

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

Per Board Operating Guideline 006.2, this meeting and other School Board meetings are audio recorded.

B. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 22, 2026 meeting minutes. The Chair announced that the motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Comment

- Pam Kerr, New Hope Resident, expressed appreciation for the lion sculpture project and anticipation of the unveiling planned for Thursday, October 22.
- Mel Band, Solebury Township Resident, questioned the cost-effectiveness of spending up to \$100,000 for permanent netting near the stadium end zones, given the limited portion of the 400-meter track it would protect. Presented concerns about runners sharing the track with field sports and recommended scheduling changes, use of Fields 11 and 12, later practices, and occasional evening games to reduce overlap. Raised concerns about ineffective netting at the football practice field goalpost and potential risks to pedestrians using the adjacent pathway. Requested an explanation from the superintendent regarding the proposed stadium expenditure and the practice field concern.
- Administration stated that the netting option remains under review and that additional research is needed before determining whether it is the most cost-effective approach.
- A preliminary equipment life expectancy of approximately 10 or more years was discussed for the netting; a confirmed product-specific estimate was not available.

D. Old Business

1. Update on Athletics

- Season Updates:
 - Fall sports are nearing completion, with most teams expected to participate in postseason competitions.
 - Winter sports registration is open for Middle School and High School students.
- Free Athletic Physicals:
 - The third and final free athletic physical clinic for the school year is planned for October 28 at 8:00 AM in the High School training room, for winter and spring athletes.
- Signs and yellow painted markings now designate the stadium walkway behind the team benches as a pass-through-only area to help manage spectators.
- A monitor is planned for the Hope & Sole Café so concession volunteers can view indoor athletic events. A volleyball parent has also offered a refrigerator to replace the failed unit.

2. Update on Facilities and Grounds

- Scott Radaszkiewicz shared George Arslanian's report in his absence.
- Grounds work continues in support of fall sports, followed by winter preparations.
- Annual preventative maintenance on all boilers and generators is complete. No issues were identified.

3. Update on FCA Projects 2026

FCA and Lions Legacy project updates were presented together and are organized below by project.

- **Transportation Fuel Tank:** Delivery of the replacement tank for the transportation garage is scheduled for the second week of November.
- **Fire Alarm Upgrades:** Main campus alarm-panel replacements are scheduled for the second week of November. Existing detection and alarm devices are compatible with the replacement panels.
 - The complete LES fire alarm system replacement is scheduled for winter break between Christmas and New Year's, with the system to be operational when school resumes.
- **UES HVAC:** Work remains on hold pending a grant decision because projects already underway would not be eligible for the funding.
 - The grant request includes the full approximately \$900,000 project rather than only six units. A larger award could allow the district to revisit the scope and complete the entire project.
 - Administration hopes to receive a grant decision before the new year month was unclear.
- **Stadium Field House:** Replacement railings are installed on one side. Installation on the second side is underway.
 - An electrical wire, sewage pump, and float equipment have been replaced. The system is operating, but the cause of the failure remains undetermined. Repair costs are not yet available.
 - The existing alarm sounded during the summer but was not promptly recognized. Administration confirmed that staff will manually check the system as part of their rounds throughout the year.
 - Administration will investigate a wireless notification option for the pump alarms and monitor the repairs over the next month or two.
 - New concession-area venting has improved circulation and reduced heat. Staff will monitor conditions during warmer weather. After summer activities end, the plan is to shut down heat-producing equipment while maintaining ventilation. Winter heat will remain set at 50°F to protect plumbing.

