

Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting

February 9, 2026
High School Library

*The Port Allegany School District Board of Directors met in executive session for personnel matters at 6:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole meeting - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Ms. Plumstead called the roll.

Board Present: Mrs. Erica Babcock, Mrs. Barbara Delacour, Mr. Christopher Ernst, Mr. Alex Johnson, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mr. Jason Stake, Mr. Nicholas Valentine and Mr. Marc Budd

Board Absent: Mrs. Erica Petruzzi and Mrs. Ink Young

Others Present: High School Principal Tracy Kio, Business Manager Adam Moate, Carey Herndon, Harlee Williams, Kevin Manner, Jennifer Greenman, Brad Greenman, Richard Brown, Aaron Clark, Andrew Krellner, Amanda Priest, Kristi Freeman, Mary Lashway, Lindsay Isherwood, Stacey Kinney, Bethany Mealy, Renee Johnson, Toncha Barber, Beth Stauffer, Tabatha Dart, Val Seybert, Laura Alfieri, Denise Bridges and Mindy Bernardi

Public Comment

Mr. Aaron Clark stated that Mr. Dan Schott has been a member of the track and field coaching staff for the last 6 years, stating he has coached hundreds of student athletes and brings more than 20 years of coaching experience within our community. Mr. Clark stated Mr. Schott has a strong commitment to the community and strong work ethic. His impact extends beyond athletics. He has been an asset to our student body and athletic program.

Ms. Harlee Williams expressed her concerns regarding Superintendent Marc Budd, describing him as intimidating, demeaning and a bully in nature. She emphasizes the need for the school board to intervene and hold him accountable. Ms. Williams mentioned the recent tragic event involving a 12 year old boy who lost his life due to bullying and depression, despite reaching out for help. Ms. Williams suggested the implementation of effective anti-bullying programs and clear reporting procedures.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stauffer introduced herself and stated she has volunteered and been a part of the coaching staff for 30 years and has been involved in the community for many reasons. Mrs. Stauffer stated our community is facing heart break and her thoughts and prayers are with the family who has suffered such a tragic loss. She stated that holding people accountable is not

bullying, it is leadership. She stated she is concerned with the growing false narrative that places blame on our school and administration by claiming bullying is allowed or ignored. Mrs. Stauffer highlighted the school's efforts to address behavior, enforce expectations and hold students accountable. Schools cannot do it all, it takes a village. Responsibility needs to be shared with family, community, school and church. Mrs. Stauffer stated as Mr. Ernst mentioned in a previous board meeting, we are one team.

Mr. Richard Brown spoke briefly stating that dealing with the public is not an easy job and praised the school administration, mentioning their long tenure and dedication to the district. He spoke about public criticism without having the facts and called for appreciation of the administration's efforts.

Mr. Chris Ernst read a letter from Mr. Michael and Cheryl Nasto, former educators within the school district. The letter stated they had attended a previous meeting and witnessed Mr. Marc Budd and Mr. Tracy Kio step up to fill the recently open Acting Superintendent and high school Principal positions. They said the message that was given by both, as well as the newly installed board President, was summed up in two words - one team. They stated they have known Mr. Budd professionally and personally for more than 40 years and he is dedicated to the betterment of education and demonstrates leadership qualities through his strong work ethic, honesty and support for the students, staff and community. Mr. and Mrs. Nasto stated they fully support Mr. Budd in his role as Acting Superintendent and despite the negativity that has arisen, they asked the school board continue to show their support for him as well.

Mr. Chris Ernst read a letter from Mr. Kyle Babcock, Varsity Boys Basketball coach. The letter stated that in athletics, we value consistency, accountability and a clear vision - qualities Mr. Budd demonstrates daily. He stated his commitment to student growth extends well beyond academics and into extracurricular programs, where character, teamwork and discipline are developed. Mr. Budd has consistently shown respect to coaches, teachers and staff, while keeping students at the center of every decision. He listens, communicates clearly and leads with integrity, even when faced with challenging circumstances. That kind of leadership sets the tone for the entire district and creates an environment where both students and staff can succeed. Mr. Babcock stated that he is proud to serve in a district led by someone who values collaboration, fairness and long-term growth. Mr. Budd has his full confidence and support, and he believes our schools are stronger because of his guidance.

Minutes of Proceeding Meetings

Approved the minutes from the February 2, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting with the correction of a second under personnel. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Valentine. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31st, 2026 as presented by Mr. Johnson. Motion: Mr. Lathrop; Second: Mrs. Babcock. The motion was carried unanimously.

*Bill Lists and Payrolls

General Fund investments on January 31, 2026 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - \$6,390,272.30 and JVB Now Account - \$95,093.23. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

January 31, 2026 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - \$1,668,710.90; Student Activities Account - \$138,556.08; Student Athletics Account - \$163,577.31; Cafeteria Account - \$293,925.54; PLGIT Class Amount: \$807.45; and PLGIT Prime Amount: \$5,762,092.60 Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the General Fund Bill List of February 9, 2026 - \$ 345,473.27 and payrolls of January 15, 2026 - \$ 262,181.28 and January 29, 2026 - \$ 293,957.18. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

Approved volunteers John Boyd, Ron Daniels and Melissa Veilleux to help with the 2025-2026 baseball season. Motion: Mr. Lathrop; Second: Mr. Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved resignation of Todd Higley as the assistant baseball coach effective February 6, 2026. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Babcock. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Ernst stated there was an addendum to the agenda; approved volunteer Dan Schott to help with the 2025-2026 spring track and field season. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion passed, Mrs. Babcock opposed.

Finance

Approved implementing the positive pay program with Juanita Valley Bank. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Babcock. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board

Approved the recommendation to offer an AP Cybersecurity course. Motion: Mr. Valentine; Second: Mr. Stake. The motion passed.

Approved the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion passed.

Mr. Ernst discussed adding another item to the agenda and that was correspondence with our state representatives Martin Causer, Senator Dush, Governor Shapiro, along with our federal representatives Senator Fetterman, Senator McCormick and Representative Thompson. Mr. Ernst stated the point of the correspondence would be to issue our concerns as a school board, from an official standpoint, about the fact that there are no laws in place that prevent registered sex offenders from entering our school facilities. Mr. Ernst said there are no laws

that prevent us from doing that as a school board. With the board's approval, he would like to move forward with this. He also mentioned if the motion passed and with the board's approval, he would communicate these letters with Seneca Highland IU9 and other school districts within the IU. Mr. Stake made a motion to add this to the agenda. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved the recommendation to compile correspondence letters to send to our federal representatives stating the fact that there are no laws in place that prevent registered sex offenders from entering our school facilities. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Babcock. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The PASD Board of Directors adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Johnson. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Plumstead
Secretary to the Board of School Directors

Next Scheduled Meeting

March 2, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting