

Pennsylvania FFA Association

Board of Directors Meeting

March 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Sarah Firestone at 1:00 PM and the State Officer Team conducted opening ceremonies. In attendance were: Melanie Berndtson, Ron Frederick, Chloe Bomgardner, Kevin Curry, Brandon Witmer, Katie Ranck, Neil Fellenbaum, Jodi Hoover, Natalie Barkley, Kelly Bier, Sarah Sparks, McKayla Plewe, Anthony Honeycutt, Alex Barzydlo, Curt Turner, Sarah Firestone, Sally Bollinger, Alexis Butler, Samuel Parks, Jonathan Bradshaw, Jaylene Everhart, Leah Flinchbaugh, and Michael Brammer.

Bradshaw/Butler moved to accept the minutes presented from the December 2025 meeting. Motion passed. Fellenbaum/Barzydlo moved to concur. Motion passed.

Reports of Officers/Staff

State Officer Team Report

Flinchbaugh presented the report.

Executive Director & Financial Reports

Brammer presented the financial report. The report will be filed for audit.

Standing Committees

CDE/LDE Committee

Barzydlo presented the report. *The committee recommends a policy change to VI.k. Participation at the National Convention in CDEs not held in Pennsylvania. Honeycutt/Bomgardner move to accept. Motion passes. Flinchbaugh/Bradshaw move to concur. Motion passes. **This policy change will be brought back to the May board meeting for a second vote and official policy change.***

SAE Committee

Witmer presented the report. Please email the committee chair (Sherisa Nailor) with any feedback/questions/comments regarding the policy for review. *The Committee made a motion to approve the Definitions of STAR Categories. There is an implied second. Motion passes. Everhart/Bollinger move to concur. Motion passes.*

Reports of Special Committees

Human Resources

Hoover presented the report. The adult board will meet Sunday, March 23rd at 7pm to approve an updated Paid Time Off Policy.

Leadership Conference Review

Ranck presented the report. Recommendation #1 was amended to add “iii. Exceptions can be requested prior to the registration deadline to the executive director for specific circumstances, such as newly chartered chapters.”

Recess called at 3:03. Meeting called back to order at 3:13.

(1) Barzydlo/Ranck moved to divide the question - so we will consider each recommendation separately. Motion passes. Everhart/Bradshaw move to concur. Motion passes.

(2) Motion passes 8/2 to approve recommendation #1. Bollinger/Flinchbaugh move to concur. Motion passes 4/3.

(3) Motion passes to approve recommendation #2. Bollinger/Everhart move to concur. Motion passes 4/3.

Recommendation #3 will be returned to the committee and will be brought back to vote at the May board meeting.

Policy Manual Revision Committee

Plewe presented the report.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee

Fellenbaum shared an update.

National Chapter Award Committee

Berndtson shared an update. There will be a National FFA staff member on a call for 30 min at the beginning of SLLC’s professional development to discuss the National Chapter Award.

Middle School Programming Committee

Brammer presented the report. JAMS conference being held April 11, 2026 at Cumberland Valley HS.

Unfinished Business

New Policy Change

*Flinchbaugh/Bradshaw moved to amend the policy manual by striking out section 5 (V). A. 3. Other Items to be Scored. Motion passes. Fellenbaum/Firestone moved to concur. Motion passes. **This is the second vote. Now POLICY.***

New Business

Ag Ed InService Report

Ranck presented the report.

Convention & Activities Week Preview

Brammer shared an update. Registration will go live April 7 and close on May 7.

Board Elections in May

Brammer shared an update. Terms ending in June 2026: Hoover 2nd term, Ranck 1st term, Barzydlo 1st term.

Budget Committee Selection

Hoover shared an update. Hoover, Honeycutt, and Fellenbaum will serve on the Finance/Budget Committee.

Management Committee Meeting

Brammer presented a report describing who serves on this committee. They will meet to interview candidates for Executive Director.

Good of the Order

Regional Coordinators

Barkley, Wallace, and Frederick provided an update on their respective regions. South Central Region speaking is April 29th. Western Region speaking is April 21st. Eastern Region speaking is April 9th, Regional CDEs on April 14th. Frederick recommends looking at regional membership numbers to balance state public speaking representation. Northern Region speaking is April 21st.

PA Dept of Education

Plewe shared an update.

Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence

Plewe shared an update. Meeting scheduled for April 2.

SAE Specialist

No report was presented.

PAAE

Bier presented a report.

PA FFA Foundation

Sparks presented a report. \$32,000 was awarded in Living to Serve Grants. \$12,000 was awarded to FFA Chapters for work at the PA Farm Show.

FFA Alumni

A written report was provided.

Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report

Curry shared a report. PSU Ag Ed is currently planning their needs assessment, hoping to be released late Spring. There will be listening sessions at each of the Regional PAAE meetings.

Announcements

Golden Owl Awards were presented.

Eastern Region - Doug Masser - Pequea Valley

Northern Region - Curtis Swineford - Selinsgrove

South Central Region - Kelly Kuhn - New Oxford

Western Region - Jessica Marron - Penns Manor

Future Board Meetings: 2026

May 5, (Country Inn & Suites - State College)

June 10 & 11, (PSU - Convention & Activities Week)

Other Events:

- a) SLLC - March 22-24, 2026
- b) SOCS at PAAE Regional Meetings
- c) State Convention & Activities Week - June 9-11, 2026

Closing Ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Flinchbaugh
FFA State Secretary

Mike Brammer
Executive Director