4. Update Lions Legacy 2026

- **Lion Sculpture:** The unveiling is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 PM, before the Board meeting, at the sculpture's campus location.
- **Middle School STEAM Lab:** The ribbon cutting is scheduled for November 10. Invitations will be distributed, and tours may also be arranged through Scott Radaszkiewicz.
- **LES Playground:** The fundraising campaign has closed, but additional donations will still be accepted before equipment is ordered. Approximately \$40,000–\$45,000 was raised, in addition to the \$50,000 district allocation, for approximately \$90,000–\$95,000 in total funding. Final totals will be confirmed.
 - Equipment selection will resume when Ms. Washington returns. Available funding is expected to cover the original proposal and potentially additional pieces. Installation is most likely in spring 2027, depending on delivery and ground conditions.
- **High School Theater Sound and Lighting:** Administration is reviewing pricing with staff and hopes to bring an update to the committee in November.

E. New Business

1. Facilities Committee Membership Application

- The committee reviewed Ninamarie Vlahovic's application to return to the Facilities Advisory Committee following her prior resignation. Membership requires Board approval before she may vote.
- **Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to recommend Ninamarie Vlahovic's appointment to the Facilities Advisory Committee for Board consideration on October 22. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Testing for Lead in Water

- Scott Radaszkiewicz corrected the September report that main campus water had not been tested for lead. Lead testing was completed in November 2025 as part of broader water testing following concerns raised after a High School sewer backup.
 - Administration explained that the drinking water and sewer systems are separate and that the broader testing was conducted as a precaution.
- **2025 Results and 2026 Proposal:** Administration presented the 2025 lead-testing results and recommended against repeating the testing this year. The attached Element Environmental Solutions proposal estimates \$2,950 for up to 35 samples and one follow-up visit if needed; the discussion rounded this amount to approximately \$3,000.
 - Administration reported that the 2025 results did not require corrective action and cited the public water supply and district filtration systems in support of its recommendation.
 - Administration stated that the district may publicly discuss a decision not to conduct annual lead testing. Members discussed a possible multiyear testing cycle, but no schedule or formal vote was recorded.
- **Committee Discussion and Follow-Up:** Members discussed comparing Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority reports with district results, including differences between incoming water and water sampled at drinking outlets.
 - Administration explained that the district samples drinking outlets. Members suggested reviewing incoming-water data to help evaluate filtration and future testing needs.
 - Additional water-quality results from the 2025 testing and LES water-testing reports will be provided to Mr. McDonald. Administration stated that LES results are received monthly.

3. High School and Middle School Cafeteria Update

- Administration presented a preliminary \$25,000 refresh using existing budget funds, including painting, district branding and signage, and two digital menu displays. District staff and in-house printing would be used where practical, with some painting by an outside contractor.
- The packet lists a prior quote of \$113,415 for graphics and painting. The proposed refresh is one part of a broader food-service improvement effort addressing meal quality, participation, and financial performance.
- Members questioned whether appearance changes would do anything towards an increase in lunch participation and recommended reviewing the full plan before prioritizing expenditures. Suggested considerations included comfortable furniture, flexible use during Lunch and Learn, student surveys, and nutrition in support of athletics.
- Reported lunch participation was approximately 47% at the elementary level and 31% for Middle School and High School combined. Members requested separate secondary-school figures and historical comparisons.

- Further discussion was deferred pending Finance Committee review of the broader plan and available funding, along with curriculum input on Lunch and Learn and Middle School requirements. No project approval vote was recorded.

4. Tour Bus Parking on Campus for a Fee

- Scott Radaszkiewicz reported a preliminary inquiry about partnering with New Hope tourism representatives to provide paid parking for empty tour buses after passengers are dropped off downtown.
- The proposed location is the employee parking area at the transportation garage, on Saturdays and Sundays, with access through Lions Way. Administration estimated space for approximately five to eight buses and described the location as separate from primary campus activities and existing parking operations.
- ParkMobile could be used to collect payments. Fees of \$50–\$100 per bus were discussed as examples; no rate established at this time.
- Discussion included written parking rules and directions, insurance coverage, borough signage and parking coordination, and whether revenue could support the same purposes as existing ParkMobile funds. Members also raised questions about enforcement of current paid parking.
- The committee supported continued exploration. Administration will develop additional details with borough/tourism representatives and return to the committee. No formal motion was required or taken.

F. Adjournment

- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.