

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

**MINUTES**

**December 3, 2024**

- 1.0 The Reorganization/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 LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Franklin M. Ammarell  
Paul L. Bendigo  
Nicoleen M. Kleffel  
Linda R. Lash  
David E. Moll  
Bryan J. O'Donnell  
Alfonso F. Rossi  
Kelly J. Steinke  
Daniel B. Weyandt

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler,  
Dr. Joshua Kuehner, David McDonaldson, Mike Sobczak, Dr. Patrick Winters

Solicitor: Tim Gilsbach, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

**1.3 NOTICE OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING**

Linda R. Lash, Board Secretary, read the Notice of the Organization Meeting.

**2.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Lauren Matthews, Centre Township – District Turnover/Culture  
Joanna Schlottman, Bern Township – District Turnover/Culture  
Christine Wysocki, Bern Township – Read Letter from SV Retiree  
Grant Miller, Bern Township – Read Letter from SV Retiree  
Steph Grejdus, Bern Township – Special Education Services  
Holly Varner, Centre Township – Read Statement from Former Teacher  
Beth Hoover, Bern Township – Resignations/Board Responsiveness  
Amanda Hoover, Bern Township – Read Letter from SV Retiree  
Joseph Brown, Bern Township – District Turnover

**3.0 SELECTION OF A TEMPORARY PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Linda Lash called for nominations for the temporary President.

**Moved by David Moll and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to nominate Linda Lash as the temporary President.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Linda Lash served as the temporary President.

**4.0 RECOGNITION**

The Board recognized the following middle school students in Mrs. Ronda Seymour's art classes whose designs were chosen to represent the school district on holiday cards: Hannah Weyandt, fifth grade; Addison Kennedy, sixth grade; Adalynn Piccioni, seventh grade; and MacKenzie Burtnett, eighth grade. Each student was presented with a set of cards and a framed poster of their design as tokens of appreciation for their creativity and hard work.

**5.0 LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TERMS**

Franklin M. Ammarell	Region 2	2023-2027
Paul L. Bendigo	Region 1	2021-2025
Nicoleen M. Kleffel	Region 3	2021-2025
Linda R. Lash	Region 1	2021-2025
David E. Moll	Region 3	2023-2027
Bryan J. O'Donnell	Region 2	2021-2025
Alfonso F. Rossi	Region 3	2023-2027
Kelly J. Steinke	Region 1	2023-2027
Daniel B. Weyandt	Region 2	2023-2027

**6.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

Temporary President Linda Lash asked for nominations for President.

**Moved by Paul Bendigo to nominate David E. Moll for President.**

**Mrs. Linda Lash closed the nominations for President.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

***Motion passed unanimously 9-0 for David E. Moll for Board President.***

**7.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**

President David E. Moll asked for nominations for Vice President.

**Moved by Paul Bendigo to nominate Alfonso F. Rossi for Vice President.**

**Mr. David Moll closed the nominations for Vice President.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

***Motion passed unanimously 9-0 for Alfonso F. Rossi for Board Vice President.***

**8.0 APPOINTMENTS: BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. David Moll, Board President, moved for the appointment of the following individuals:

**8.1 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Liaison**

Mrs. Linda Lash to serve as the representative for a one-year term and  
Mr. Frank Ammarell to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

**8.2 Tax Collection Committee**

Mrs. Nicoleen Kleffel to serve as the representative for a one-year term and  
Mrs. Kelly Steinke to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**9.0 CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS**

**9.1 Berks Career and Technology Center: Joint Operating Committee**

(Three-Year Term: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025)

Mr. David Moll was appointed as the representative through December 31, 2025, and Mr. Daniel Weyandt was appointed as the alternate representative through December 31, 2025, both at the December 7, 2023, Reorganization/Regular Board Meeting.

**9.2 Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Representative (Three-Year Term)**

Mrs. Linda Lash is presently the representative through June 30, 2026, as appointed at the June 15, 2023, BCIU Board meeting.

**9.3 Berks Vocational-Technical School Authority Representative (Five-Year Term)**

Mr. Geoffrey Miller (past Board Member) is presently the representative and has agreed to serve through December 31, 2025.

**10.0 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: 2025**

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

Paul L. Bendigo, Chair

Franklin M. Ammarell

Linda R. Lash

Kelly J. Steinke

Curriculum and Technology

Linda R. Lash, Chair

Franklin M. Ammarell

Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Daniel B. Weyandt

Budget and Finance

Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Chair

Franklin M. Ammarell

Paul L. Bendigo

Alfonso F. Rossi

Buildings and Grounds

Bryan J. O'Donnell, Chair

Paul L. Bendigo

Alfonso F. Rossi

Daniel B. Weyandt

Student Services and Activities

Alfonso F. Rossi, Chair

Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Bryan J. O'Donnell

Kelly J. Steinke

**11.0 MEETING DATES: 2025**

The Board is requested to consider and approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**12.0 PROCESSING OF BILLS**

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 20, 2024, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2025 for ratification.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 20, 2024, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2025 for ratification.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**13.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1** The Board is requested to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Joanne Cummings, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective November 22, 2024.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Joanne Cummings, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective November 22, 2024.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.2** The Board is requested to consider and approve the following co-curricular appointments for the 2024-25 school year:

Megan DeAngelo - Audio Visual Club Advisor \$960 (prorated for actual time worked)  
Megan DeAngelo - POP Technical Director - \$3,000

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the co-curricular appointments for the 2024-25 school year in Item 13.2, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.3** The Board is requested to consider and approve the following substitutes for the 2024-25 school year:

Allison Barnett - Custodian  
Rachel Brister - Elementary Education, Special Education  
Loretta Gaetani - Elementary Education (Retired)

**Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the substitutes for the 2024-25 school year in Item 13.3, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.4** The Board is requested to consider and approve the following volunteers for the 2024-25 school year:



Tiffany Bechtel - ES  
Denise Hymes - ES/HS/MS  
Sandra Schlegel - ES

**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the volunteers for the 2024-25 school year in Item 13.4, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.5** The Board is requested to consider and approve the Settlement Agreement between the parents of Student #4205 and SVSD.

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to table Item 13.5, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously to table Item 13.5, as presented.**

- 13.6** The Board is requested to consider and approve the agreement with Dr. Jordan Hottenstein to serve as District Dentist.

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the agreement with Dr. Jordan Hottenstein to serve as District Dentist.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.7** The Board is requested to consider and approve the Homebound Instruction for Student #4305 for a period not to exceed three months per Board Policy #117.

**Moved by Franklin Ammarell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Homebound Instruction for Student #4305 for a period not to exceed three months per Board Policy #117.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.8** The Board is requested to consider and approve the agreement with CCIU for the virtual education provisions provided through Brandywine Virtual Academy for Student #3414.

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the agreement with CCIU for the virtual education provisions provided through Brandywine Virtual Academy for Student #3414.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.9** The Board is requested to consider and approve the certification of Sterling Act Tax Credit for Calendar Year 2023 in the amount of \$11,602.19.

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the certification of Sterling Act Tax Credit for Calendar Year 2023 in the amount of \$11,602.19.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**14.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Miss Deibler answered several questions from the Board. Mr. Bendigo asked who prepares the athletic budget and Miss Deibler stated that at the end of each season, the coaches fill out a purchase requisition form where they list everything needed for their sport. This information is compiled along with all security needs, transportation needs, and game workers to generate the budget. This is reviewed with Dr. Taschner and Mrs. Wallace to see where the budget has increased or decreased. Mr. Bendigo asked Miss Deibler for her overall budget for the 2023-24 school year and how much was spent on each individual sport, breaking down boys and girls. He is not aware of any requests that the Board has turned down regarding athletics. Miss Deibler stated the budgets are similar for sports that have both a boys and girls team but there may be a slight difference if there is a junior high team. Mrs. Lash asked for an overview of the uniform turnover rate. Miss Deibler noted that there is a uniform scheduling cycle which was first created about 20-25 years ago by having discussions with some of our sales reps on how long different uniforms typically last. SV had passed uniforms down from the high school to the junior high and most uniforms last 4-6 years depending on how hard they are used. The schedule is broken down by each sport with a budget for tops and bottoms, what the school provides for each sport, and the total estimated cost. Miss Deibler updates this every 2-3 years as prices change. Two years ago the junior high uniforms were replaced and they were rolled into the overall uniform schedule, which has them being replaced every other year between the fall teams and winter/spring teams.

Mr. Moll asked about warm-ups and what is provided by the district and if there is a policy. Miss Deibler stated that several years ago the district purchased 100 school-issued warm-ups which any team could use. However, they were not being used as most of our teams want to have warm-ups that the athletes can keep. In the past 10-15 years the district has not purchased warm-ups for any of our teams. There is no policy regarding whether the district will or will not purchase them, and warm-ups are not on our uniform replacement schedule. Our booster clubs have done a great job of supplementing the cost of warm-ups that are personalized for each sport, and we do make sure funds are available so that everyone can afford them. Mrs. Steinke asked if the overall booster club could cover the cost of the warm-ups instead of each individual sport covering the cost. Miss Deibler stated that this could be presented to the overall booster club as they do projects that benefit all teams instead of just individual teams. Miss Deibler also offered to poll the coaches and teams to see if they would want school issued warm-ups.

**15.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

  
Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors