

February 26, 2024

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport, PA 19533-8631

MINUTES

February 26, 2024

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members Present: Franklin M. Ammarell, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Daniel B. Weyandt

Members Absent: Paul L. Bendigo

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Toni Crater, Stephanie Deibler, Jennifer Gabryluk, Kristin Holst, Diane Kaag, Russell Poper, Jacqueline Rivas, Michael Sobczak, Kristen Wallace

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 22, 2024, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moll reported that the Board met in executive session on February 19, 2024, following the Committee meetings, for personnel matters, and on February 26, 2024, prior to the Board meeting, for personnel matters.

1.5 RECOGNITION

The Board was pleased to recognize Isabella Vera, freshman, for representing SV with her entry in the Berks County Intermediate Unit's 7th Annual Student Artwork Showcase. Mrs. Crater congratulated Isabella and presented her with a copy of her photo entry and the description of what the photograph meant to her.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll thanked the faculty, staff and board members for their commitment to education and athletics. The district has had many great achievements this year with many more to come.

2.2 SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash*

No report.

2.3 BERKS COUNTY I.U. BOARD – *Linda R. Lash*

Mrs. Lash reported that the BCIU will host the Annie Sullivan Award on April 3 at 5 p.m. The BCIU also hosted the 25th Annual Board Presidents' and Superintendents' Workshop on January 25. SV alumni Dr. Travis Berger, Dean of the College of Business, Communications, and Leadership, Alvernia University, was the guest speaker. The February IU NewsLink had a great article on the *Pathway to Adult Living (PAL) Program*, which is designed as a comprehensive transition-to-adult-life initiative catering to students aged 18 through 22. The program's main goal is to equip participants with the skills needed for a seamless transition from the school environment to adult life. The *Berks County School Safety and Security Summit* will be held on April 24 at the Penn State Berks Campus. The BCIU is also assisting Antietam School District in finding spaces for classrooms.

2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll reported that their next meeting will be held on February 28. They are looking forward to another partnership this year with the BCTC students and NASA.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *Nicoleen M. Kleffel*

Mrs. Kleffel reported that the 2024 EIT newsletter is available. The 2023 EIT collection was up slightly. Their next meeting will be held on March 28.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – *Linda R. Lash*

Mrs. Lash reported that all new school board members are required to take PSBA training. She provided certificates of completion to Mrs. Steinke, Mr. Ammarell and Mr. Weyandt.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – *Linda R. Lash*

No report.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the Board.

4.0 BOARD

There were no items for Board approval.

4.1 SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT

Monthly Reports

5.1 The following monthly reports have been provided to the Board:

5.1.1 Enrollment Year-To-Date

5.1.2 Principals' Dashboard Reports

Superintendent's Update

5.2 Dr. Taschner reported on the many achievements of our Schuylkill Valley students. The SVHS National Honor Society inducted 25 new members at their February 25 ceremony. These students were selected due to their high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The HS Mock Trial Team started working on a case in November and then acted as lawyers and witnesses in front of real judges and a panel of jurors at the PA Bar Association's district competition. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into preparing for the mock trial and they did a great job representing SV. SV FFA is going strong in it's first year. Members participated in their first Agricultural Competition Establishes Success (ACES) Conference where they learned perseverance, decision making, life balance, advocacy and networking. They also volunteered at Family Reading Night at the ES. PYEA held its annual Man Pageant on February 10 to raise money for Four Diamonds in the fight against childhood cancer.

The SV swim team participated in the BCIAA League Championship meet with Mabel Walborn winning the 100 breast and Owen Eisenhofer winning the 100-free and 200-individual medley. District III Swim Championships will take place on March 1. At the District III Diving Championship, Carly Crills received third place. The SV boys bowling team captured the BCIAA Division II Championship for the first time since 2012 and the Eastern PA Regional Singles Championships will take place on March 1. The boys wrestling team participated in the Sectional Tournament with Ian Vitalo placing 2nd and Landen Reich and Koen Busch placing 6th. Also, Ian Vitalo placed 2nd at the District III Tournament. The girls wrestling team participated in the Sectional Tournament with Kayley Weidner placing 2nd, Addie Becht and Mackenzie Bachman placing 4th, and Madison Keller placing 6th. Both of the SV basketball teams competed in the PIAA District III Tournament. The SV cheer competition team competed in the Spirit National's Championship and were winners in their division. In addition, SVHS teacher, Cindy Koehler, was inducted into the 2024 Berks County Basketball Hall of Fame on February 16 during halftime of the Berks Girls Basketball League final at Santander Arena. SVHS had their first Signing Day which included Theo Wysocki, Shippensburg – Football; Allison Wolf, Alvernia – Volleyball; and Annie Gao, Lehigh University – Swimming.

In SVHS Art News, Alex Ripple, Grace Grym, Hailey Barlet, Rylee Dennis, Adrianna Madden, and Angelina Delacruz had artwork on exhibit at the Annual High School Juried Art Exhibit at Yocum Institute for Arts Education. Adrianna Madden and Angelina Delacruz were both honored with awards. Isabella Vera represented SV in the BCIU Student Artwork Showcase. Isabella's piece will be displayed in the Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Room for one year. We had a visit at the high school on January 31 from Fox 29's Bob Kelly for a live segment to promote Fox's ClassH-Room competition between a group of our HS students and teachers. Our 8th grade gifted students won an award for their futuristic city named D.O.M.E. The students produced an essay, financial plan and a model of their *District of Manipulating Electricity*. SVES held their annual Family Reading Night on February 21 which featured author Adam Lehrhaupt. It was a very successful event for all and Dr. Taschner thanked the elementary teachers and staff who volunteered. SV alumni, Kristen Keller, was named one of College Sports Communicators 30 under 30. She is currently the Associate Athletic Director for Communications and Digital Strategy at UC Santa Barbara. On February 24, the annual SOUPer Bowl was held to raise funds for the SV Art Club and The Conner Kleffel Memorial Foundation. Dr. Taschner thanked Mrs. Kleffel for helping to organize the event along with the SV art teachers, Ms. Harle, Mrs. Steward, and Mrs. Seymour for all of their hard work to help make this a successful event.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 6.1 Approves the adoption of the annual calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 6.2 Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignations due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2023-24 school year unless otherwise noted:
 - Ms. Leslie Brightbill, Part-Time Pupil Services Secretary, effective August 6, 2024
 - Mrs. Diane Kaag-Senior, Food Service Director
 - Mrs. Sharon Koller, Spanish Teacher at the high school
 - Mrs. Rose Schultz, English Teacher at the high school

- 6.3** Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignation:
- Mrs. Jennifer Mateo, Food Services Supervisor at the high school, effective February 2, 2024.
- 6.4** Approves the employment of the following (all elections are contingent upon receipt and district approval of all necessary pre-employment forms, certification, state-mandated physical examinations, clearances, etc.):
- 6.4.1** Mrs. Courtney Guinther from Data Management & Human Resources Secretary to Accountant, at an annual salary of \$55,000.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the newly created position.
 - 6.4.2** Mr. Aaron Hinsey, Certified Building Substitute Teacher at the high school, at an annual salary of \$43,533, reduced rate of pay with single level benefits option is available (prorated for actual days worked), effective February 19, 2024, to fill the newly created position.
 - 6.4.3** Mr. Andrew Miller, Custodian, at an hourly rate of pay of \$17.01, effective February 26, 2024, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Daniel Mullin.
 - 6.4.4** Mr. Ethan Miller, Certified Building Substitute Teacher at the middle school, at an annual salary of \$43,533, reduced rate of pay with single level benefits option is available (prorated for actual days worked), effective February 12, 2024, to fill the newly created position.
 - 6.4.5** Mrs. Cherri Moyer, Part-Time Food Services Worker, 4 hours per day at an hourly rate of pay of \$14.96, effective February 19, 2024, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Dawn Schlenker.
 - 6.4.6** Mr. Jason Vaux, Food Services Supervisor, at an hourly rate of pay of \$18.38, effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Jennifer Mateo.
 - 6.4.7** Mentor for the 2023-24 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full year mentors and \$587.50 for half year mentors:
 - Mrs. Sarah Hilpmann for Ms. Brittany Pyle – Full-Year
 - 6.4.8** Change in hours for one part-time food service worker position at the middle school from 4 hours per day to 5 hours per day.
 - 6.4.9** Coaches for the 2023-24 school year:
 - Kevin Avery - Softball Junior High Head Coach - \$3,590
 - Trent Casper - Softball Junior High Assistant Coach - \$1,750
 - Daniel Gassert - Baseball Junior High Head Coach - \$5,180
 - Stephen Heck - Track Junior High Assistant Coach - \$2,720
 - Bryan Poepperling - Track Volunteer Coach
 - 6.4.10** Co-curricular assignments for the 2023-24 school year:
 - Mr. Kyle Campbell - Director of Community Aquatics (School Year) - \$4,800
 - POP
 - Charlotte Baumgard - Choreographer - \$1,200
 - 6.4.11** Substitutes for the 2023-24 school year:
 - Susan Heckman – Paraprofessional
 - Michael McDermott – Guest Teacher

6.4.12 Approves the following volunteers for the 2023-24 school year:

Toni Arnold - ES/HS
Megan Bean - ES/HS
Cliff Dissinger - ES
Jordy Dolleman - ES
Michael Flick - ES
Mandey Good - ES
Roger Johnson, Jr. - ES/HS
Julie Ketterer - ES/MS
Aaron Kopetsky - ES
Laura Kopetsky - ES
Kelsey Lonaberger - ES
Alexander Mora - ES/HS
Kristina Prislín - Internship Weik Capital Management
Kayla Rhein - ES/HS
Megan Rogers - ES
Skye Scheidt - ES/HS/MS
Megan Smith - ES
Jenna St. Clair - ES/HS
Alyssa Stoltz - ES/HS/MS
Liz Tavarez - Internship Brentwood Industries
Jamie Thompson - ES/HS/MS

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Franklin Ammarell to approve the adoption of the annual calendar for the 2024-2025 school year in Item 6.1, as presented; and to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignations due to retirement in Item 6.2, as presented; and to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation in Item 6.3, as presented; and to approve the employment in Items 6.4.1 through and including 6.4.12, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

6.5 Approves issuing a professional employee contract to the following temporary professional who has served three (3) years and has received satisfactory ratings from the Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with Section 1108 of the Pennsylvania School Code:

Anna Neuhard

6.6 Approves the childrearing leave of absence of Mrs. Taylor Serafin, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school, from April 4, 2024, through April 30, 2024.

6.7 Approves the leave of absence of Mr. Eric Favors, Part-Time IT Technician, from January 18, 2024, through approximately early March.

6.8 Approves the following requests for leave without pay:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bender, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the middle school, June 3-6, 2024, for four consecutive days.

Mrs. Jessica Harle, Art Teacher at the high school, March 11-15, 2024, for five consecutive days.

6.9 Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence:

Stephanie Deibler, Athletic Director, effective January 17, 2024, through February 2, 2024.

- 6.10 Approves that the HSP has not changed and was reviewed, and further acknowledges that the Biden Administration announced the end of both the National and Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11, 2023, and further acknowledges that this motion is made to satisfy the requirements of ESSER funding use.
- 6.11 Approves the revisions to Policy 209: Health Examinations/Screenings.
- 6.12 Approves new Policy 218.3: Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault.
- 6.13 Approves the revisions to Policy 246: School Wellness.
- 6.14 Approves new Policy 254: Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- 6.15 Approves the revisions to Policy 307: Student Teachers/Interns.
- 6.16 Approves the revisions to Policy 314: Physical Examination.
- 6.17 Approves the MOU with SVEA for professional hourly rates.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded Linda Lash to approve issuing a professional employee contract to the temporary professional in Item 6.5; and to approve the childrearing leave of absence in Item 6.6, as presented; and to approve the leave of absence in Item 6.7, as presented; and to approve the requests for leave without pay in Item 6.8, as presented; and to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence in Item 6.9, as presented; and to approve that the HSP has not changed and was reviewed, and further acknowledge that the Biden Administration announced the end of both the National and Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11, 2023, and further acknowledge that this motion is made to satisfy the requirements of ESSER funding use; and approves the policy revisions and new policies in Items 6.11 through and including 6.16, as presented; and to approve the MOU with SVEA for professional hourly rates in Item 6.17, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Linda R. Lash

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:38 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the Dual Enrollment Agreement with Kutztown University for a period of five years.
- 7.2 Approves the proposal from SafeWare to provide Accidental Damage Protection on 1,901 student Chromebooks, at a cost of \$60,520.65, as presented.
- 7.3 Approves the Affiliation Agreement with Mercyhurst University for the placement of student teachers, effective through June 30, 2024.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the Dual Enrollment Agreement with Kutztown University for a period of five years; and to approve the proposal from SafeWare to provide Accidental Damage Protection on 1,901 student Chromebooks, at a cost of \$60,520.65, as presented; and to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Mercyhurst University for the placement of student teachers, effective through June 30, 2024.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 8.1** Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from January 12, 2024, to February 27, 2024, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$2,647,508.60
CAFETERIA FUND	\$44,425.54
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$720,958.66
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	\$2,281.71
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$7,830.62
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,423,005.13

- 8.2** Approves the updated J. Martin & Associates, LLC consulting services agreement, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from January 12, 2024, to February 27, 2024, as presented; and to approve the updated J. Martin & Associates, LLC consulting services agreement, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's annual operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$35,541.69.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's annual operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$35,541.69. **NOTE:** Requires two separate votes.

Roll Call Vote: Board Vote

Yeas: Ammarell, Moll, Steinke, Weyandt, Rossi, Kleffel, O'Donnell, Lash

Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Individual Vote

Yeas: Ammarell, Moll, Steinke, Weyandt, Rossi, Kleffel, O'Donnell, Lash

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Bryan J. O'Donnell

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the eciConstruction, LLC, Change Order #G-4 revisions based on discussions with EI Associates and the School District. Final credit includes absorbing costs for PCO #1 (FRP doors) in the amount of \$84,406.00.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the eciConstruction, LLC Change Order #G-4 revisions based on discussions with EI Associates and the School District. Final credit includes absorbing costs for PCO #1 (FRP doors) in the amount of \$84,406.00.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 8:03 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the 2024-25 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the 2024-25 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

February 26, 2024

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors