

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

MELANIE HUDSON, JAMES SMITH,
GREGORY MINARCHICK, TAHIRA
WASHINGTON, NICHOLAS ZULLO, AND
JOSEPH YURCHO, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs

v.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION,

Defendant

CIVIL DIVISION

CLASS ACTION

Case No. 2025-CV-02411

Hon. Andrew H. Dowling

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**ORDER GRANTING FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2026, a Preliminary Approval Order was entered by the Court preliminarily approving the proposed Settlement pursuant to the terms of the Parties' Settlement Agreement, and directing that Notice be given to the Settlement Class.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the notice requirements set forth in the Settlement Agreement and in the Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Class was notified of the terms of the proposed Settlement, of the right of members of the Settlement Class to object or opt-out, and of the right of members of the Settlement Class to be heard at a Final Approval Hearing to determine, *inter alia*: (1) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate for the release of the claims contemplated by the Settlement Agreement; and (2) whether the Final Approval Order and Judgment should be entered dismissing this Action with prejudice.

WHEREAS, a Final Approval Hearing was held on July 27, 2026. Settlement Class Members were notified of their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing in support of

or in opposition to the proposed Settlement, the award of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses to Class Counsel, and requested Service Awards to Class Representatives and Unnamed Plaintiffs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Court having heard the presentation of Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant, having reviewed all of the submissions presented with respect to the proposed Settlement, having determined that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, having considered the application for attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs made by Class Counsel and the application for Service Awards to the Class Representatives and Unnamed Plaintiffs, and having reviewed the materials in support thereof, and good cause appearing,

THIS COURT FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The capitalized terms used in this Final Approval Order shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement except as may otherwise be ordered.
2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over all claims raised therein and all parties thereto, including the Settlement Class.
3. The Court hereby approves the Settlement, including the plans for implementation and distribution of the Settlement Benefits, and finds that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class Members, within the authority of the Parties and the result of extensive arm's-length negotiations. The Parties shall effectuate the Settlement Agreement in accordance with its terms. The Settlement Agreement and every term and provision thereof shall be deemed incorporated herein as if explicitly set forth and shall have the full force of an Order of this Court.

4. There are no objections to, and 26 opt-outs from, the Settlement. Those Settlement Class Members who timely and properly opted out from the Settlement are identified in **Exhibit 1** to this order.

5. The Settlement Class, which will be bound by this Final Approval Order, shall include all members of the Settlement Class who did not submit timely and valid requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class.

6. For purposes of the Settlement and this Final Approval Order, the Court hereby:

a. certifies the following Settlement Class pursuant to Pa. R. Civ. P. 1702: All natural persons in the United States whose Private Information was potentially compromised as a result of the Data Incident, including those who were sent a notification from Defendant of the Data Incident. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (a) all persons who are governing board members of the Defendant; (b) governmental entities; and (c) the Court and any Judge(s) presiding over this matter, the Court's immediate family, and Court staff.

b. appoints Plaintiffs Melanie Hudson, James Smith, Gregory Minarchick, Tahira Washington, Nicholas Zullo, and Joseph Yurcho, for settlement purposes only, as the representatives of the Settlement Class. The Court finds that the Class Representatives are similarly situated to absent Settlement Class Members and are typical of the Settlement Class, and, therefore, will be adequate Class Representatives.

c. appoints Gerald D. Wells III of Lynch Carpenter and Bart D. Cohen of Bailey Glasser LLP as Class Counsel; and

d. finds that the dissemination of Notice to Settlement Class Members: (1) was implemented in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order; (2)

constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (3) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Class Members of (a) a description of the material terms of the Settlement; (b) how to submit a Claim Form; (c) the Claim Form Deadline; (d) the last day of the Opt-Out Period for individuals in the Settlement Class to opt-out of the Settlement Class; (e) the deadline for Settlement Class Members to object to the Settlement and/or Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs and Service Awards; (f) the Final Approval Hearing date; and (g) the Settlement Website address at which Settlement Class members may access the Settlement Agreement and other related documents and information; (4) constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all natural persons entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (5) satisfied the requirements of Pa. R. Civ. P. 1714, the Constitution of the United States (including the Due Process Clause), and all other applicable laws and rules.

7. All persons who have not made their objections to the Settlement in the manner provided in the Settlement Agreement are deemed to have waived any objections by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise.

8. Within the time periods set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Benefits provided for by the Settlement Agreement shall be paid to the Settlement Class Members who have submitted valid Claim Forms, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement.

9. Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties who did not validly and timely opt-out shall, by operation of this Final Approval Order, have fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished and discharged the Released Parties from all claims that were or could have been asserted in this Action.

10. All Settlement Class Members who did not validly and timely opt-out are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from filing, commencing, prosecuting, maintaining, intervening in, participating in, conducting or continuing, either directly or in any other capacity, any action or proceeding in any court, agency, arbitration, tribunal or jurisdiction, asserting any claims against the Released Parties pursuant to the Settlement Agreement.

11. The terms of the Settlement Agreement and this Final Approval Order shall have maximum *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, and all other preclusive effect in any and all claims for relief, causes of action, suits, petitions, demands in law or equity, or any allegations of liability, damages, debts, contracts, agreements, obligations, promises, attorneys' fees, costs, interest or expenses which were or could have been asserted in this Action or in any third-party action.

12. The Final Approval Order, the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement which it reflects, and all acts, statements, documents, or proceedings relating to the Settlement are not, and shall not be construed as, or used as an admission by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability on the part of Defendant or of the validity or certifiability for litigation of any claims.

13. The Court finds that Service Awards of \$1,500 for the Class Representatives, and \$500 for the Unnamed Plaintiffs are fair and reasonable. These amounts are to be paid in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

14. The Court hereby approves an award of attorneys' fees and expenses in an amount of \$833,333.33 (of which \$28,131.03 represents litigation costs and expenses). These amounts are to be paid in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds these amounts to be fair and reasonable pursuant to the non-exclusive factors set

forth in Pa. R. Civ. P. 1716 to determine a reasonable fee in a class action. Specifically, the Court finds:

a. Class Counsel and other attorneys expended significant time and resources in the prosecution of this case, warranting a contingency fee payment.

b. Class Counsel and other attorneys are experienced in the fields of class actions and data breach cases and possessed the experience, skills, and reputations to achieve the results secured.

c. This Settlement reflects a significant monetary recovery for the Settlement Class which could not have occurred without the diligence and hard work of Class Counsel and is an excellent result.

d. This was a novel and complex case involving data breach claims and law.

e. Class Counsel undertook the significant risk of no recovery and had to forego other lucrative work to prosecute this case on behalf of the Settlement Class.

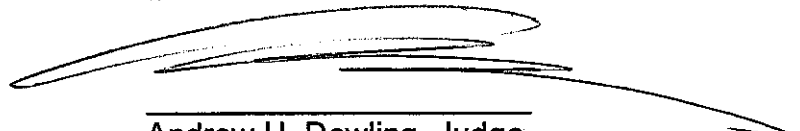
15. There were no objections to the Settlement.

16. The above-captioned Action is hereby dismissed against Defendant in its entirety, with prejudice. Except as otherwise provided in this Final Approval Order, the parties shall bear their own costs and attorneys' fees. Without affecting the finality of the

Judgment entered, the Court reserves jurisdiction over the implementation of the Settlement, including enforcement and administration of the Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED this th 27 day of July, 2026.

BY THE COURT:



Andrew H. Dowling, Judge

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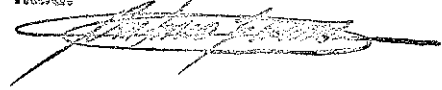
The Honorable Andrew H. Dowling
Sara Shaffer, Deputy Court Administrator (Civil)
Benjamin F. Johns, Esquire & Samantha E. Holbrook, Esquire, SHUB JOHNS & HOLBROOK LLC, Four Tower Bridge, 200 Barr Harbor Drive, Suite 400, Conshohocken, PA 19428 (*Counsel for Plaintiff Melanie Hudson*)
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JUL 28 2026

DATE:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original filed.



DAUPHIN COUNTY PROTHONOTARY

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600 Superior Avenue, East, Suite 2100, Cleveland, OH 44114 (*Attorneys for
Defendant Pennsylvania State Education Association*)

EXHIBIT 1

ClaimNumber	FirstName	MiddleName	LastName
PSE000500000	GERALD		MCDONALD
PSE000500001	DEBRA	A.	MCDONALD
PSE000500002	GORDON	A.	PLATE
PSE000500003	LINDA	JO	DAVID
PSE000500004	KEVIN		SIMMONS
PSE000500005	BETH		SIMMONS
PSE000500006	ELAINE	M.	VENUTI
PSE000500007	KAREN		MARAVICH
PSE000500008	PARASKEVE	E.	CHARKALIS
PSE000500009	MICHELLE	M.	BRENNER
PSE000500010	CONNIE		MEYER
PSE000500011	SUZANNE		LE LAN
PSE000500012	PATRICIA	J.	PINTO- PYRAH
PSE000500013	CARL	A.	HOOK
PSE000500014	BARBARA		REGENSBURG
PSE000500015	VIRGINIA	P.	D'ANTONIO
PSE000500016	HOWARD		LYON
PSE000500017	MARIAN	L.	EIDE
PSE000500018	JUDY		KNABY
PSE000500019	MARCELLA	S.	BINKOWSKI
PSE000500020	BRADLEY		MAY
PSE000500021	COURTNEY		CLOSE
PSE000500022	WILLIAM		MILLER
PSE000500023	DENNIS		ODROSKY
PSE000500024	JODY		ODROSKY
PSE000500025	CAROL	R.	DEVENZIO