FELL CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Education Public Meeting

777 Main St. Simpson, PA 18407

6:00 p.m., January 26, 2026

Via Google Meet

AGENDA

Call to Order by Board President at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by School Board President Schultz

Board Roll Call: Mrs. Felicity Shultz, President Present

Mrs. Melissa Biedenkap, Vice-President Present

M.. Kelsey Bingaman, Treasurer Present

Mrs. Jillian Bair, Secretary Present

Mrs. Christina Lopez, Board Member Present

Administration: Mr. Tim Casey, Principal (non-voting), Mr. Jim Mirabelli, Budget & Finance (non-voting), Mrs. Jillian Reed, Curriculum Coordinator, (non-voting)

Waive reading of minutes: ***The motion was made by Kelsey B and seconded by Melissa B to waive the reading of the November 17, 2025, minutes.***

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

Approve minutes***: The motion was made by Melissa B and seconded by Kelsey B to approve the minutes as presented, of November 17, 2025.***

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

First Public Hearing on *Agenda items only*

Visitors may comment or ask questions pertaining to any items listed on this agenda. Names and residence will be recorded before remarks are made.

No questions or remarks were submitted by attendees at this time.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Jim Mirabelli, School Business Consultants reporting this evening:

Monthly Report: thru December 31, 2025

Monthly financials up to December 31, 2025 (copy provided). Statements that arrive late (as per practice) will be available at the next meeting. Halfway through the fiscal year. Revenues are about 48% of the annual budget, knowing we only have about 5 months of tuition currently represented (1 month lag). Everything seems to be trending as expected. In November we were holding bills due to the budget stalemate, but we are currently tracking as expected as far as expenses for this point in the year.

Discussion/ Review of Accounts.

The motion was made by Felicity S and seconded by Melissa B to approve the Finance Report as presented.

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

Personnel Committee:

No report this evening

Carbondale Area School District Report:

Mr. David Cerra/other Administrator

Motion to approve report as presented. No one was present from the school district to provide a report.

The motion was made by Felicity S and seconded by Jillian B to approve the Carbondale Area School District report as presented.

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

Principal's Report

1. Request for records: Mailings have been sent to school districts as the requests have come in.

2. Building Update: Speaker Repair is underway (February 3rd) to address safety concerns of speakers not reaching certain areas of the building. A classroom projector has died and needs to be replaced.

3. Enrollment update: Enrollment: C'dale 72 FC 7 L'land__8__ MV __2__ MtV_5___WW__2__ Valley View 6 Tunk___ Abington ____ VV_____WHi_1____ Total __103__. Will be enrolling two more students from Carbondale next week.

4. PCCD Grant - all charter schools in the commonwealth have been awarded $70k with this grant. Last year the money was used to install the camera system. An application has been submitted again to obtain this grant money for another year. We want to make sure we're meeting all safety and security protocol recommended by the state. It was submitted on time and we can revise our application to steer it in a different direction if we want to, but currently it's been allocated to put fencing around propane tanks. Possibly looking at updating the vestibule (aka the "fishbowl" to enhance security regarding main access to the building.

5. Ready to Learn Block Grant - this grant has also been submitted on time and we are awaiting approval. The application can be modified to fit the school's needs.

6. Threat Assessment Update/Drills - the drills are conducted to gather information on what we can use grant money to improve regarding school safety.

7. Chromebook purchase request - several existing Chromebooks are nearing end of life, and PSSAs are going to be online this year. It's essential we have enough devices along with some backups so students can take the exams without any hindrances this year. This item shouldn't require another vote since it was included in the budget vote earlier this year and we do not anticipate additional funds being required. Ideally, we would like to replace 30 now then replace another 30 when the next fiscal year begins.

8. Approval for the Curriculum Coordinator (Ms. Jillian Reed) to attend Data Summit- Hershey Lodge 3/30/26-4/1/26. This is an important professional development and networking opportunity to stay in touch with state requirements and collaborate with other educators. We can get a discount with the Early Bird pricing. **Voting on this expense will be deferred to the next board meeting.**

9. FCS Policy proposal to limit/close grade level enrollment - currently our charter designates that classes are capped at 25 per grade level, but there have been situations where the class size should be lower than 25 depending on several factors (needs of students, capabilities of the teacher, current supports at the school). This would involve publicly notifying the community that the grade level is at capacity and we are no longer accepting students at that grade level, along with a plan for

removing that limit and announcing the re-opening when it occurs. Lottery system would be used to admit students on a waiting list. **Voting on this policy will be deferred to the next board meeting.**

10. Food Service Update - we've been using Colarusso's in Dickson City over the last several years. The owner notified Mr. Casey that he no longer wants to be in the school lunch program business due to the limited profitability on his end. Colarusso's will continue providing school lunch services through the end of the school year. Mr. Casey has started gathering information and setting up meetings with surrounding food suppliers and restaurants to see who will be able to partner with us next year. Also considering an in-house school lunch program.

11. School Code Changes - some attendance policies have been changed by Pennsylvania, so Mr. Casey is working on updating our policies to match. One new policy entails that if a weapon or firearm is found on school premises, the school has 24 hours to give all community members notice.

12. Miscellaneous: Data Days on Wednesday and Thursday of this week (faculty and staff meet with administrators to talk about how classroom instruction is going, behaviors, curriculum needs, etc), Professional Development session on Friday regarding iReady; Basketball Club change - moving to Fridays instead of Thursdays so students can attend tutoring on Thursdays if needed; addition of make up days in February (Mr. Casey recommends making Presidents' Day, February 16th, a full day instead of holiday off); transition phone service to PennTele Data; tutoring compensation - set to begin this week, tutors are set up for students broken down by grade level. Compensation for staff is $30 per session.

The motion was made by Jillian B and seconded by Melissa B to approve the Principal's Report as presented by Mr. Casey.

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

Curriculum update:

Mrs. Jillian Reed, Curriculum Coordinator

- Structured Literacy (Act 135) Teacher Training. We've undertaken a course on the standards aligned system PD site (free), so relevant teachers are required to have the asynchronous PD courses completed.

- i-Ready MOY Diagnostic Incentive Program. This was started the second week of January when the i-Ready assessments were completed. Students have goals which are being tracked between them and their teachers.
- After School Tutoring was set to begin today, but was cancelled due to the snow day. Will start on Wednesday instead. 26 students have been enrolled and are coming on 1 or more days per week. 5 teachers in total who will be providing tutoring.
- Extracurricular Programming Considerations. We've been looking for ways to enhance instruction and programming for middle school students especially. Have been looking at partnerships with a few outside companies with STEM activities. Also looking at the Artist in Residence program. School-wide Railriders reading program is also something we're looking into to provide incentives for reading.
- Warrior Night Recap. Grades 8, K, and 5 presented and went very well.

The motion was made by Melissa B and seconded by Felicity S to approve the Curriculum Update as presented by Mrs. Jillian Reed.

5 Yes _____No _____Abstain 0 Absent

Education Committee:

No report this evening.

Policy Committee:

Felicity Schultz, Chairperson

Building and Grounds Committee:

No report this evening

Outstanding/Old Business Matters:

New Business Matters:

Second Public Hearing of Visitors regarding school-related topics.

Name/Home School District	Topic/Issue
Jeanne Lacktash, Mid Valley	Any plans to upgrade seating for performances/stage lights? Mr. Casey answered: stage lights were recently repaired and microphones were serviced. No current plans for big revisions on the stage or seating.

Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 @ 6:00p.m.

Virtually and in person at 777 Main St., Simpson, PA .

Adjournment: called at 6:54 p.m. by Felicity S, seconded by Jillian B