FELL CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Education Public Meeting

777 Main St. Simpson, PA 18407

6:00 p.m., May 18, 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 _____Yes___

M.. Kelsey Bingaman, Treasurer ____Yes_____

Mrs. Jillian Bair, Secretary_____Yes_____

Mrs. Christina Lopez, Board Member_____Yes_____

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

Other attendees: Diane Wood, Baylie Reed, Felicia Miller, Jamie Swartzfager, Ryan Swartzfager, Jen Repenning, Melissa Wash

Waive reading of minutes: The motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Felicity to waive the reading of the April 27, 2026 minutes.

___4__ Yes _____No __1___Abstain _____ Absent

Approve minutes: The motion was made by _____Felicity_____ and seconded by _____Jillian_____to approve the minutes as presented, of April 27th, 2026 minutes.

__4___Yes _____No __1___Abstain _____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.

Name/home school district Topic/Issue

_____ _____

_____ _____

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_____ _____

Finance Committee:

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

Monthly Report: thru April 30, 2026

Monthly financials up to April 30, 2026 (copy provided). Statements that arrive late (as per practice) will be available at the next meeting. Running a little behind on the revenue side, due to an issue on the state side with paying out tuition. The payments should still be received, just unsure of when since it's difficult to get ahold of them. We're 10 months through the fiscal year and expenses are only at 71%. Continuing to hold a healthy bank balance.

Preliminary budget review. Budget is based on 120 students enrolled which is a little higher than the initial goal of 105, but we have some good prospects in the pipeline and 120 should be attainable. The budget is also conservative on the rate. Not included in the budget is a potential grant (Safety and Security, 70k). Current projected deficit is 81k, with the roof expenses and food service equipment expenses being one-time costs. We expect to close that gap and present a balanced budget in June.

Mr. Mirabelli also addressed a question from the last meeting about the timing of bonuses. Moving bonuses from December to June. From a cashflow perspective it doesn't necessarily matter, but fiscally, moving it up will result in doing in twice in one fiscal year. Mr. Mirabelli recommends paying bonuses in June since it won't create a bigger fiscal loss. This is a recommendation from an auditing perspective as well. The roof and food service expenses are capital expenses while the bonuses are an operational

expense.

The motion was made by _____Felicity_____ and seconded by _____Melissa_____ to approve the Finance Report, including the preliminary budget, as presented.

___5__Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

Personnel Committee:

No report this evening

Carbondale Area School District Report:

Mr. David Cerra/other Administrator

Motion to approve report as presented - no representatives from the school district were present.

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

___5__Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

Principal's Report

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

2. Enrollment update: Enrollment: C'dale__80__ FC _5___ L'land__7__ MV __1__ MtV_5___Mid Scr 1WW__1__ Tunk__0_ Abington _0___ VV_6____WHi___1__ Total _107__

3. Advertising campaign:billboards, social media, and trifolds/pamphlets. There's been an increased interest in the school which is great considering our goal of 120 students for next year. Only 4 8th graders are graduating so if all grades hold steady and we bring in 15-17 Kindergarten students, we should be very close to our goal.

Continue to distribute materials at various businesses and community locations. Billboards run about 1k per month but the one in Dickson City seemed to bring in some students from the valley area this year. Adjusting how the Fell Charter Facebook account is being used to be more outward-focused and attracting more students. Ms. Bingaman asked about current Kindergarten enrollment. Mr. Casey stated we currently have around 13 Kindergarten applications which still need to be reviewed.

4. School Safety Report: RVAT findings and next steps. The full report from the state police was received. The report was confidential so it will not be discussed in full in public. The report was distributed to the board and the threat assessment team. Our next step is to begin digesting the report, determining easy/cost effective fixes which can be made right away, and what the potential grant money (Safety & Security for 70k) will be used for once received.

5. Budget and Curricular considerations 2026-2027 - budget already covered by Mr. Mirabelli and the curricular updates will be provided later by Ms. Reed.

6. Netcredit Union Membership offer for staff - Fidelity has no problem with offering Netcredit Union to staff (there is no non-compete clause).

7. Vote to hire John Sabolick as housekeeper (in addition to his current duties as facilities/maintenance director). Current housekeeper is resigning effective June 12th. The position is posted but has not received any applicants other than Mr. Sabolick. Mr. Casey proposes adding to Mr. Sabolick's current base salary rather than paying him both as salary and hourly since the housekeeping position was previously paid hourly. Proposal is to add $6500 to his current annual salary and he would work after school. Ms. Bingaman asked if Mr. Sabolick would be working 10-12 hour days, 5 days a week. Mr. Casey expressed this is up to Mr. Sabolick's discretion; he may want to go home at the end of the school day and come back later in the evening. Ms. Bingaman also asked about Mr. Sabolick's current position as

backup to food service staff, so now adding a third position to his load, what will they do when he's unable to do all of that work? Mr. Sabolick currently functions as a back-up only and rotates with other staff to monitor the cafeteria during lunch. Ms. Schultz asked if they could consider getting him set up with a 6-month contract instead of the full year so we can keep an eye on his workload. Ms. Bair also suggested a summer contract only and seeing if anyone else applies for the fall.

8. Vote to pay bonuses in June (June 21, last pay period of fiscal year). Mr. Mirabelli discussed this at the end of his financial report above.

9. Preliminary calendar for SY 2026-2027 - was distributed to board members for review. Should not change dramatically but there may be some final tweaks prior to the final version which will be approved in the next board meeting. Ms. Biedenkap asked if parent-teacher conferences were added to the calendar next year? Mr. Casey stated that two conferences are being added formally to the calendar and parents are welcome to reach out to teachers and request additional conferences as needed. Ms. Schultz asked about the transition of Warrior Nights to Thursdays instead of Wednesdays. Mr. Casey explained the consensus among staff was that it would be easier to have them on Thursdays since it can be a late night for staff and students and it may be easier to manage if it was closer to the end of the week.

9. Approval of the hire of Christa Monforte for the position of school secretary.

10. Misc: May Warrior Night 5/20, Fun in the Sun Day 5/22, Mobile Dentist 5/28, Field Day 5/29, Kinder Graduation 6/10, 8th Grade graduation 6/11, final day of school 6/12; Cashew Lounge end of year party 6/12 @ 12 PM, school board members welcome; ESY and

remediation begins 7/7/26 and runs through 8/4/26.

The motion was made by _____Melissa_____ and seconded by _____Felicity_____ to accept Christa Monforte in the secretary position.

___5__Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

The motion was made by _____Felicity_____ and seconded by Christina to accept adding housekeeping to Mr. Sabolick's duties for the summer initially with the prorated salary.

___5__Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

The motion was made by _____Felicity_____ and seconded by _____Melissa_____ to approve the bonuses being paid out in the last pay period of the fiscal year instead of in December.

__5___Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

The motion was made by _____Felicity_____ and seconded by _____Jillian_____ to approve the Principal's Report as presented by Mr. Casey.

__5___Yes _____No _____Abstain _____Absent

Curriculum update:

Mrs. Jillian Reed, Curriculum Coordinator

- 2026 PSSA - officially over! No issues. Preliminary student performance file should be released pretty soon.
- PowerSchool Parent Portal - about 80% there. Issue is that some parents signed up a while ago and had accounts with the same email addresses, so when it was enabled for everyone those parents have been unable to view certain information. Ms. Reed is working on getting that ready to go for the school year.

-Artist in residence program is wrapping up for the year. Last session will be on Friday, June 5th. The students will have an exhibition of their work.

- Curriculum Considerations for 2026-27 School Year - due to recent

trends in math PSSA scores, it's clear that more comprehensive math curriculum is needed. Ms. Reed is proposing a fully-fledged curriculum for K-8 which would be a great fit for our needs and a good investment. It's being piloted currently. Into Reading (Elementary) and Into Literature (Middle School) is also being recommended. Also looking at a World Cultures curriculum; current curriculum is almost non-functional for teachers at this point since it's mostly on CD-ROM or links are broken. A replacement is being recommended (Studies Weekly); a historical events newspaper with 6-8 articles and instructional support for each. Science curriculum has already been ordered and dispersed to the teachers. A supplemental resource (Mystery Science) would also be helpful. Would like to stick with the art program through the IU (subsidized program). Ms. Reed attended a meeting at the IU about a free program for the US Tennis Association to give the school equipment and a free K-8 lesson plan unit on tennis (without needing a tennis court). Lastly, we need to renew the i-Ready diagnostic and teacher toolbox.

Ms. Wash (Carbondale Area) noted that her son was too young for the art club this year and was wondering if there would be options for younger students next year. Ms. Reed stated the club this year was run by Ms. Timlin and that's separate from the art program, but she did talk to the IU about extending some of the classes to the younger grades. Ms. Wood stated that she talked with Ms. Timlin was already planning on adjusting the art club to include 3rd graders next year. Ms. Wood also stated there are some plans for a garden club year-round next year as well.

● May Warrior Night - last one of the year this week. 8th grade is doing the Holocaust presentation.

The motion was made by Felicity and seconded by Melissa to approve the Curriculum Report as presented by Ms. Reed.

__4___Yes _____No _____Abstain ___1__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

Ryan Swartzfager (Carbondale Area) - asked if there were any plans to trim the trees and bushes hanging over the fences since kids are playing outside more with the nicer weather. Mr. Casey said this has not been discussed yet, some tree removal happened in the colder weather due to ice causing them to hang too low.

Felicia Miller (Carbondale Area) - asked about pamphlets for advertisement. She works for a coffee shop in Scranton and is willing to distribute flyers there.

Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, June 15th, 2026 @ 6:00p.m. Virtually and in person at 777 Main St., Simpson, PA .

Adjournment: called at __7:13___ p.m. ,Felicity seconded by Jillian :

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