Port Allegany School District

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting

May 11, 2026
High School Library

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

Regular meeting - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. Justin Fillhart, Mr. Alex Johnson, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi (arrived at 7:20), Mr. Jason Stake, Mrs. Ink Young, and Mr. Marc Budd

Board Absent:

Others Present: Business Manager Adam Moate, Elementary Principal Greg Oliver, Assistant Principal Kathleen Bostjancic, Chelsea Caden, Amanda Priest, Bethany Mealy, Tabatha Dart, Andrew Krellner, Nicole Parish, Kyle Babcock and Aaron Clark

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes of Proceeding Meetings

Approved the minutes from the May 4, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion: Mr. Fillhart; Second: Mr. Stake. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Approved the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2026 as presented by Mr. Johnson. Motion: Mr. Lathrop; Second: Mrs. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bill Lists and Payrolls

General Fund investments on April 30, 2026 were as follows: Juniata Valley Bank (JVB) Investment Savings - $7,647,411.59 and JVB Now Account - $26,015.65. Motion: Mrs. Babcock; Second: Mrs. Delacour. The motion was carried unanimously.

April 30, 2026 balance for various accounts were reported as follows: Capital Reserve Fund - $1,685,223.51; Student Activities Account - $138,116.19; Student Athletics Account - $162,210.32; Cafeteria Account - $303,403.23; PLGIT Class Amount: $814.38; and PLGIT Prime Amount: $5,815,045.11. Motion: Mrs. Babcock; Second: Mrs. Delacour. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approved the General Fund Bill List of May 11, 2026 - $ 385,237.18 and payrolls of April 9, 2026 - $341,455.32 and April 23, 2026 - $280,175.10. Motion: Mrs. Babcock; Second: Mrs. Delacour. The motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Oliver provided an update on the district's Pre-K Counts program. Due to under-enrollment during the current school year, Mr. Oliver is proposing a Pre-K registration event similar to kindergarten registration to increase awareness, identify eligible students, and improve enrollment planning. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 22 in the Gator Den and would provide families with information about the program while allowing staff to conduct developmental screenings and identify student needs. Board members discussed the importance of increasing public awareness regarding Pre-K eligibility, including enrollment opportunities for children who turn four during the school year. Additional discussion focused on expanding outreach efforts and exploring ways to accommodate more preschool-aged children beyond those qualifying under income-based Pre-K Counts guidelines. Mr.Oliver noted that while the grant requires income eligibility for designated Pre-K Counts seats, Pennsylvania regulations permit up to 20 preschool students per classroom. The Board discussed the potential benefits of increased preschool participation, particularly in supporting early literacy and kindergarten readiness. A motion was made by Mr. Stake and seconded by Mr. Lathrop to add Pre-K Counts advertising to the agenda under Curriculum, Item A. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr.Budd presented first-semester reading intervention data for middle school students. The report showed that the majority of participating seventh-grade students demonstrated at least one year of reading growth during the first semester. Overall, 81% of students showed growth in reading fluency, 88% showed growth in reading accuracy, and 81% demonstrated growth in reading comprehension. Board members requested similar intervention data for elementary students and discussed the reported results. Discussion included the relationship between reading fluency, accuracy, and comprehension, particularly among some students whose fluency and accuracy improved while comprehension scores remained unchanged or declined. Additional conversation focused on the importance of building students' background knowledge, vocabulary, oral language skills, and communication abilities beginning in the early grades. Mrs. Delacour emphasized the value of early childhood experiences, classroom discussion, and opportunities for students to develop speaking and listening skills as foundational components of literacy development. Mr.Budd acknowledged these concerns and the challenges associated with supporting comprehension and literacy growth across all grade levels.

Mr.Budd presented information related to credit recovery. He stated historically, students utilized the Penn Foster program, with parents paying the course fee upfront and receiving reimbursement from the district upon successful completion of the course with a grade of C or

better. The cost of the program has increased significantly in recent years, rising from approximately $200 per course to $400 per course, contributing to a substantial decrease in enrollment. Mr.Budd stated he negotiated with Penn Foster resulting in a reduced rate of $225 per course; however, the provider now requires the district to pay all course fees upfront. Concerns were expressed regarding the financial risk to the district if students enroll but do not complete the courses. Based on current student failure data, administration estimated that as many as 101 students could require credit recovery, resulting in a potential cost of approximately $22,725. Board members discussed maintaining accountability by requiring families to have a financial commitment in the process, while acknowledging that past participation and completion rates had generally been positive when parents paid upfront and were later reimbursed. Mr.Budd that alternative options are being explored with other schools and providers in an effort to reduce costs and establish a sustainable credit recovery program. The Board emphasized the importance of having a credit recovery plan in place prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Mr.Budd informed the Board that several pieces of obsolete or unused equipment are being stored within the district and should be sold or otherwise disposed of. Items discussed included older cafeteria tables, a table saw that was replaced with a newer safety-equipped model, and several outdated gas cooking ranges. Administration proposed advertising the items for sale to determine whether there is community interest in purchasing them. Board members discussed the age and condition of the equipment and suggested that local organizations, churches, or neighboring schools may have an interest in acquiring some of the surplus items. There was general consensus to proceed with efforts to advertise and dispose of the equipment as appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

A. Approved filling the 2026-2027 Supplemental positions listed below with supplemental salaries set in accordance with Schedule B of the Professional Agreement. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Young. The motion was carried unanimously.

