

SELINGROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING – JUNE 9, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Selingsgrove Area School District's Board of Directors was held on Monday evening, June 9, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Selingsgrove Area Middle School, 359 Seals Avenue, Selingsgrove, PA 17870.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by the President, Mr. David W. Hess.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by those in attendance.

A roll call indicated a quorum with the following members present: Mr. Christopher A. Aikey, Mr. Michael A. Bingaman, Mr. David W. Hess, Mr. Chris J. Kenawell, Mr. Cory A. Naugle, Mr. Andrew V. Paladino, Mr. Kenneth B. Teats, Jr., Mr. Eric L. Watkins, Dr. David M. Watto, and non-voting member, Dr. Frank R. Jankowski, Superintendent.

Others present were: Mr. Paul Bozella, Dr. Matthew Conrad, Mr. Erick Decker, Mrs. Renee Frederick, Ms. Michelle Garman, Mr. Damian Gessel, Mrs. Susan Lipsey, Dr. Colton Moyer, Mr. Mike Sokoloski, Mr. Ryan Solomon, Mr. J. Michael Wiley, Esq., Ms. Claudia Beaver, Mr. Troy Hickman, Rick Zeigler, Mike Stebila, Jason Hostetter, Chelsey Davis, Mary Markle, and Marcia Moore (Daily Item).

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Kenawell to approve minutes, reports, and bills lists, as presented. (copies of reports and bills lists to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Announcements:

Mr. Hess announced that an Executive Session regarding personnel and legal matters was held prior to the start of the meeting and will continue following adjournment of this evening's meeting. He also announced that an Executive Session was held during the committee meetings on June 4th regarding personnel and legal matters. Mr. Hess noted that the next regular monthly Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, August 11, 2025.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Jason Hostetter, Tennis Coach, addressed the Board regarding the proposed reconditioning of the tennis courts and installation of new fencing. He noted that although this is good news, he hopes that this is not replacing the opportunity for adding additional courts. Mr. Hostetter explained that there are five varsity matches per tennis match, so with only four courts, they must wait the additional time for a court to open up to play the fifth match, which takes approximately an additional hour to play. He noted that we are one of three districts that do not have at least five courts. Mr. Hostetter acknowledged that our current courts do have some dips and cracks but believes they are good for a couple more seasons. Speaking on behalf of the Boosters, he commented that they would almost prefer to sacrifice the current proposal now if there is an opportunity in the near future to add a fifth or sixth court. Additionally, there is discussion at the District IV level that district's that do not have at least 5 courts, will not be able to host home playoff matches.

Mr. Kenawell questioned Mr. Hostetter if he feels the tennis courts are currently safe. Mr. Hostetter responded that he does feel they are safe but noted that some small cracks and dips are forming.

Board Discussion

Mr. Teats expressed that he is downright appalled that he had to complete a Right-to-Know form to receive information that should have been available to him as a Board member. He explained that he sent three emails requesting a list showing the district's growth of surplus over the past 10 years. Mr. Teats stated that he received the information two hours after dropping off the request form. He feels that the possible problem in receiving the information was that it would have shown that the district's big gains in surplus came in years that the district raised taxes.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

High School Principal

Dr. Conrad reported that the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, with 187 seniors graduating. He added that it was a beautiful evening and a wonderful event.

Dr. Conrad announced that the Boys' Lacrosse team beat Lewisburg for the District IV AA Championship. They then advanced to the first round of state playoffs where they lost to Scranton Prep.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Mr. Paladino, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on June 4, 2025, for further discussion and review of the proposed final 2025-2026 budget. (a copy of the committee meeting minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Teats, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on June 4, 2025, to discuss the aging conditions and future planning for the district's tennis courts. (a copy of the committee meeting minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion by Teats and seconded by Kenawell to table, for further discussion, consideration of approving Keystone Sports Construction to recondition the four tennis courts and install all new fencing at a total cost of \$321,221.52 under Costars Contract 14-E23-312.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Policy and Education: Mr. Hess, Chair, reported that a committee meeting was held on June 4, 2025, to discuss a number of curricular items as well as proposed policy revisions. (a copy of the committee meeting minutes to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Watto to approve first reading revisions to the following Board Policies: No. 114 – Gifted Education (currently titled Programs for Gifted Students), No. 210 – Medications, and No. 823 - Opioid Antagonist (currently titled Naloxone). (a copy of the policies to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Motion by Watto and seconded by Paladino to deactivate Board Policy No. 210.A due to language being incorporated into revised Board Policy 210.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Extracurricular: No report.

Personnel/Meet and Discuss: Motion by Aikey and seconded by Teats to approve the following personnel actions as of July 1, 2025: Wage increase for Classified, Food & Nutrition, and other salaried employees for the 2025-2026 fiscal year based on evaluation scale with 3.5% as the full increment (maximum performance increase of 4%).

On roll call vote: 8 yes, 1 no (Kenawell), 0 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Naugle to consider approving the following personnel matters:

Staff Resignations: Stefanie Ferry as a Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective May 15, 2025; Maggie Roberts as Middle School Assistant Principal, effective June 13, 2025; and Paul Bozella as Intermediate School Principal, effective June 30, 2025

Staff Transfers: Dr. Colton Moyer from Middle School Principal to Selinsgrove Elementary Principal, effective June 10, 2025; Damian Gessel from Selinsgrove Elementary Principal to Middle School Principal, effective June 10, 2025; James Muller from Full-Time English Teacher to Part-Time English Teacher and Part-Time Spanish Teacher at the High School, effective with the 2025-2026 school year; Kalee Rothermel from Grade 3 Teacher to Grade 4 Teacher at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2025-2026 school year; and Teresa O'Brien from Reading Specialist at the Intermediate School to the Middle School, effective with the 2025-2026 school year

Staff Elections: Tanaporn Matos as a Food Service Cook at the Intermediate School, effective August 6, 2025, at the hourly rate of \$12.50; Andrea Wenzel as an Emotional Support Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective August 7, 2025 (pending receipt of required paperwork), at the hourly rate of \$16.50 +50 cents; Kimberly Smith as an Emotional Support Paraprofessional at the Intermediate School, effective with the 2025-2026 school year (pending receipt of required paperwork), at the hourly rate of \$12.50 +50 cents; Jack Stark as a Summer 2025 Technology Department Student Volunteer (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2025 ESY (Extended School Year) Staff

Teachers – Tonya Hatter, Jenessa Richmond, Rebecca Romanic

Paraprofessionals – Victoria Dupuis, Allyson Glass, Kelly Leitzel, Kerry McCausland, Sky Weir, Andrea Wenzel

2025 ESL Summer Program Staff

Teacher – Amanda Witmer

Summer 2025 Custodial Workers – Tom Badman, Jr. (\$12.50/hr.), Erika Cherry (\$12.50/hr.), Joey Hoover (pending clearances) (\$12/hr.), Brandon Hile (pending clearances) (\$12/hr.), Tyrese Bey (\$12/hr.), Braydon Stephens (\$12/hr.), Skyler Heimbach (\$12/hr.), Colton Kratzer (\$12/hr.), and Elijah Hoke (\$12/hr.)

2025-2026 New Fall Coaches with Extracurricular Contracts

Ryan Heintzelman – Assistant Varsity Football

John Aument - Assistant Varsity Football

2025-2026 New Winter Coach with Extracurricular Contract

James Roush – Head Varsity Girls' Wrestling

2025-2026 Volunteer Coaches

Troy Hess – Assistant Football Coach

Jack Lydic – Assistant Football Coach

(without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

2024-2025 District Volunteers – Sarah Croak, Karla Frank, Brianna Gabbert, Justin Hansley, Samantha Hoover, Katarina Keller, Brianna Leiby, and Sara Wenrich (without salary, benefits, or expectation of any other compensation)

Leave of Absence Request: Employee #000-00-2438 for a childbearing/child rearing leave of absence, tentatively effective December 10, 2025, through February 11, 2026

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Transportation: No report.

Technology: No report.

SUN Area Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee: No report. (a copy of the highlights of the May 15, 2025, meeting to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

CSIU Board of Directors: Mr. Hess, representative, referred to the highlights of the meeting held on May 21, 2025. He indicated that he will be representing the CSIU as a voting member at the PSBA Delegate Assembly in October. (a copy of the highlights to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

PSBA: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2025-2026 Final Budget:

Motion by Watto and seconded by Paladino to consider adoption of the Final 2025-2026 Budget with expenditures of \$53,244,007 and revenues of \$51,032,979 and use of fund balance of \$2,211,028. (a copy of the budget to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

Mr. Teats remarked that he continues to be opposed to the tax increase, commenting that the Board should have looked at the whole picture before choosing projects for the year. We should have looked at our financial situation in the upcoming years and the fact that we would have a surplus if we wanted to follow through without having a tax increase. He commented that the district will pick up millage in a few years with all of the money that is being paid to service our debt. He stated that he wasn't allowed to make statements about the future in the committee meeting, although Dr. Watto talked about the possibility of future vouchers.

Mr. Kenawell questioned Mr. Teats if he believes the debt will go away, and when? Mr. Teats responded that it decreases rather rapidly after next year and will be gone in 5 years with 18.5 mills to service debt. Mr. Kenawell questioned how much money is currently in reserves? Mr. Teats responded that there is \$12 million, with \$2 million to be used for projects. Mr. Kenawell questioned how many fewer students are enrolled now versus 7 years ago. It was noted that enrollment has decreased by approximately 298 students, but that the number of administrators, teachers, and support staff has not decreased. Mr. Kenawell remarked that this is why he is against a tax increase and is looking out for the district's retired taxpayers. Mr. Teats commented that the tax increase will be way more than the projected \$35 for the median taxpayer.

Mr. Kenawell questioned Dr. Jankowski if the surplus will be more or less if the tax increase is approved? Dr. Jankowski responded that projections are anticipated that the fund balance will be less, noting that this information was previously provided to all Board members. Mr. Kenawell commented that the last time taxes were raised, the surplus was significantly more.

Dr. Jankowski remarked that it is a pretty common statistic for the student enrollment to be down for many school districts in PA and cautioned against making a direct correlation between the staff numbers to student enrollment numbers. He commented that many staff members have very specific and particular tasks that are associated with the development of students.

Mr. Kenawell questioned Dr. Jankowski regarding future projects that haven't yet been proposed, such as a field house and weightroom. He remarked that although these are wonderful things, he does not want to raise taxes on our taxpayers who are the poorest and will be affected most by these projects. Dr. Jankowski responded that these are not official projects and are not tied to this tax increase and have no direct correlation. He added that these types of projects would include taxpayer and community discussion. Mr. Teats referenced a comment made by Dr. Jankowski that as soon as debt is paid, it's a great time to start a new project. Dr. Jankowski responded that the Board, and everyone else knows that he has not brought up a specific project of grand nature, and this is not why a tax increase is being proposed. Several Board members responded confirming that Dr. Jankowski has not proposed a specific project.

Mr. Teats questioned if the district continues to grow the millage to maintain not having to spend our surplus over the next five years, will the district give credit back to the homeowners at the end of that period? Mr. Hess interjected that we are spending our surplus. Dr. Jankowski responded that these are hypothetical situations that he cannot speak to because they are five years down the road. He remarked that our district, like the other 499 public school districts in Pennsylvania, has a lot of expenses and characteristics that fund their budgets that are not under their direct control. Dr. Jankowski stated that tonight's budget proposal is something that has been discussed numerous times, at multiple committee meetings, and it has to do with the specific statistics around what the expenses and revenues are for next year. He noted that if we do not have a minimal tax increase, revenues will not live up to close proximity in regard to expenses. Dr. Jankowski remarked that he has no personal desire to increase taxes.

Dr. Watto commented that budget discussions have been in-depth and extremely productive. He noted that the last committee meeting was three hours long, at which everyone had an opportunity to speak and that no one was stifled. Dr. Watto noted that he brought up the topic of school choice vouchers as something that the district may need to face in the future, adding that cyber school has been a financial hit for the district. He feels that the district needs to maintain a healthy fund balance. At this time, Dr. Watto "called for the question". Mr. Hess noted that discussion on the topic has now ended, and the Board must vote on the motion on the floor.

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 3 no (Teats, Bingaman, Kenawell), 0 absent

2025-2026 Final Tax and Budget Resolution:

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Aikey to consider adoption of the 2025-2026 Final Tax and Budget Resolution. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 6 yes, 3 no (Teats, Bingaman, Kenawell), 0 absent

2025-2026 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution:

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Aikey to consider adoption of the 2025-2026 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. (a copy of the resolution to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Athletic Trainer & Physician Services:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to approve the Administration to execute the Physician and Athletic Trainer Services Agreement with Geisinger Clinic for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, upon Solicitor approval. (copies of the service agreements to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Business Matters:

Motion by Paladino and seconded by Aikey to authorize the Business Manager to make the necessary budget transfers and journal entries to close the District's 2024-2025 books.

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Motion by Teats and seconded by Watto to consider the transfer of 50% of any surplus funds in the General Fund for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund for future building improvements, effective in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The surplus amount to be transferred will be determined once the financial audit is completed.

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

New Vans (2) Purchase:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Kenawell to consider the lowest bid to approve the purchase of two – 2025 Ford Transit – 10 Passenger Vans from Rohrer Commercial Bus Sales at a total cost of \$133,600.00 to be available for extracurricular activities and athletics. (a copy of the bid tabulation sheet to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

2025-2026 Meal Prices:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to consider a request from the Director of Food and Nutrition to approve maintaining the current student meal prices but increase adult meal prices, effective with the 2025-2026 school year, as follows: student second breakfast \$1.40, K-5 student lunch \$2.50, 6-12 student lunch \$2.70, adult breakfast from \$2.85 to \$2.95, and adult lunch from \$4.70 to \$4.85. (the increase in adult meal prices is necessary to be in compliance with the required Department of Education meal pricing calculations)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Stipulation Agreement:

Motion by Aikey and seconded by Kenawell to authorize the Solicitor to execute the Stipulation Order with The GUC Trust (Talen Energy Corp) on behalf of the District. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

2025-2026 CSBBH Agreement Between CONCERN and the Intermediate School:

Motion by Bingaman and seconded by Watkins to consider the recommendation of the Director of Special Education to approve an agreement between CONCERN and the Intermediate School for Intensive Behavioral Health Services during the 2025-2026 school year. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Curricular Resources:

Motion by Watkins and seconded by Teats to consider the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to approve the following curricular resources: enVision Math – K-5 core math program; iReady Math – Assessments and intervention program; and Mystery Science – 3rd-5th grade resource to support new STEEL/NGSS Science Standards.

The motion was unanimously carried.

2024-2025 Sick Leave Bank Report:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to acknowledge receipt of the Selinsgrove Area Education Association's Sick Leave Bank Report for 2024-2025. (a copy of the report to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

The motion was unanimously carried.

Settlement Agreement and Release:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Bingaman to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release. (a copy of the agreement to be attached and made a part of the official minutes)

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

School Board Treasurer:

Motion by Naugle and seconded by Hess to reappoint Kenneth B. Teats, Jr. as Board Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Limited Superintendent Authority:

Motion by Teats and seconded by Paladino to grant permission to the Superintendent, after Personnel Committee approval, to fill any vacant positions with final Board approval at the August School Board Meeting.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Payment of July Bills:

Motion by Bingaman and seconded by Teats to authorize the Business Manager and the Superintendent to make payment of July bills with the lists to be presented to the Board for approval at the August School Board Meeting.

On roll call vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 absent

Board Discussion:

Dr. Jankowski expressed thanks to Paul Bozella for his service to the district and wished him well as he moves on to a position with the Montgomery Area Senior High School. He also expressed thanks to Maggie Roberts for her service to the district and wished her well as she moves on to a position with the Danville Area School District.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia A. Beaver
Recording Secretary

cab/min6925