

operations. The wish is for a safe, happy and success-filled school year for all children, faculty and staff.

The State Budget Impasse continues and creates numerous problems by the day for all state-related functions, not the least of which is the function of our Educational Institutions. The lack of funding has required HGMICS to secure a larger line of credit with a local financial institution in order to meet financial obligations until state funding is secured and cash once again is made available. Each Board Member has been contacted in the last week to notify everyone regarding the circumstances and receive their input on how to proceed. A resolution will be presented to the Board of Directors later in this meeting to ratify that action.

Meanwhile, good things continue to happen at HGMICS including a hugely successful Grandparents/Special Friends Night on September 8th that drew 310 special guests. Thank you to the Staff and Board Members who contributed to the success of that program.

Academic undertakings in the new school year include the rollout of a new curriculum, Classroom Diagnostic Testing and a continued emphasis on family and student engagement opportunities.

Planning for the Annual Golf Tournament continues and we ask for the Board of Director's support with the Tournament to be held on Sunday, October 12th at Pine Hills Country Club.

August 2025 Financial Report:

Motion: Approve the August 2025 Financial Report.

The motion was made by Al Dorunda and seconded by Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen. All Trustees voted Yes with 11 Trustees present.

HGMICS Parent and Family Engagement Schoolwide Title I Policy:

Motion: Approve the Family Engagement Schoolwide Title I Policy.

The motion was made by Judy Price and seconded by Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen. All Trustees voted Yes with 11 Trustees present.

HGMICS September 2025 Personnel Activity Report:

Motion: Approve the September 2025 Personnel Activity Report as submitted.

The motion was made by Sam Ceccacci and seconded by Judy Price. All Trustees voted Yes with 11 Trustees present.

Annual Review of HGMICS Nondiscrimination of Qualified Students with Disabilities Policy:

Motion: Approve the Annual Review of HGMICS Nondiscrimination of Qualified Students with Disabilities Policy as submitted.

The motion was made by Mike Barbetti and seconded by Dr. Fran Langan.

All Trustees voted Yes with 11 Trustees present.

Board Resolution:

Motion: To formally record and reaffirm the approval of \$1,000,000 line of credit to HGMICS from Peoples Security Bank and Trust as set forth in the Board resolution approved electronically on September 4, 2025.

The motion was made by Judy Price and seconded by Al Dorunda.

All Trustees voted Yes with 11 Trustees present.

Administrative Updates:

CEO Update – Joe Ross

School Reopening

On August 26, 2025, HGMICS reopened for the 2025–2026 school year, welcoming back 396 students. Summer work included facility improvements, IT upgrades, and preparation of instructional programs.

A comprehensive pre-service program was conducted for instructional staff under the direction of Ms. TreeAnne McEnery, Mrs. Cathy Opshinsky, and Mrs. Alycia Booth. New staff members were onboarded efficiently, with significant support provided by Mrs. Renee Dougherty. Renovation and IT upgrade projects were coordinated by Mr. Dennis Gavin and Mr. Matt Snyder. Mrs. Patty Mickavicz oversaw the submission of all PDE-required reports and the preparation of the food service program.

Dean Booth introduced *PowerSchool* as the school’s discipline management system. This platform will support tracking of positive behaviors, reinforce STAR expectations, and provide opportunities for greater family engagement.

On August 21, 2025, the school hosted Back-to-School Night in conjunction with the Parent Forum Ice Cream Social. The event was well-attended and continues to serve as an effective way to welcome new and returning families.

State Budget Impasse

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has not yet passed a budget, creating a significant disruption to cash flow and reserves. No redirection payments have been received since June 2025.

Mr. John Marsico conducted a full expenditure review and developed a financial plan to ensure payroll and expenditures are met during this period. As part of this plan:

- A \$1,000,000 line of credit was requested from Peoples Security Bank.
- The Board of Trustees approved the resolution on September 4, 2025.
- The line of credit closed on September 5, 2025, at the national prime rate.

The current plan enables the school to meet the September 19 payroll without accessing the line of credit. Should the budget impasse continue, the school has the capacity to draw on the facility to cover obligations until redirection payments resume.

Audit

The annual audit commenced earlier than in prior years. Mr. Marsico initiated work with Brian Kelly & Associates in early August. The process has progressed smoothly, and a draft audit will soon be presented to the Board. Preliminary indications suggest another clean audit with no findings.

Grandparents/Special Friends Day

On September 8, 2025, HGMICS hosted Grandparents/Special Friends Day. The event included both elementary and middle school programs and drew 310 registered guests.

The program featured remarks from the CEO, Principal McEnery, and Trustee Suzanne Ambrogio-Jaffe. Instructional staff, along with Trustees Suzanne Ambrogio-Jaffe and Judy Price, played active roles in the event. Planning and coordination were led by Deana Bonacci, with on-site operations managed by Trish Williams and Diane Carey.

Feedback from attendees was highly positive. This program will be continued annually, with adjustments to be discussed by the Development Committee.

Principal Update - TreeAnne McEnery

The first month of school is off to a wonderful start! Students have settled into routines quickly, and the energy in our building reflects both excitement for learning and the commitment of our faculty and staff to providing an excellent educational experience.

One major focus this fall has been the rollout of our new ELA curriculum. The materials are rich with content and instructional resources, and teachers are thoughtfully navigating this first year of implementation by identifying the core competencies that will ensure a strong foundation for

all learners. While we are still discerning how best to pace and prioritize the many tools available, it is encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which both students and staff are engaging with this resource.

We also successfully administered Classroom Diagnostic Testing (CDTs) to students in grades 3–8. These assessments provide us with a clear picture of student strengths and needs, helping us make informed instructional decisions as we move further into the year.

Family engagement continues to be a priority, and we recently held our first Parent Forum meeting of the year. Plans are already underway for a community event to support the development of our outdoor classroom space and pollinator garden—an initiative that reflects our commitment to creating engaging, hands-on learning environments for all students.

Our STEAM program remains a point of pride, with over 60 students scoring in the 90th percentile or above. We are currently exploring the possibility of launching an advanced program for students performing in the 98th percentile or higher, as we continue to challenge and nurture our most advanced learners.

Student engagement opportunities have also been rich this month. Intermediate, Upper, and Senior Pod students participated in Student Assistance Program (SAP) presentations led by IU19 representatives and community agency partners, ensuring they are aware of the many supports available to them. Younger students in grades K–6 attended the NED’s Resiliency Assembly on September 15, which reinforced important lessons about perseverance and character. In addition, Safe2Say trainings were provided by our Dean of Students, emphasizing student empowerment and school safety. Looking ahead, nursing students from the University of Scranton will be on campus September 25 and 30 to provide health-related supports and deliver engaging educational activities.

Professional growth for staff has also been a major focus this month. All new teachers participated in a comprehensive New Employee Orientation, and those pursuing Instructional II certification have officially begun their Induction Program, including coursework at NEIU19.

The professionalism and passion demonstrated by our instructional team during this busy start to the school year have been extraordinary. It is truly inspiring to see such dedication and talent concentrated in one building, and I am confident this level of commitment will make this year one of our strongest yet.

Director of Operations Update – Patty Mickavicz

Zak Zavada Photography was on campus for school pictures September 10th-12th. Student photos will be available to order through Mr. Zavada by September 19th. In addition, the school will use the digital photos to update Sycamore for student identification purposes.

Family Verification Sheets were sent home on the first day of school. These sheets provide an overview of each family’s demographic information in Sycamore. Families are asked to review the information, note any changes if needed, and return the form with a parent/guardian signature. The forms are especially important for identifying updates such as address changes, medical information, emergency/authorized pickup contacts, and medical alerts.

Food Service

Freezy Friday - Freezy Friday continues for the 2025–26 school year. At the end of their lunch period, students are served a frozen treat at no cost to families every Friday. All items are in alignment with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) nutrition standards. This initiative provides students with a fun, nutritious way to close out the week.

Food Service Staffing - At the end of last school year, one of our part-time food service assistants resigned. The school posted the vacancy to families and the East Mountain community and received strong interest from prospective candidates.

We are pleased to report that a new food service assistant has been secured and will begin on September 15th. With this addition, the Food Service Department will be fully staffed and well-positioned to meet the needs of our students and school community.

August 2025 Enrollment by District

School District	Regular	SPED	Enrollment	SD %
Abington Heights	13	5	18	4.58%
Dunmore*	7	4	11	2.80%
Lackawanna Trail	3	0	3	0.76%
Lakeland	1	0	1	0.25%
Mid Valley*	5	0	5	1.27%
North Pocono*	3	1	4	1.02%
Old Forge*	2	1	3	0.76%
Pittston Area	2	1	3	0.76%
Riverside	4	1	5	1.27%
Scranton*	260	71	331	84.22%
Tunkhannock	2	0	2	0.51%
Valley View	4	1	5	1.27%
Wyoming Area	2	0	2	0.51%
Total	308	85	393	100%

**Redirection*

2025-26 rates based on PDE-363s received by PDE

School District	2025-26 Nonspecial Education Expenditure per ADM For all charter schools	2025-26 Special Education Expenditure per ADM For all brick and mortar CSs
Lakeland SD	\$13,455.64	\$36,329.05
Pittston Area SD	\$12,891.29	\$28,101.37
Tunkhannock Area SD	\$18,783.98	\$46,598.16
Wyoming Area SD	\$14,680.26	\$32,972.84

Submission of form PDE-363, Funding for Charter Schools, is now annually required by all school districts. Pursuant to section 1725-A(a)(7), each school district must submit a PDE-363 for the current school year to PDE **by November 1**.

PIMS

September PIMS Data Collections Complete

- Student Updates – ensuring current student demographics and enrollments are accurate.
- Staff Updates – maintaining updated records of school staff assignments.
- Teacher–Student Linkages – documenting instructional relationships between teachers and students, supporting accurate accountability reporting.

These submissions are essential for state/federal compliance, accurate enrollment counts, staffing records, and teacher effectiveness measures.

Coming up is the October 1 Snapshot (C1 Collection). This is one of the most critical PIMS data submissions of the year. The October 1st snapshot establishes the official district enrollment and the Special Education Child Count.

These figures directly impact:

- State & federal funding allocations (Basic Education Subsidy, Special Education, Title programs).
- Compliance with federal reporting requirements under IDEA.
- Accountability reporting for student groups and demographics.

Accuracy in this submission is essential, as it sets the baseline numbers for the entire school year.

Director of Human Resources and Enrollment – Renee Dougherty

Enrollment

Current enrollment stands at 393 students, which is three below our projected target of 396 for the 2025–26 school year. The shortfall is primarily due to several 7th-grade students withdrawing just before the start of the year. At the higher grade levels, the waitlist is smaller, and families tend to be less likely to change schools at this stage.

Human Resources

All eight new faculty and staff members have transitioned smoothly into their roles and are doing very well.

Development

Planning for our annual golf tournament is well underway. Information packets have been distributed to all families, as well as to past sponsors and golfers. The 50/50 raffle will once again be featured, with the drawing to take place during the tournament.

New Business:

There was no New Business at this time.

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: October 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.