

January 26, 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: Mr. Ben Brigandi, Dr. Summer Bukeavich, Mr. Todd Engel, Dr. Kimberly Kohler, Mr. Steve Rupert, and Mr. Jason Young.

Others Present: Dwight Woodley – Director of IT/Innovative Learning, Technology, Bill Reifsnyder – Director of Buildings and Grounds, Eric Briggs – Superintendent, Jamie Mowrey – Business Manager, and Fred Holland – Solicitor.

Visitors: Andy Brown, Sara Engel, Melissa Lawson, Matt Courter - SunGazette.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DEBT PRESENTATION & FUNDING SOURCES FOR UPCOMING PROJECTS

Mrs. Audrey Bear, Managing Director of Piper Sandler & Co., presented hypothetical borrowing scenarios of \$2,660,000; \$3,710,000; \$5,000,000; and \$8,870,000. The budget impact of those borrowings varies from \$105,552.08 to \$358,072.92 in 2026-2027 and \$19,035.42 to \$69,539.58 in 2027-2028.

Mrs. Jamie Mowrey, Business Manager, presented various funding sources that the District could use for future capital projects.

SUBDIVISION AND SALE OF LAND

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent, led a discussion about the possibility of subdividing and selling some of the wooded area that the District owns along West 8th Avenue.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION

Mrs. Jamie Mowrey, Business Manager, discussed a proposal from Keystone Collections Group to collect Real Estate Taxes in the municipalities that don't have elected tax collectors – Armstrong Township, Duboistown Township, and South Williamsport Borough. Susquehanna Township has an elected tax collector and will not be part of a potential agreement with Keystone Collections Group.

ACTION ITEMS

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to approve the December 2025 Treasurer's Report was moved by Rupert, seconded by Kohler. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-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 \$1,195,656.30, Food Service Fund in the amount of \$88,672.36, and GO Bond 2023 in the amount of \$45,482.18 as funds become available was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Rupert. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, as written was moved by Young, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

A motion to approve the purchase of \$123,893.00 for items related to the Central Elementary Playground from George Ely Associates, using \$70,000 in PTO donations and the remainder from the Capital Reserve Fund was moved by Rupert, seconded by Young. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

GYMNASIUM SCOREBOARD/SHOT CLOCK

A motion to approve the seven-year contract with Digital Scoreboard to purchase 2 new scoreboards for the high school gymnasium at a cost of \$25,000 annually, plus the purchase of shot clocks, LED backboard lights, and a 15' scorable at an additional cost of \$36,700 was moved by Young, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT

A motion to approve a resolution to file a Commonwealth Financing Authority Public School Facility Improvement Grant Fund Grant Request with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development was moved by Rupert, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

CHANGE ORDERS

A motion to approve the following change orders for the Central Elementary Project was moved by Brigandi, seconded by Kohler.

- HVAC Contract (H-017) – addition of 4th gas valve - \$4,322.39
- HVAC Contract (H-018) – addition of volume dampers and outlet - \$1,115.46

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

IDEA-SECTION 619 AGREEMENT WITH BLAST IU

A motion to approve the IDEA-Section 619 agreement with Blast IU #17 for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$2,800 was moved by Young, seconded by Brigandi. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

APPROVE POLICIES – SECOND READING

A motion to approve the second 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 Rupert, seconded by Engel. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

A motion to approve Robyn Rummings's overnight field trip request to take one chorus student to Northwest High School on February 18-20, 2026, for the PMEA Region IV Choral Festival was moved by Young, seconded by Bukeavich. Roll call: Brigandi-yes, Bukeavich-yes, Engel-yes, Kohler-yes, Rupert-yes, and Young-yes; motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – INFORMATIONAL

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

- Johnna Harper from her Elementary School Counselor position effective June 5, 2026
- Kevin Hayes from his 4th Grade Teacher position, for retirement purposes, effective June 5, 2026
- Anita Leahy from her 6th Grade Teacher position, for retirement purposes, effective June 5, 2026
- Chris Vanaskie from his Boys Soccer Head Coach position effective December 10, 2025

EMPLOYMENT

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

MENTOR – Hailey Carson as a teacher mentor for Rhandie Jessell for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year at a prorated stipend of \$250.

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN – Joseph Eckard as a part-time custodial employee at a rate of \$14.00 per hour in accordance with the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Agreement effective January 27, 2026 or when clearances are received.

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

2026-2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR – FIRST READING

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Young, seconded by Brigandi. All members present voting yes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Attest



Jamie Mowrey
Board Secretary