**Official Proceedings of the GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**Board of School Directors' Voting Meeting**
**MINUTES**
**October 26, 2026; Education Center**

**Board Members in Attendance** – Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, Mrs. Heather Bouchard, Mrs. Caryn Friedlander, Mrs. Michelle Heim, Mr. Ralph Kabakoff, Mrs. Janemarie McKay, Mrs. Laurie Miller, Dr. Lisa Peterson, Dr. Michele Roby – 9. Absent – 0.

**Administrators in Attendance** – Dr. Erin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Kelly Price, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Stephanie Seifrit, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Tim Ziegler, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Steve Murray, Director of Student Services for Academics; Dr. Jean Solecki, Director of Special Education; Mrs. Karen DeNunzio, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mr. Jeffrey Reichart, Director of Safe Schools; Mr. John Guiseppe, Athletic Director; Mrs. Ashley Shannon-Huembes, Director of Communications & Community Relations; Mr. Scott LaPlant, Supervisor of Technology; Mr. Brian Cote, Principal, Cumru Elementary; Mr. Cory Crider, Principal, Intermediate School; Ms. Carissa Harley, Principal, Middle School; Mr. TJ Miller, Principal, High School.

**Others in Attendance –** Jeffrey Litts, Esq., Board Solicitor; Sharon Patton, Board Recording Secretary; professional staff and citizens.

The Meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:06pm by Dr. Lisa Peterson, Board President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Dr. Peterson announced that the Board held an **Executive Session** on October 17, 2026 for discussion of a personnel matter. An **Executive Session** was also held prior to this meeting for discussion of the Board's professional development, legal matters, and personnel matters.

**Presentations**

- **Mustang Nation Heroes Recognition –** the following individuals provided outstanding response to a medical emergency during the October 9th football game: Shalkah Shadie, Chevonne Shadie, Vicki Werley, Christopher Roche, Andy Ledwith, Kaylee Scheirer and Ralph Voit. Also, Brandon Orndorff ("Coach O") was recognized for his rapid response in assisting and saving a High School student who was choking in the cafeteria.

**MONTHLY BOARD APPROVALS**

Motion by Friedlander and second by McKay to Approve the following **Monthly Board Approval Agenda Items:**

- **Minutes of the Meeting** held September 21, 2026, as presented
- **Minutes of the Meeting** held October 5, 2026, as presented
- **Treasurer's Report** of September 30, 2026, as presented
- **Bills Paid,** in the total amount of $9,908,850.84, as presented

**Roll Call Vote –** Ayes: Friedlander, McKay, Adams, Bouchard, Heim, Kabakoff, Miller, Peterson, Roby – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Public Comment**

**Mr. Andy Pannafino** expressed his disagreement with the manner in which the Superintendent's leave of absence, as he understood it, was processed and approved.

**Mr. Keith Worley** also expressed his disagreement with the manner in which the Superintendent's leave of absence, as he understood it, was processed and approved.

**Mrs. Alyssa Oxenreider** said she had submitted a Right-to-Know request for expenses related to Learning Forward conferences, and shared them with the Board. She believed some of the expenses, as she interpreted them, represented excessive spending.

**Mr. Jeffrey Wolfe** spoke of law enforcement officers having the right to check, search and pat-down for reasonable suspicion of a weapon or intent to commit a crime and there are situations where security screenings are appropriate. He mentioned the possibility of accomplices being used for weapons to gain entry and, therefore, questioned whether anyone should be exempt from standard screenings, such as a child in a stroller, a frail person in a wheelchair, a special-needs student, or a woman wearing a burka.

**Mrs. Annette Baker** said she believes there has been a long-standing pattern of systemic failures now being brought to light, thanks to social media giving many a voice. She asked that the Board not ignore this call for systemic cultural change because those within the district are counting on the Board to hear the warnings and act on their behalf.

**Mr. Donald Kennedy** shared that he served on the Board from 2013 to 2021, a time when there were not many controversial issues. Stressing that things have changed since then, and we must be careful about how much trust we place in social media comments; however, he noted that, "when there's smoke, there's usually fire." He said it's "time for the Board to step up, do its job, and to take issues seriously, regardless of who's in charge down in the foxhole."

**Mr. Erik Peterson-Smith** introduced himself as the President of the Greater Governor Mifflin League, the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that organizes and runs Community Days. He said that the Summer, 2026 50th Anniversary of Community Days was a success and that they're already looking forward to 2027. He shared that a significant investment was made in moving the event from Waverly Street to the GMIS campus, signifying GGML's long-term commitment to the community. He also noted that GGML has given over $560,000 back to the GM School District, local police departments, ambulance associations, scouting troops, and others. He also noted that over $120,000 was given directly to the GM School District toward projects such as the stadium in the 1980s and, most recently, the GMACC facility.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following **Communications:**

- Mrs. Kelly Kuhn - Experience with District Leadership
- Mrs. Melissa Balthaser - Son's 2024 Graduation Experience
- Jason & Marcella Sweigart - Hiring for New Coaching Positions

The Board acknowledged Administration's receipt of the following **Right-to-Know Requests:**

- Fillip Freeman, of Sunlight Access, requested purchase orders from March 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026.

