Pennsylvania
Energy Development Authority

Minutes of Special Board Meeting | Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.
via Microsoft® Teams online

Board Members/Designees Present

Jessica Shirley, DEP Secretary..... Board Chair
Romulo L. Diaz, Jr..... Board Treasurer
Designee Adam Walters.....Board Secretary (for Secretary Rick Siger, DCED)
Designee Kimberly Barrow.....(for Chair Stephen DeFrank, PUC)
Designee Heidi Secord..... (for Secretary Russell C. Redding, Agriculture)
Designee Paul Wentzel……..... (for Secretary Wendy Spicher, BAS)
Designee Matt Osenbach.....……..... (for Senator Gene Yaw)
Designee Stephon Petro ……..... (for Representative Elizabeth Fiedler)
Designee Glendon King……. (for Representative Joshua Kail)
Laureen M. Boles ..... Board Member
Sarah Hetznecker-Sheehan..... Board Member
Bernie M. Lynch……..... Board Member

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

Christine Knapp…..…….....Director, EPO
Abbey Cadden……..... Executive Director, PEDA
William Sapon…… ..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Alayna Schmeider…… ..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Greg Smith ..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Vijay Teru..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Robert F. Teplitz ..... Special Counsel
Chloe Wilson .....Administrative Officer, EPO

Other Attendees

Dan Hagan…….....Marcellus Shale Coalition

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jessica Shirley at 9:02 a.m. Abbey Cadden conducted the roll call. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Shirley requested consideration of the meeting minutes from both the executive session and public meeting held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Motion: Paul Wentzel moved to adopt the meeting minutes from the executive session and the public meeting, with Heidi Secord seconding the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LOAN APPLICATION (ACTION)

Chair Shirley stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the first application submitted through PEDA's Solar for Schools Loan Program. PEDA previously received a $1.5 million grant

from The Heinz Endowments to support solar energy projects in school districts located in coal, disadvantaged, or low-income communities in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Heinz-funded pilot phase of the Solar for Schools Loan Program enables PEDA to offer loans while securing funding for a permanent statewide program through the pending bond issuance.

Before presenting the loan application, Cadden clarified the distinction between DCED's Solar for Schools Grant Program and PEDA's Solar for Schools Loan Program. DCED administers the grant program, while PEDA offers a complementary loan to help schools complete project financing. The board is only responsible for considering the loan component.

The Carlynton School District applied for a rooftop solar project at its Junior–Senior High School. The $1.4 million project includes a $1.05 million, 0-percent interest loan request. The system would offset about 84 percent of annual electricity use and save roughly $54,000 per year. With tax credits, incentives, and an initial $106,000 investment from the district, projected 30-year net savings exceed $1.9 million. Romy Diaz raised a question about the condition of the facility and the roof, given the long financing term. Smith stated that the school district has already procured a contractor who assessed the roof and confirmed it is suitable for the project. The district's application indicates it is ready to proceed. Stephon Petro added that most modern school roof installations use ballasted mounts, which can be moved easily for maintenance and reduce long-term roof impact.

Chair Shirley asked the Board to consider the following motion:

> *The PEDA board of directors approves a loan under the pilot phase of the Solar for Schools Loan Program to Carlynton School District in Robinson Township, Allegheny County. The loan shall be for an amount up to $1,050,000 to finance a district-owned rooftop solar photovoltaic system at the Carlynton Junior-Senior High School. The terms of the loan shall be consistent with program guidelines and state law. The board authorizes and directs PEDA's chair and staff to send a commitment letter to the district, execute a loan agreement and promissory note with the district, and take all other steps necessary to effectuate the loan.*

Motion: Petro moved, with Laureen Boles seconding the motion. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor, 2 against, and 0 abstentions. Glendon King and Matt Osenbach voted nay.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

NEXT QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.