIC SUPPORT CLASSROOMS

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, discussed classroom options for the Blast IU 17 Autistic Support Classrooms, including a historical look at South Williamsport's autistic classroom student counts, total cost for autistic students, and historical daily rate for Blast IU 17's Classroom Cost.

ACTION ITEMS

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the January 2026 Treasurer's Report was moved by Bachman, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-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 \$1,192,250.05, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$34,565.87, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$16,749.75, and GO Bond 2023 in the amount of \$90,264.68 as funds become available was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2026, as written was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION

A motion to approve the four-year agreement with Keystone Collections Group to collect real estate taxes for Armstrong Township, Duboistown Borough and South Williamsport Borough was moved by Kohler, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – FIRST READING

A motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 204 – Attendance; Policy No. 218.1 – Weapons; Policy No. 610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation; Policy No. 611 – Purchases Budgeted; Policy No. 805 – Emergency Preparedness and Response; Policy No. 805.1 – Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies; Policy No. 805.2 – School Security Personnel; and Policy No. 913.1 – Sponsorships and Advertising was moved by Bukeavich, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

A motion to approve John Peters' overnight field trip request to take nine FBLA students to Hershey, PA on April 12-13, 2026, for the FBLA State Leadership Conference was moved by Young, seconded by Bachman. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL

Dr. Briggs accepted a letter of resignation from the following employee:

- Rebecca Harner from her full-time custodial 2nd shift position effective February 3, 2026

EMPLOYMENT

A motion to approve the following employment was moved by Hitesman, seconded by Kohler.

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN – Damian Donges as a full-time custodial employee, assigned to second shift effective February 4, 2026, at a rate of \$14.00 per hour plus benefits in accordance with the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Agreement.

2025-2026 ATHLETIC COACHES & VOLUNTEERS – Kurtis Wertz as 1st Assistant Baseball Coach at a stipend of \$2,674; Jonah White as a Track Volunteer; and Joy White as a Track Volunteer.

THEATER STAFF – SPRING MUSICAL

- Jared Whitford, Director - \$2,500
- Stefanie Welty, Assistant Director - \$1,700
- Steve Bergerstock, Set Builder - \$1,000
- Miki Rebeck, Vocal Coach - \$1,000
- Sierra Aichner, Assistant Director - \$1,000
- Brianne Carpenter, Music Director - \$2,000

THEATER STAFF – SPRING PLAY

- Jared Whitford, Director - \$1,500
- Steve Bergerstock, Set Builder - \$1,000
- Stefanie Welty, Assistant Director - \$750

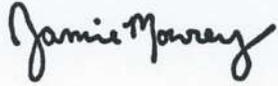
Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

2026-2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR – SECOND READING

A motion to approve the second reading of the District's 2026-2027 school calendar was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Bachman-yes, Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-no, Hitesman-yes, Kohler-yes, Lewis-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Young, seconded by Hitesman. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Mowrey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary