

PENN  
**BOARD REPORT**  
CAMBRIA

Volume 46 No. 8

March 2025

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Penn Cambria Board of Education at its regular meeting, March 18, 2025. Routine business, such as approval of agenda, minutes, treasurer's reports, financial reports, and payment of bills was accomplished. The Board also took the following actions and approved the following resolutions:

**I. SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS**

Congratulations to Nicholas Felus who was named Coach of the Year by the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association (PSFCA) District VI, Tribune Democrat, Altoona Mirror, Southern Alleghenies Football Coaches Association (SAFCA), and Central PA Football Coaches Association (CPFCA).

Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Basketball Team who took second place at P.I.A.A. District VI Basketball Tournament: Meghan Andersen, Kaydynce Baney, Sophia Beard, Isabella Bianconi, Makayla Bianconi, Eden Davison, Kate Eckenrode, Rachel Fisher, Lily Gergely, Addison Hite, Avayah LeMaster, Avery LeMaster, Katie Marana, Tagen McConnell, Makenna McCoy, Peyton Rabatin, Aubree Rickens, Reagan Ronan, Ava Saleme, and Megyn Stipanovich.

Congratulations to Loren Stipanovich who took second place at the P.I.A.A. District VI Swimming and Diving Championships.

Congratulations to Bethany Watt on her District V/VI/IX Wrestling Championship and for being the first ever Girls Wrestling District Champion at Penn Cambria.

Congratulations to the forensics team who won the District Title. Individual winners were: (\*state qualifier)

Extemporaneous: 2<sup>nd</sup> Zachary Zupon\*, 1<sup>st</sup> Gabrielle Lynch\*

Commentary: 2<sup>nd</sup> Haelyn Singer\*, 1<sup>st</sup> Caleb Piszczek\*

Informative: 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Wu\*, 1<sup>st</sup> Lauren Riley\*

Persuasive: 3<sup>rd</sup> Addyson Ehredt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Harlie Raczy\*

Dramatic Interp: 1<sup>st</sup> Belle Eckenrode\*

Humorous Interp: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Lee\* (qualified in storytelling), 1<sup>st</sup> Lily Gergely\*

Prose: 1<sup>st</sup> Matthew Ronan\*

Program of Oral Interp: 2<sup>nd</sup> Rachel Fisher\* 1<sup>st</sup> Sienna Nagle\*

Oratorical Declamation: 1<sup>st</sup> Gia Ricupero (not a state qualifying event)

**II. HEARING OF VISITORS** - There were no questions, concerns, comments, related to school business.

**III. SOLICITOR'S REPORT** - Ronald Repak updated the Board of Directors on continued litigation related to executive orders and how the courts are responding. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) removed the transgender policy from their Policy and Procedures Manual, keeping the policy in alignment with President Trump's Executive Order 14201 "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports." Subsequently, a lawsuit was filed stating that they cannot discriminate simply based on the executive order. Previously, determinations whether transgender individuals were permitted to participate in sports aligned with their gender identity were up to the school principals. One thing is clear through this litigation; there is a loophole. The solicitor's office will continue to keep the Board updated on how to move forward.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent’s recommendations be approved as follows:

**A. Personnel**

1. Accept Resignations
  - a. Alana Berry, Cresson, Aide, retroactive to January 15, 2025
  - b. Maura Buck, Gallitzin, Middle School Special Education Teacher, effective date to be determined
  - c. Kassandra Ferdinand, Cresson, IU08 Substitute Teacher, effective immediately
  - d. Nicholas Felus, Altoona, Head Varsity Football Coach, retroactive to March 12, 2025
  - e. Devin Lawhead, Cresson, Head 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach, retroactive to February 24, 2025
  - f. Joshua Stringent, Gallitzin, Head 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach, retroactive to March 12, 2025
2. Remove Volunteer Coaches, effective immediately
  - a. Ian Casher, Cresson, Baseball
  - b. Nicholas Brugh, Johnstown, Baseball
  - c. Bryan Marra, Cresson, Baseball
  - d. Alyssa Martinazzi, Cresson, Track and Field

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors enter into an affiliation agreement with Western Governors University, to accept Western Governors University students completing field experiences.

**AUDIOLOGY SERVICE AGREEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve an agreement with Westmoreland Intermediate Unit to provide audiology services to Penn Cambria School District, during the 2024-2025 school year.

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET OF IU08 2025-2026**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget for IU08 including a total contribution of \$173,000 from thirty-five participating school districts; Penn Cambria’s share estimate at \$4,924.88.

**CAFETERIA POINT-OF-SALE SOFTWARE/HARDWARE**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve the purchase of PrimeroEdge as the cafeteria point-of-sale software, effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of \$3,180 per year plus a one-time fee of \$1,995 for implementation and training, in addition to the initial hardware upgrade necessary in the amount of \$8,750.

**MOVING SERVICES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve entering into an agreement with On-Point Movers, Johnstown, PA, to provide professional moving services for Penn Cambria School District, at a cost not to exceed \$13,568.

**HVAC SERVICES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve entering into an agreement with Beers Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling, LLC, Altoona, PA, to provide the installation of a Mitsubishi hyper heat ductless split system with two indoor cassettes for the Pre-Primary Conference Room and the office of the Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance, at a cost not to exceed \$9,575.70. The agreement does not include the installation of electrical power to the outdoor single unit.

**ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BONDS, SERIES OF 2025**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors adopt a resolution, as presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of providing funds for capital improvements to School District facilities.

#### **NEW ACCOUNT FOR BOND PROCEEDS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors authorize the opening of an account with The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) for purposes of investing the proceeds of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2025, in accordance with Policy 609 and Section 440.1 of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended and supplemented by Act 10 of 2016 and the Local Government Unit Debt Act.

#### **ADDENDUM TO ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve an addendum to the original professional services agreement for construction management services dated October 8, 2024 between Penn Cambria School District and Reynolds Construction, LLC dba SitelogIQ Construction Management (“SitelogIQ”). This addendum alters the original agreement only to approve the compensation for construction phase services of \$757,786 and close-out services of \$22,308, otherwise the original agreement remains in effect.

#### **ADDENDUM TO LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors approve an addendum to the original land development services agreement between Penn Cambria School District and Collier’s Engineering & Design, Inc, Pittsburgh, PA dated November 19, 2024. This addendum alters the original agreement with the following additional items: second bus lane and parking changes in the rear of the school, parking lot improvements and relocated playground near sports fields, additional geotechnical work, and a retaining wall design. The additional items will add a fee of \$47,000 to the previously approved fees under the original contract.

#### **SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW:**

- A. 217 - Graduation
- B. 218 - Student Discipline
- C. 218.1 - Weapons
- D. 218.2 - Terroristic Threats
- E. 222 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- F. 800 - Records Management
- G. 803 - School Calendar

#### **VI. FIRST READING OF NEW, REVISED, OR BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW:**

- A. 005 - Organization
- B. 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- C. 351 - Controlled Substances
- D. 707 - Use of School Facilities
- E. 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response
- F. 806 - Child Abuse
- G. 904 - Attendance at School Events

*(Policies were reviewed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and copies are available upon request)*

#### **VII. INFORMATION ITEM**

##### **A. CORRECTION FOR BOYS’ VOLLEYBALL CO-OP WITH BISHOP GUILFOYLE**

The co-op agreement for Boys Volleyball with Bishop Guilfoyle will take effect with the Spring of 2025.

#### **VIII. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Jane Burkholder, School Psychologist, provided a summary of her first year at Penn Cambria. Last March, Jane officially became a Penn Cambria Panther. Though the first year has been very busy, it has been professionally and personally very rewarding. When stopping to think about what to share, Jane realized that many aspects of her job are confidential and cannot be shared. With that being said, what she feels is a huge part of her job, that she does every single day, and has the most impact on the school system, is being a collaborator and part of a team. That involves working along with parents, community members, outside providers for students with mental health or behavioral needs, teachers, and many others. She was very fortunate to come to Penn Cambria, which has a strong system and framework of teams in place, one of which is the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS). Any parent, teacher, or staff member that has concerns about a child, their ability to learn, or their emotional or behavioral status, can fill out a referral form. The MTSS team reviews that data and collaborates together to produce the best plan for that child. Whether it be something as

simple as changing the reading intervention or changing seats, or something more serious that requires a special education evaluation. Part of her job is to help collaborate with team members. That was actually one of the selling points for her taking a job at Penn Cambria, was knowing that the MTSS process was in place. Jane has also been a part of SAP, a student assistance program for students with emotional and behavioral needs. The team works together to figure out what services might be able to assist the child. Sometimes that involves working with administrators, a school counselor reaching out for parent permission, and guiding them to community resources. Jane is also very involved in IEP teams, 504 teams, and gifted education programs; she sits on those teams and helps collaborate to produce targeted intervention programs for students. After 20 years of being in this position, Jane has learned that strong teams prove that when working together, students succeed and have success. She feels very fortunate to be a Penn Cambria Panther where everyone works together as a team and a very strong framework is in place.