FELL CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Education Public Meeting

777 Main St. Simpson, PA 18407

6:00 p.m., March 2, 2026

Via Google Meet /In- Person

AGENDA

Call to Order by Board President at _6:01___p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by School Board President Schultz Board Roll Call:

Mrs. Felicity Shultz, President ___Yes____

Mrs. Melissa Biedenkap, Vice-President ___No____

Mrs. Kelsey Bingaman, Treasurer ___No____

Mrs. Jillian Bair, Secretary___Yes____

Mrs. Christina Lopez, Board Member___Yes____

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 __Felicity__ and seconded by __Christina__ to waive the reading of the January 26, 2026 minutes.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

Approve minutes: The motion was made by _Jillian_ and seconded by _Felicity_to approve the minutes as presented, of January 26, 2026.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

First Public Hearing on <u>Agenda items only</u>

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

Name/home school district Topic/Issue

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

_____ _____
_____ _____

Finance Committee:

Mr. Jim Mirabelli, School Business Consultants reporting this evening: Monthly Report: thru January 31, 2026

Monthly financials up to January 31, 2026 (copy provided). Statements that arrive late (as per practice) will be available at the next meeting. Trending around 57% mark for both income and expenses which is as expected for this time in the year.

Mr. Casey asked about the 79% of per pupil reg ed item under income. Mr. Mirabelli recommended looking at the regular and special ed line items together. We're looking at the total amount, but he would be happy to break it down monthly if needed.

Discussion/ Review of Accounts.

The motion was made by __Felicity__ and seconded by __Jillian__ to approve the Finance Report as presented.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

Personnel Committee:

No report this evening

Carbondale Area School District Report:

Mr. David Cerra/other Administrator

No one from Carbondale SD was present for the report. Motion to approve report as presented.

The motion was made by _Felicity__ and seconded by _Christina_ to approve the Carbondale Area School District report as presented.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ 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 complete, phone installation and service transition to PennTeleData ongoing. Now they can use the PA system to make safety-related announcements rather than depending on walkie-talkies. New telephones will be coming this summer since the existing phones aren't compatible with PennTeleData.

3. Enrollment update: Enrollment: C'dale__78__ FC __5__ L'land__7__ MV _1___ Scr _1_ MtV__5__WW__1__ WH 1 VV 6Tunk___ Abington ____ VV_____WHi_____ Total __105__

4. PCCD Grant Update/RVAT Request/Threat Assessment. A few ideas for utilizing the grant money would include updating the fishbowl and putting some fencing around the tank outside. They didn't reject anything yet, but wanted to see the risk & vulnerability assessment (RVAT) completed by the state police. Mr. Casey has explained that we're "in line" for getting the assessment but we have to wait for the state police to conduct the assessment. Ms. Shultz said that an assessment may have been completed by the Carbondale police around 2022 but Mr. Casey could not find any documentation.

5. Requested Chromebooks (1/26/26) purchased and being inventoried. Recently received 30 of them. There's no paper PSSAs this year, so it's important that we have enough devices to ensure all students have the technology they need to complete PSSAs. Ms. Reed is going to be training teachers on proper proctoring for the PSSAs.

6. Vote for approval for CC to attend Data Summit- Hershey Lodge 3/30/26-4/1/26. This item was postponed for voting during the last board meeting. The focus of this conference is mainly for Ms. Reed to learn more about Pennsylvania-specific compliance practices.

7. Vote for approval for FCS Policy proposal to limit/close grade level enrollment. This item was postponed for voting during the last board meeting. Would like to have some flexibility with filling classrooms and give administrators the right to temporarily pause enrollment in a certain grade level even if the 25 seats have not been filled.

8. Vote for approval for FCS Policy to adopt Cash Management Policy. This is an effort to more closely manage the petty cash box via receipts and a log, and whenever the total reaches at least $200 anything over that amount should be deposited in the bank.

9. Food Service/NSLP Update – may be a possibility to run an in-house program since we're a small school and may not receive many bids from vendors.

10. Transportation Update and 2026 PA Supreme Court Ruling - up until this point, public schools had to offer charter schools the same transportation as what they give

their students. The law now states that they don't have to do that, they simply have to provide free transportation. Some districts have given students passes for public transportation instead of providing school-run buses and vans. This may not happen here but under the law it would be permitted.

11. Healthcare Benefits Renewals/Rates (see attached-Geisinger). The increased rate is only 4.4% above current costs. The school pays all of the healthcare costs for employees so this will not impact them at all. Dental, workman's compensation, and liability details are still being worked out. Mr. Casey should have updates on those within another month.

12. Remote Capture Scanner for Fidelity Bank Deposits – closest Fidelity Bank is in Peckville. It's not very convenient to have to drive that far for a deposit. Fidelity will give us a remote scanner so we can do automatic deposits from the building at the cost of $50 per month (roughly $600 per year).

13. Misc: Semi-formal dance 3/27, Spring Musical 4/18, spring field trip approvals, Virtual Days, Auditor. Students in grades 5-8 will be able to participate in the semi-formal dance here at the school from 5-9pm. A committee is working together on planning the dance. Spring musical of Cinderella will be running on April 18th – all parents and board members are invited. There are a few spring field trips: K-2nd grade would like to go to the Crayola Factory in Easton. Costs about $700 plus transportation, probably near the end of May. Grades 3-5 would like to go to Crystal Cave, still getting the details together on that. The field trips all come out of the fundraising account. Grades 6-8 would like to go to an animal sanctuary. Date is TBD and should be a very inexpensive trip. The same grades were awarded a grant to go to the Everhart Museum in Scranton – this would be no cost to the school. Date is TBD. 4th grade is also able to go on a grant-funded trip involving the train.

Discussed virtual days/flexible instruction. Each school can apply for 5 flexible instruction days (FIDs) per year. Fell was applied and awarded these 5 FIDs. Attendance must be taken, programming should be offered for a certain amount of time, etc. Because the winter has been so challenging, local school boards can determine its own policies in regards to virtual/remote school days. We're only limited to 5 if we're calling them FIDs. If we call them virtual or remote, we're not limited by anything other than board decision. Attendance data was reviewed. Ranged from 0 to 10 unexcused absences for in-person instruction. When we pivot to virtual, the numbers are about the same with the exception of December 23rd since it was right before Christmas break. February 20th had 18 absences but it was a Friday. In general, virtual days don't seem to have a significant number of unexcused absences in comparison to the in-person days. The format this year was changed to make it less on-screen time and teaching.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Mirabelli have been discussing how to work with the auditor to see if the 23-24 and 24-25 audits completed since they're still outstanding. It may be beneficial to look for a new auditor since the current auditor is not very responsive. It

would be better to get these two audits closed out before hiring another auditor to repeat the work that's already been started.

The motion was made by __Felicity__ and seconded by __Christina__ to approve the policy to allow the principal to limit and close enrollments by grade.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

The motion was made by __Felicity__ and seconded by __Christina__ to approve the proposal to adopt cash management procedures.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

The motion was made by __Felicity__ and seconded by __Christina__ to approve the proposal to send the CC to the Hershey lodge for the Data Summit.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

The motion was made by __Christina___and seconded by __Jillian___ to approve the Principal's Report as presented by Mr. Casey.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

<u>Curriculum update:</u>

Mrs. Jillian Reed, Curriculum Coordinator

● PSTAT Teacher Training – since PSSAs will be fully online this year, teachers need to be trained on how to proctor the online testing. Have already begun the training online through the PSTAT website.

● i-Ready Updates – recently had the first pizza party with students who met at least one of their goals set by their teachers. Older kids were paired with younger kids to help serve and clean up the pizza.

PD Day occurred where a representative from i-Ready came on-site and provided more guidance on how to fully utilize the program and access all necessary data.

Looking at curriculum for next year, especially math. We have some demo accounts so we can preview everything the curriculum would encompass. We were also able to purchase an add-on for our current subscription with a teacher toolbox to provide more targeted instructional recommendations.

● After School Tutoring Updates – total of 25 students enrolled, only 1 has dropped. About a month left of it and things seem to be going very well.

● ImagineX Creative Careers Field Trip for Art Club – invited to this at Marywood

University. This is through the Armature Artist in Residence. 6-8th grade students will probably be the most appropriate, particularly ones interested in art. Ms. Timlin is currently the Art Club sponsor and she's going to accompany those students on March 25th.

● Extracurricular Programming Considerations

○ Armature Artist in Residence – in partnership with the NEIU. We can choose 10 or 20 sessions (probably 10 at this point in the school year). An artist will come to the school and work with the middle school students to provide a visual arts class. The artist they're working on pairing us up with is Gina Rice. She has an art degree from PSU and has been an art teacher in schools and colleges. The full cost is $2300 but $300 is retroactively funded by a grant – we pay up front but are reimbursed. This is an effort to keep our middle school students.

○ Nexplore STEM Classes for MS – this company could provide with some experts to come in weekly with 6 graders to do Lego robotics, 7th graders learn how to code and operate drones, and 8th graders participate in roller-coaster engineering design course.

Champs Homerun Readers Presented by Red Robin – this reading challenge began today. Kids who choose to participate will submit their weekly reading logs and win various items.

● Warrior Night Recap – grades 1, 3, and 6 presented. Grade 1 taught us about different types of communities and the people who live in them (e.g., rural, suburban). Grade 3 talked about the fur trade in a creative way by using a fictional conversation between explorers of the time. Grade 6 gave us a great presentation about the Salem Witch Trials with a modern twist – the last accused witch was only pardoned in 2002.

The motion was made by __Christina___and seconded by __Jillian___ to approve the extracurricular program (Armature Artist in Residence) as presented by Ms. Reed.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

The motion was made by __Jillian___and seconded by __Felicity___ to approve the curriculum update as presented by Ms. Reed.

_3_ Yes __No __Abstain _2_ Absent

<u>Education Committee</u>:

No report this evening.

<u>Policy Committee:</u>

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

Ms. Lopez (Carbondale Area) recommended offsetting the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser next year so it doesn't occur at the same time as Carbondale Area.

Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 @ 6:00p.m. Virtually and in person at 777 Main St., Simpson, PA .

Adjournment: called at __7:05___ p.m. , by __Felicity__ seconded by : _Jillian_