

PENNRIDGE SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes of the September 28, 2026 School Board Meeting

[September 28, 2026 School Board Meeting Video Link](#)

Opening of Meeting

The Pennridge School Board met in room LGI 3.3 of Pennridge High School and streamed at 6:30 p.m. with President Sciarrino presiding. After a salute to the flag, President Sciarrino requested the Secretary to call the roll. The following Board Members were present: Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Leffever, Mr. McMullen, Mr. Merkl-Gump, Mrs. Rash, Mrs. Sciarrino, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Trauger, and Mr. Wurz. Mr. Kaufman, Mr. McMullen, and Mr. Wurz. Also present were Dr. Berrios, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Bloom, Mr. Daubert, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Doster, Solicitor Michael Miller, Board Secretary Mrs. Chenoweth, and approximately 75 guests while numerous guests watched via the livestream.

President's Report

Good evening again to everyone here tonight, and to everyone listening to us from home. Our staff and Board members have really hit the ground running this school year, and there is a lot of great work happening across the district.

In our Personnel Department, we continue to look for ways to improve efficiency and keep everyone informed. They will be providing the Board and community with a monthly Human Resources Staffing Summary. I think this will be a helpful way for us to stay informed about our staffing needs, our progress, and any challenges we may be facing throughout the year.

I am also very happy to share that our Summer 2026 facility projects have been completed successfully. A big thank you to Mr. Craig Bramble for overseeing all of these projects. This summer's work included a new roof at Central Middle School, a new boiler at West Rockhill, new hot water systems at both Deibler and Grasse, new generators at West Rockhill, temperature control improvements at Seylar, and a new scoreboard for the High School pool.

We take great pride in our schools, and we work hard to maintain them. It is important to us, and a priority, that our students and staff have safe, comfortable, and well-maintained buildings where they can learn and work every day.

I also want to continue encouraging everyone to watch our committee meetings. Links to the meetings can be found on our website. That is really where a lot of the work, discussion, and planning happens.

I especially encourage everyone to watch our September Curriculum Committee meeting. There was a lot of great information shared. The meeting began with an update on STEM+M, which, in a nutshell, is an exciting addition and opportunity for our seventh-grade students. The Teaching and Learning Department is also working on revamping our College and Career Readiness program. This will engage all of our high school students and help better prepare them for life after graduation.

Minutes of the September 28, 2026 meeting

The Teaching and Learning Department also reviewed our English Language Development program here at Pennridge. We currently have 200 English language learners representing more than 29 different languages. Seeing where we are today with this student population compared to where we were when I joined the Board almost three years ago is really wonderful.

I am very proud of the improvements we have made, the care our staff provides, and the purposeful work that continues every day to make sure all our students receive the education they deserve while continually looking for ways to improve the models and supports we provide.

So, thank you to our administrators, teachers, and staff for everything you do each and every day and congratulations to our students for a great start to the year. Keep up the great work! September has been a great month, and I'm excited about the year ahead and all the work we will continue to do to improve our students' experience here at Pennridge. Thank you.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Berrios recognized and reported on the following:

- High Expectations*Quality Instruction*Student Achievement
- Bucks County Mobile Fab Lab
- Elementary School rankings among Pennsylvania's best
- PA Art Education Association – Outstanding Visual Arts Community
- Winners of the Shelby Labs 250th Artwork Competition
- Angela Laboy Vazquez – UBCTS Student of the Month
- WOW Program
- Youth Behavioral Health Real Conversations Event – September 29th

Mr. Hughes recognized the Mini-Thon Club as the Club Spotlight of the Month. He introduced the club advisor, Ms. Gordienko, to share the club's objectives and goals.

Ms. Gordienko shared the activities of the club and how they raise money. She noted it is a community event, and it is for the kids. She also shared the date of the main event, which is April 17th.

Mr. Thomas demonstrated the new calendar system and tracking system.

Student Liaison Report

Zoe Brown reported on the following:

- Fall sports
- Rams ready time
- Club for Club Fair
- College Fair
- Homecoming and Pink Out Football game
- High School Spirit Days
- Upcoming events (i.e. financial aid night, picture day, PSATs)

Public Comment

Katy Rene/Perkasie – Addressed the School Board on the district’s budget as well as the potential closing of South MS.

John Seager/Perkasie - Addressed the School Board on the potential closing of South MS as well as the MS Consolidation Committee.

Kim Bedillion/Perkasie – Addressed the School Board on restorative practices and student code of conduct

Consent Calendar

Motion by Mrs. Sciarrino, second by Mr. Wurz to approve the Consent Calendar a-i:

Mr. Miller provided an explanation for the contract update and the need for the change.

- a. Minutes of the August 31, 2026 meeting
- b. General Funds Bills List
- c. Self Insurance Fund Bills List
- d. Student Activity Fund Bills List
- e. Capital Fund Projects Bills List
- f. Nutritional Services Bills List
- g. Financial Report
- h. Superintendent's Personnel/EDR Report
- i. Contract Update

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Curriculum:

Mr. Merkl-Gump recapped the September 9, 2026 Curriculum Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Merkl-Gump, second by Mrs. Taylor to approve Xello as Pennridge’s College, Career, and Future Readiness Platform.

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Merkl-Gump, second by Mrs. Sciarrino to approve obsolete books A-D

A. Guth Elementary School - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-01BKS - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-02BKS

B. High School - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-03BKS - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-04BKS

C. Sellersville Elementary School - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-05BKS

D. West Rockhill Elementary School - Textbooks, donate, Lot 08-06BKS

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Merkl-Gump announced the next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026.

Facilities:

Mr. Kaufman recapped the September 14, 2026 Facilities Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Kaufman, second by Mr. McMullen to approve obsolete items 8B 1-2.

1. West Rockhill Elementary School

Description:

Filing cabinets, scrap, Lot #09-01

2. High School

Description:

Keyboards, trash, Lot #09-02

CD System, trash, Lot #09-03

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Kaufman announced the next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026 meeting.

Finance:

Mr. Wurz requested a copy of the Xello contract be uploaded to 7B.

Mr. Wurz recapped the September 14, 2026 Finance Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Wurz, second by Mrs. Rash to approve contracts 9B 1-7.

9.B.1. The Camphill School

9.B.2. New Hope Academy

9.B.3. Gwynedd Mercy University

9.B.4. ePlus Technology

9.B.5. Christmas City Studio

9.B.6. Delaware Valley University

9.B.7. Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Wurz, second by Mrs. Taylor to approve student activity accounts 9.C. 1-4.

9.C.1. Central Middle School General Purpose-renew and carry over

9.C.2. Central Middle School Student Council-renew and carry over

9.C.3. Central Middle School Drama-renew and carry over

9.C.4. Central Middle School Service Learning Club-renew and carry over

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Minutes of the September 28, 2026 meeting

Mr. Wurz announced the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Personnel:

Mr. Trauger recapped the September 14, 2026 Personnel Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Trauger, second by Mr. McMullen to approve Lisa Walters for tenure recommendation.

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Trauger announced the next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Policy

Mrs. Taylor recapped the September 9, 2026 Policy Committee meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Taylor, second by Mr. Wurz to approve first reading of Policy #218 Student Discipline.

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Mrs. Taylor announced the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026.

BucksIU

Mr. Trauger recapped the September 15, 2026 with the following:

- Grant from Amazon to support the mobile Fab Lab
- University Partnerships benefit staffing
- IU services for all ages

Mr. Trauger announced the next BucksIU meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

UBCTS

Mr. Kaufman recapped the Thursday, September 17, 2026 meetings with the following:

- Refund approval to the Capital Reserve account from the 2024-25 fiscal year
- Executive Session following the meeting

Mr. Kaufman presented the situation with CJ Environmental and its conduct at UBCTS leading up to the School Board discussion.

Mrs. Rash agreed with Mr. Kaufman's statement.

Mrs. Sciarrino agreed with Mr. Kaufman's statement, terminating the contract, and accountability.

Mr. Trauger agreed with Mr. Kaufman's statement, and would like to see accountability, and the termination of their contract.

Mrs. Taylor agreed with all of the statements and noted the disrespect of the UBCTS policies by leadership.

Mr. Wurz agreed with all of the statements and would like to see leadership held accountable.

Mr. Merkl-Gump shared his support for all of the Board members statements and expressed the need for accountability and the protection of students.

Mr. Kaufman shared that based on the recommendations of the Board he will make a motion to terminate the contract at the next JOC meeting and the need for accountability.

Mr. Wurz noted that the two other school districts would have to be in agreement as well.

Mr. Kaufman announced the next UBCTS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026.

Recommendation for Action -PSBA – Mrs. Sciarrino

Motion by Mrs. Sciarrino, second by Mr. Merkl-Gump to approve Board Secretary to register results upon completion of the PSBA Elections voting ballot by each member of the School Board.

Voice Vote: All Board Members voted yes. Motion carried 9-0.

Old Business

None reported.

New Business

Mr. Kaufman shared that the Pennridge HS Rams Football team are 5-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Announcements

Mrs. Sciarrino announced an Executive Session was held on September 9, 2026 for an information session under section (707)(b) regarding policy review, enrollment/class sizes, music vendor, solar panels, memorandum of understanding, and the UBCTS JOC committee. They also met to discuss personnel matters under section (708(a)(1), labor negotiations under (708)(a)(2), a real estate matter under section 708(a)(3) and to receive privileged advice under section 708(a)(5).

Minutes of the September 28, 2026 meeting

The Joint Board of the Upper Bucks County Technical School also met in an Executive Session on September 17, 2026 to discuss a confidential investigatory report, security, and personnel matters. An Executive Session was also held prior to tonight's meeting for an information session under section (707)(b) regarding meetings with legislators on grants, the UBCTS JOC committee Executive Session, and RCO/RCP. They also met to discuss labor negotiations under (708)(a)(2), personnel matters under section (708)(a)(1), and privileged advice under section 708(5). The next School Board meeting will be held on October 26, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy E. Chenoweth

Nancy E. Chenoweth, Secretary