Department Chair - English	Justin Osani	$ 2,149.00
Department Chair - Mathematics	Christian Sevinsky	$ 2,364.00
Department Chair - Social Studies	Justin Bienkowski	$ 1,935.00
Department Chair - Science	Wallace Finn	$ 2,364.00
Senior Class Advisor	Penny Peine	$ 573.00
Senior Class Advisor	Seth Lowery	$ 573.00
Junior Class Advisor	Andrew Krellner	$ 567.00
Prom Advisor	Mindy Bernardi	$ 1,071.00
National Honor Society Advisor	Aaron Clark	$ 958.00

Peer Helper Advisor	Penny Peine	$ 536.00
Band Director	Brad Stewart	$ 3,902.00
Dramatics Director - Fall Play	Penny Peine	$ 991.00
Vocal Director for Dramatics	Zachary Esch	$ 1,923.00
Dramatics Director - Musical - Spring	Ben Palmer	$ 1,984.00
Elementary Yearbook Advisor	Chelsea Caden	$ 2,556.00
High School Yearbook Advisor	Alexis Reed	$ 2,739.00
Athletic Director	Aaron Clark	$ 6,336.00
Varsity Club Advisor	Andrew Krellner	$ 721.00
Cheerleading Advisor	Dixie Gay	$ 2,297.00
Cheerleading Advisor Asst.	Trisha Curren	$ 2,297.00
Head Boys' Soccer Coach	Dan Schott	$ 3,229.00
Boys' Assistant Soccer Coach	Caden Roys	$ 2,084.00
Head Girls' Soccer Coach	Matt Lawton	$ 3,558.00
Girls' Assistant Soccer Coach	Alexandra Strauss	$ 2,318.00
Head Junior High Soccer Coach	Simon Burleson	$ 1, 876.00
Head Track Coach	Aaron Clark	$ 4,803.00
Assistant Track Coach	Matt Lawton	$ 3,076.00
Assistant Track Coach	Seth Lowery	$ 3,076.00
Head Baseball Coach	Rick Veilleux	$ 3,596.00
Assistant Baseball Coach	John Boyd	$ 2,036.00
Head Wrestling Coach	Bradley Greenman	$ 5,962.00
Wrestling Assistant Coach	Chad Saltsman	$ 3,969.00
Wrestling Jr High Coach	Erik Taylor	$ 3, 219.00

Approved Mr. Kyle Babcock as a professional employee, assigned as a full time Emotional Support teacher, effective August 25, 2026 with a salary of $ 53,009.00 (Bachelors Step 3) and fringe benefits set in accordance with the Professional Agreement and district policy. Motion: Mr. Lathrop; Second: Mr. Johnson. The motion passed, Mrs. Babcock abstained.

Finance

Approved adopting the proposed 2026-2027 general fund budget PDE-2028 in the amount of $ 21,099,967.00 which reflects a deficit of $ 1,262,471.00. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Babcock. The motion was carried unanimously with a 9-0 roll call vote.

Approved transferring $100,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve fund. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Delacour. The motion passed.

Board

Approved the 2026-2027 Board Resolution for Title I Part A, Title II Part A and Title IV Part A that transfers the allocation of funds from the above listed Federal Programs to our Intermediate Unit. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Fillhart. The motion passed.

Approved the 2026-2027 Nutrition Group budget related to food service management. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Babcock. The motion was approved.

Approved French Club trip to Quebec & Montreal, Canada - May 24,2026 - May 27, 2026. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mrs. Young. The motion passed. Mr. Budd stated that Mrs. Bishel does a great job organizing this trip and it is a great experience for the students.

Approved the 2026-2027 IU9 Special Education support services agreement. Motion: Mrs. Babcock; Second: Mr. Stake. The motion passed.

Approved the 2026-2027 UPMC Cole School Physical proposal. Motion: Mrs. Delacour; Second: Mr. Stake. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The PASD Board of Directors entered into executive session at 7:50 pm for personnel matters. Motion: Mrs. Babcock; Second: Mrs. Petruzzi. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stake made a motion to exit the executive session. Mr. Lathrop seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. The executive session ended at 8:26 pm.

Adjournment

The PASD Board of Directors adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm. Motion: Mr. Stake; Second: Mr. Lathrop. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Plumstead
Secretary to the Board of School Directors

Next Scheduled Meeting

June 8, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting