

# **Education and Technology Committee**

**Monday, October 5, 2026 4:30 PM**

**The Administration Building / Conference Room**

**5775 Main St.**

**Center Valley, PA 18034**

## **1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1.A. Call to Order

1.B. Recording of Attendance

1.C. Approval of Minutes

## **2. VISITORS' COMMENTS**

## **3. EDUCATION UPDATES**

3.A. Curriculum Review Updates

3.B. General Updates

## **4. TECHNOLOGY UPDATES**

4.A. Technology Department Updates

## **5. VISITORS' COMMENTS**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

6.A. Adjourn

**Southern Lehigh School District  
Education and Technology Committee Minutes  
September 8, 2026**

**Southern Lehigh School District  
Education/Technology Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2026  
Conference Room  
Southern Lehigh Administration Building  
5775 Main Street  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
4:00 pm**

**Members present:** Mr. Tim Kearney, Mr. Josh Rager, Mrs. Melissa Torba, Mr. Chris Sykora

**Members absent:**

**Administrators present:** Dr. Karen Trinkle, Dr. Tamara Solometo, Mr. Jim Stulgis, and Dr. Deanna Webb

**1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**A. Call to Order**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

**B. Recording of Attendance**

1. Present: Mr. Tim Kearney, Mr. Josh Rager, Mrs. Melissa Torba (arrived at 4:02), Mr. Chris Sykora
2. Absent: N/A

**2. Visitors' Comments:** Mr. Kearney provided an overview of visitor comment protocols.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. Approval of 6/1/26 Education Committee Meeting Minutes

1. **Motion to approve the Education and Technology Committee meeting minutes: 6/1/2026**

a. Motion & Second: Mr. Rager & Mrs. Torba

**4. EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Education & Technology Committee Presentation: Dr. Trinkle and Dr. Solometo provided an overview of the agenda items.

**5. EDUCATION ITEMS**

A. ALEKS360: Dr. Solometo provided an update on ALEK360. Combines Bluman's *Elementary Statistics* with ALEKS adaptive AI practice under a Single Sign-On (SSO) framework, creating a single, unified portal for students and teachers. Features embedded video tutorials, interactive applets, and worked examples directly within reading passages. Allows teachers to monitor student progress and assign targeted

readings from a single dashboard. Offers a lower per-student licensing cost compared to traditional physical textbook and digital access code bundles, providing dynamic, context-sensitive adaptive practice compared to static digital alternatives (Cengage). The committee agreed to move this forward for board consideration on September 14, 2026.

B. K-5 Social Studies: Dr. Webb and Dr. Solometo provided an update on K-5 Social Studies. Began curricular work in Summer 2026 and created a steering committee (K-5 represented). Looking for redundancy or gaps across content areas. Focused on inquiry-based learning, primary source usage, and storytelling, while establishing evaluation metrics for scheduling fit, Spanish translations, and print/digital balance. Reviewed five potential core programs via administrative vendor presentations and sample reviews, successfully narrowing the candidates to the top three choices. Contacted partner/school districts to gather practical implementation feedback and schedule peer consultations.

Timeline: Fall 2026 Reconvene Team and develop framework for overview and evaluation. Fall 2026/Winter 2027 continue review and evaluation. February/March 2027 committee will seek a final recommendation to present to committee in March. Implementation, Professional Development, and Board Consideration in April 2027.

C. K-12 Career and Personal Finance: Dr. Solometo provided an update on K-12 Career and Personal Finance: Began this work in March 2026. The updated PA CEW Standards took effect on July 1, 2026. New Academic Standards implemented July 1, 2026, supporting the HS course for 2026-2027. A collaborative team of counselors and personal finance teachers has been formed to better align roles and responsibilities. Reviewing career resources to ensure seamless delivery and collaboration during the 2026–2027 school year. The team actively reviews career resources for robust implementation. The chosen solution streamlines student career artifacts collection and provides a vertically aligned K–12 scope.

D. Updates: Artificial Intelligence, STEM and STEELS, Clubs & Activities, Cyber Wellness Checks: Dr. Solometo, Dr. Webb, and Dr. Trinkle provided an update on the following topics:

The AI Steering Committee convened 3 times over the course of the summer to guide the district's strategic approach to educational AI. Concentrated on defining the district's vision for AI integration, establishing guidelines for ethics and academic integrity, and building a foundation for AI literacy. Discussions centered on establishing a clear timeline to draft and finalize an Administrative Regulation governing educational AI use. Mapped out strategies for staff and student rollouts, alongside targeted professional development opportunities to support effective implementation. Partnership with Penn State for Professional Development. Full presentation with the steering committee on September 14, 2026.

STEM- STEELS: K–5 Focus: Elementary educators are strengthening their use of 3-dimensional assessment practices. Grades 6–8: Refining Amplify Science implementation, targeting assessments, grading, and Engineering Internships. High School: Refining implementation of BSCS Biology, Pivot Interactives, and Discovery Education Tech Books. New Honors 8th Grade Science: Curriculum development has officially begun for a new advanced course, scheduled to launch in 2027–2028. New K–2 STEM Course: Initial plans and early pathway development are underway for a dedicated primary STEM course, targeted for 2027–2028.

Clubs & Activities: Identified a point of contact in the Central Office to support building-based initiatives. Continually evaluate student activities to ensure alignment with post-secondary outcomes, fiscal responsibility, and the district's mission to be inclusive, innovative, and inspiring. Engage Stakeholders: Administer targeted surveys to students and families to gather feedback on current offerings and emerging interest areas. Inform Program Refinement: Use data insights to address interest gaps, enhance existing activities, and guide future advisor/funding decisions.

**6. TECHNOLOGY ITEMS: Updates were provided on the following topics by Mr. Jim Stuligs:**

- Ticketing System Transition: The new technology ticketing system is currently running parallel with the legacy system to resolve and close out remaining tickets. All district staff have been notified of the transition, and detailed performance data regarding the cutover will be presented at upcoming committee meetings.
- Kindergarten iPad Distribution: Deployment is actively underway to ensure all Kindergarten students are equipped with functional iPads for the school year.
- Start-of-Year Support Volume: The Technology Department is systematically processing and resolving the standard high volume of beginning-of-year service requests across all district facilities

**7. Visitors' Comments:** Comments were made by visitors that focused on the Social Studies Curriculum, K–2 STEM & Honors Science for program scheduling and general feedback, Amplify Science: Hands-on instructional feedback, Artificial Intelligence: General comments and feedback, and parent education and Clubs & Activities.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Meeting was adjourned at: 5:06PM

*Notes taken by Dr. Karen Trinkle. Respectfully submitted:  
Nicole Lounsberry, Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*

The background of the slide features a large, light gray watermark of the Southern Lehigh School District seal. The seal is circular with the text "SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT" around the top and "CENTER COUNTY, PA" around the bottom. In the center is a shield with a sunburst design.

# Southern Lehigh School District Education and Technology Committee

October 5, 2026

*Learning - Serving - Leading  
One Interaction at a Time*



# Agenda

## Education

### Curriculum Reviews

- K-5 Social Studies
- K-12 Career and Personal Finance
- World Language
- 7-12 STEM/Tech Ed

### Updates

- AI
- STEELS
- Clubs & Activities

### School Calendar 27-28

## Technology

- **Phone System Updates** Infrastructure and communication enhancements
- **General Technology Updates** District-wide hardware and software status
- **Screen Time Discussion** Student digital wellness and guidelines



# K-5 Social Studies

## Updates:



### ✓ Initial Curriculum Exploration

Expanded team.  
Reviewed feedback from nearby districts and spent time exploring samples of curricular resources.  
Narrowed options.



### ✓ Selection of Evaluation Tool

Completed one-pager as tool to look back on in our evaluation and selected an evaluation tool to utilize with vendor demos and deep dives.



### ✓ Scheduled Vendor Demos

Sent questions to vendors and scheduled Vendor Demos for January professional learning day.



### Next Steps: Deep Dives

- Ask Questions and complete intensive review of curricular resources.
- Evaluate options following Vendor Demos with selected Tool.



### Next Steps: Recommendation

- Finalize selection in February Professional Learning Day.
- Present to Ed/Tech committee in March.
- Begin implementation planning in April.



# K-12 Career and Personal Finance

## September 21 Updates



### **Standards & Alignment**

#### **Ongoing Collaboration**

Continued collaboration and standards alignment



### **Platform Deep Dive**

#### **Smart Futures & Xello**

Further deep dive into Smart Futures and Xello



### **District Networking**

#### **Counseling Department Outreach**

Networking with other area counseling departments for feedback and recommendations



# Grades 7-12 World Language

## ✓ 25–26 Completed

### Spanish Immersion

- Curriculum Review and selection for Spanish Immersion completed.
- **Mapas** was selected.
- Implementation for 26-27

## 🔍 Initiate 26-27, Continue through 27-28

### Review Phase

#### Needs Assessment

Reviewing:  
Spanish Levels 1-5,  
French Levels 1-5,  
Chinese Levels 1-5  
Conducting needs  
assessment and initial  
resource review using sample  
materials from major  
publishers.

## 🚀 Selection 27–28, Rollout 28- 29

### Demos & Adoption

Deep dives, evaluations, and  
vendor demos during 27-28  
for resource selection,  
leading to full implementation  
in 28-29.



# Grades 7-12 Tech Ed/STEM

## ✓ 25–26 Completed

### Grades 3-5

- Creation of Gr. 3 STEM Course
- Review & Revision of Grades 4-6 STEM Curricula
- Implementation of Gr. 3 STEM and course revisions for 26-27

## 🔍 Review

### Needs Assessment - November

- Conduct needs assessment and requesting resources to review.
- Reached out to the IU to collaborate with their STEM Staff Development Facilitator and to get information on a potential curricular resource.

## 🚀 Select & Implement

### Demos & Adoption

Deep dives, evaluations, and vendor demos during January and February for resource selection.

#### **Goal:**

- Make recommendation to Ed/Tech Committee in March
- Plan for 2027-28 implementation in April.



# Update - Artificial Intelligence



## Grades 4–12 Training

**September 21 • Penn State CSATS**

Jeff Remington visited Southern Lehigh to deliver PD focused on understanding AI, ethical implications, and AI literacy.

**Next Steps:** Targeted PD for grade level bands.



## Grades K–3 Training

**September 21 • SeeSawAI Focus**

Teachers in grades K–3 attended specialized training for SeeSawAI.

**Key Focus:** Leveraging AI tools specifically for classroom assessment.



## Steering Committee

**October Meetings**

Upcoming Steering Committee sessions will focus on ongoing professional learning.

**Goal:** Gathering feedback for a new Administrative Regulation.



# Update - STEM and STEELS



## Honors 8th Grade Science

### Continued Development

- 8th grade teachers collaborated with Customer Success Coach from Amplify Science as well as 9th grade teachers



## K-2 STEM Course

### Initial Planning Phase

### Initial meeting to begin planning K-2 STEM Course

- Focus on Tech and Engineering, Science curricular connections, Digital Literacy, and Personal Finance standards



# Update: Clubs & Activities

## Purpose & Vision

Continually evaluate student activities to ensure alignment with post-secondary outcomes, fiscal responsibility, and the district's mission to be inclusive, innovative, and inspiring.



### Actions

- **Engage Stakeholders:** Administered surveys to students and families to gather feedback on current offerings and emerging interest areas.
- **Inform Program Refinement:** Use data insights to address interest gaps, enhance existing activities, and guide future advisor/funding decisions.



### Updates

- **Survey Responses:** 429 Responses  
(Closed 9/30)
- **County Landscape:** Limited responses. Only 1 offered district clubs for K-2. Others had opportunities offered through external partners (SHINE, United Way, etc.).
- **Administrative Review:** Team meeting in October.



# Technology



## Phone System Integration

Meeting with Infradapt on 10-13 to discuss phone integration with doors and security.



## Ticket Automation

Technology is settling into standard routine. We are discovering new automation processes with the ticket system—endless and time-saving!



## Windows Servers

Planning to update Windows Servers from 2019 to 2025 and currently checking for potential compatibility issues.



## eRate Hardware

Still awaiting eRate hardware. Hoping to get wireless Access Points (APs) installed before it gets too cold.



# Thank You!

*Learning - Serving - Leading  
One Interaction at a Time*