- Trisha Frasetto Nicholl, of Charles Jones, LLC, requested the detailed real estate tax payments for the month of September, 2026.
- Cody Hancock requested records related to softball and baseball, including capital gains, emails, facility use schedules, and athletic event schedules for 3 to 10-year periods.

The Board acknowledged the following **Grant Applications:**

- BISA Attendance Improvement Fund Grant - Mr. Brian Cote, Cumru Principal, has applied for a Berks Initiative for School Attendance (BISA) grant, on behalf of Cumru Elementary, in the amount of $1,000. This grant will supplement and support district initiatives to improve attendance.
- GM Education Foundation Mustang Think Big Grant - Mr. Spencer Kelly, Brecknock Grade 4 teacher, has applied to the GM Education Foundation for a Mustang Think Big Grant to support the creation of SparkForge Creations - a 4th grade student-run innovative 3D printing mini-business enterprise, hands-on STEM learning lab, and PBIS positive behavior engine based at Brecknock Elementary. This grant, in the amount of $3,556.55, will support the purchase of 3D printers for the establishment of a permanent, high-capacity multi-printer STEM manufacturing hub at Brecknock Elementary.
- PDE AG & Youth Program Grant - Kylie Franck, Grade 11, with the support of Dr. Steve Murray and Mr. Rick Lapi, has applied to PDE for an AG & Youth Program Grant in the amount of $7,500 to support the proposed High School AG Club. This initiative will provide hands-on agricultural experiences, preparing students for careers within and beyond the agricultural industry.
- NRA Foundation Grant - GM Rifle Team - This NRA Foundation Grant will support GM's Rifle Team in growing its program through covering costs (beyond what the budget allows) for additional rifles and supplies, as presented
- PCCD Grant - PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency 26-27 School Safety & Mental Health Grant - non-competitive formula-based solicitation of $274,171; funding will be used to increase safety & security across our campus, including hiring a School Police officer for the Middle School, adding lighting to campus blind spots, radios for our SPO's, implementing an emergency management system, and creating a more secure entrance at the High School

**Reports**

**Board Representatives to the BCIU, BCTC, TCC & Legislative** – Mrs. Adams reported on the BCIU's Keeping Kids Safe symposium, where topics such as AI, fake websites, and cyberbullying were covered. She also noted that Russell Del Rosario, Safety & Security Program Administrator further spoke on challenges facing today's youth, such as anxiety and the growing influence of the digital environment. She thought it would be appropriate to have someone come share this information with our Board during one of its upcoming professional development sessions, and she was appreciative that five of our GM administrators attended this important BCIU event.

Mrs. Friedlander said she received an email from the representative of a company in the area, thanking the BCTC for its Diesel Technology program, and expressing appreciation for instructor, Mr. Andrew Kelly.

**FINANCE**

Motion by Heim and second by Bouchard to Approve the following **Finance Agenda Items:**

- **Budget Transfers, as presented**
- **Commitment of Funds -** General Fund Balance – commitment of $500,000 of the June 30, 2026 General Fund Balance for the purchase of new and replacement equipment purchases, pursuant to Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54

  *The Board previously established the General Fund Committed Fund Balance for new and replacement equipment purchases, but had not yet committed a specific amount. Committed Fund Balances are set by the Board and can only be used for that specific purpose or such constraints can be removed or changed only by the Board*

**Roll Call Vote** – Ayes: Heim, Bouchard, Adams, Friedlander, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Peterson, Roby – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Motion by Heim and second by Friedlander to Approve the following **Human Resources Agenda Items:**

- **Appointment of Dr. Steven Murray as Substitute Superintendent**, beginning October 27, 2026 and ending January 5, 2027, per Agreement, as presented
- **Student Teaching Placements**, as presented
- **Aquatics Department Staffing for 2026-2027**, as presented
- **Resignations**, as presented
- **Employments,** as presented
- **Status Changes,** as presented
- **Leaves of Absence,** as presented
- **Degree/Credit Acknowledgements,** as presented
- **Professional Development Course Requests,** as presented

**Roll Call Vote** – Ayes: Heim, Friedlander, Adams, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Peterson, Roby – 8.
Nays: Bouchard – 1. *Mrs. Bouchard dissented on the Leaves of Absence agenda item, as she felt one of them was not handled properly.*
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Motion by Roby and second by Adams to Approve the following **Student Services Agenda Items:**

- **Renewal Agreement with John Paul II Center,** Shillington, PA, to provide Special Education services during the 2026-2027 school year for Student #10627, Student #820803, Student #808487 and Student #823733; tuition is $53,000 per student, as presented

- **Waiver of Expulsion Hearing Agreement** for Student #809726, as presented
- **Waiver of Expulsion Hearing Agreement** for Student #824263, as presented
- **Waiver of Expulsion Hearing Agreement** for Student #822187, as presented
- **Evaluation Service Contract with Mind Matters Coaching, Counseling & Psychological Associates, LLC,** Reading, PA, to conduct an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) for Student #824324 at a cost of $5,500, as presented
- **Agreement with CHOR Centre Avenue Academy** to provide special education services for Student #824603 during the 2026-2027 school year; rate is $363.28/day, as presented

**Roll Call Vote** – Ayes: Roby, Adams, Bouchard, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Peterson – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR**

Motion by Bouchard and second by Roby to Approve the following **Athletic/Co-Curricular Agenda Item:**

- **Addition of two new Coaching positions**, as follows: (1) Distance Running Assistant Coach for Winter/Indoor Track, and (1) Distance Running Assistant Coach for Spring Track, both for the 2026-2027 school year; stipend is $3,536.78 for each position

**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Bouchard, Roby, Adams, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Peterson – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**OPERATIONS**

Motion by Bouchard and second by McKay to Approve the following **Operations Agenda Items**:

- **Donation and installation of shelving in the Varsity Softball dugout storage area**; donation of materials and installation to be provided by the GM High School Softball Club, as presented
- **GMIS PTO's donation of materials to install a 26' GAGA Pit at the Intermediate School**; GM Operations Department to install the equipment, as presented
- **High School Change Order GC-PCO-99185** - construct GWB pocket at the existing window in High School Room F122, per RFI GC176; cost of $1,909.49 to be paid from the Construction Fund, as presented
- **High School Change Order GC-PCO-99186** - add Axiom trim to ceiling height transition in the High School Orchestra Room A158, per RFI 173; cost of $1,194.06 to be paid from the Construction Fund, as presented
- **High School Change Order GC-PCO-99188** - delete labor for brick infill of window area at High School exterior; credit of $1,055.70 to the Construction Fund, as presented

**Roll Call Vote –** Ayes: Bouchard, McKay, Adams, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, Miller, Peterson, Roby – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**POLICY**

- Motion by Adams and second by Roby to Approve the following **Policy Agenda Item**:
- **Second Reading of Policy Revisions**, as listed
  102 - Academic Standards
  105 - Curriculum
  204.1 - Virtual Attendance & Wellness Checks (New)
  209 - Health Examinations/Screenings
  246 - School Wellness
  249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
  704 - Maintenance
  803 - School Calendar
  805.2 - School Security Personnel
  822 - Automated External Defibrillators (AED)/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

**Roll Call Vote** – Ayes: Adams, Roby, Bouchard, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Peterson – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion by Adams and second by Roby to Approve the following **Policy Agenda Item:**

- **First Reading of Policy Revision**[SP1]**,** as listed
  226 – Searches

**Roll Call Vote** – Ayes: Adams, Roby, Bouchard, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, McKay, Miller, Roby – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**FACILITIES USE**
Motion by Bouchard and second by McKay to Approve the following **Facilities Use Agenda Item:**

- **Facilities Use Requests,** as presented

**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Bouchard, McKay, Adams, Friedlander, Heim, Kabakoff, Miller, Peterson, Roby – 9.
Nays: 0.
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Closing Comments**

**Mrs. Friedlander** said she attended the PSBA conference and was excited to come back with a $1,000 check for the district, courtesy of First Student. She also noted that she attended our Stang Gang's presentation, which was phenomenal. She said the adults attending where highly engaged and, at the end of the session, attendees spoke on what they are grateful for. One woman's comment regarding our Stang Gang spoke volumes: "I am grateful to your administration for building a culture where a group like this exists."

**Mrs. McKay** said she attended the GMEF's Night Out event, noting that it's an amazing fundraiser, providing books and grants for our teachers. She encouraged those who have not attended to do so, as it's a great way to raise money for GM students.

**Mrs. Bouchard** thanked Dr. Murray for stepping up to serve as Substitute Superintendent in our time of need, saying he is well-respected by the students, staff and community.

**Dr. Peterson** noted that district communications will be sent our Tuesday morning to both district staff and families, announcing Dr. Murray's service as Substitute Superintendent until January 5, 2027.

There being no further business before the Board, Heim motioned and McKay seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting** at 8:17pm.

*Sharon L. Patton*
*Board Recording Secretary*