

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

MINUTES

January 27, 2025

- 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, Paul L. Bendigo, Linda R. Lash, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Daniel B. Weyandt

Members Absent: Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman (absent)

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler, Jennifer Godtfriing, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, David McDonaldson, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell, Jenny Rexrode, Jacqueline Rivas, Michael Sobczak, Louisa Trumbore, Kristen Wallace, Dr. Patrick Winters

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP
- 1.3 EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Mr. Moll reported that the Board met in executive session on January 20, 2025, following the Committee meetings, for personnel and legal matters, and on January 27, 2025, prior to the Board meeting, for personnel and legal matters.
- 2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**
- 2.1 PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll***
Mr. Moll noted that the Board has been working on many projects. Mr. Ammarell reviewed the topics that were discussed at the January 20 meeting which included progress on placing an armed SRO in our schools next year. This individual would be employed through the police department and our solicitor has been in contact with Northern Berks Regional Police Department regarding these services. We currently have officers from Northern Berks visiting our schools and having breakfast and lunch with the students.
- 2.2 SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash***
No report.
- 2.3 BERKS COUNTY I.U. BOARD – *Linda R. Lash***
Mrs. Lash reported that at the January meeting, the BCIU Student Artwork Showcase was presented which highlights a piece of artwork from each Berks County School District. The artist representing SV this year was Luke Pine, junior, and all artwork will be displayed for one year in the BCIU Board Room. The SEIU contract was approved for the early education department. They received the updated PA General Assembly Leadership listing as of January 16, 2025. Julie Bunnick, BCIU Creative Services Coordinator Designer, was recognized nationally for excellence in graphic design

in the 61st Annual American Graphic Design (GDUSA) Awards Competition. This year, they received more than 8,000 entries, and only the top 10% were selected as winners. The board received the 2025 *BCIU Mid-Year State of the Unit* which featured organizational updates and goals, reports on accomplishments and upcoming priorities from directors. We will be receiving the 2025-2026 BCIU budget, which includes the Mandated Services Proposed Budget of \$807,439. SV's share of the budget is \$37,388.75. On February 4, Gov. Shapiro will be delivering his 2025-2026 state budget proposal.

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

Mr. Moll reported that their last meeting was on January 16. The BCTC is in the third phase of student-built homes in the development located across from the Oley Valley elementary school. They continue to work through their 2025-26 budget which includes a 9.99% increase from the Berks health consortium. The BCTC continues to have record enrollment and Mr. Moll encouraged those interested to enroll early.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *Nicoleen M. Kleffel*

No report.

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

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that the foundation will be adopting *Bloomerang*, a nonprofit donor management software. Mrs. Nein, SVEF President, has composed a message to all employees regarding contributions directly to the foundation through payroll deduction. This information will be sent to SV employees.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Carol Weyandt, Bern Township – District Concerns
Louis Shucker, Bern Township – Education of Special Education Students
Joseph Brown, Bern Township – RTK Requests/District Leadership
Beth Hoover, Bern Township – Interim Athletic Director/District Concerns
Jeff Golden, Leesport Borough – Student Safety/SRO
Shannon O'Donnell, Ontelaunee Township – Addressed Previous District Concerns

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

5.2 Superintendent's Update

Dr. Taschner provided highlights from December 2024. The 8th grade gifted team participated in the Future City Competition and won an award for creating a futuristic city that demonstrated innovation with designs related to education, government, energy and transportation. Luke Pine, SV junior, is our representative for the BCIU Student Artwork Showcase and his artwork will be displayed in the BCIU Board Room for one year. SV had many students representing the district in county band, district band, LVC honors band and county chorus. Our FFA students attended the 96th PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention and joined a record number of students who received their FFA jackets.

SV students participated in various STEM-related events at the Berks County Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament along with over 300 high school students from across the county. The PA Technology Student Association Conference took place on January 25 with 337 high school students competing. Our students placed in many events including flight endurance, senior solar sprint, coding and photographic technology. This is the debut season for our Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce team and our students are doing a great job. We had a number of participants in the BCIAA Individual County Wrestling Championship. Medals were earned in their respective weight classes by BCIAA Champions Alexis Foscone, Addison Becht and Ian Vitalo. Players named to the PA Football Writers' All-State Team include Logan Nawrocki, Luke Spotts and Logan Cammauf. Players named to the PA Football News Coaches Class 3A All-State Team include Lucas Spotts, Cooper Hohenadel and Logan Cammauf. Coach Kyle Campbell was recognized for 100 wins with our swim team and Dr. Taschner congratulated him for this milestone. Our cheer team attended the PIAA District III Championship placing third in the co-ed division and first in the 2A classification. They will be performing at States on January 30. As an All American Cheerleader, Emmelia Neff, SV senior, had the opportunity to participate in London's New Year's Day parade. On January 3, Mr. A.J. Juliani gave a presentation to our faculty and staff regarding artificial intelligence, how it impacts teaching and the opportunities it offers. Dr. Taschner invited everyone to the 6th Annual Souper Bowl hosted by the Conner Kleffel Memorial and SV Art Club on February 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the high school.

5.3 School Board Recognition Month

Dr. Taschner noted that January is school board recognition month where we honor school board members for the time and commitment they give in leading our schools throughout the year and to recognize their efforts. Dr. Taschner acknowledged each of our board members for the countless hours they spend reviewing materials, contracts and agendas, and for listening and delivering items that are important to the education of our students. We are grateful to the board for supporting our faculty and students and are most appreciative. Melissa Manzer, Digital Media Specialist, shared a school board appreciation video that she created for the board members, and administrators gave a personal thank you to each member for their dedication and service to the district.

6.0 **POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 7:47 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

6.1 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.):

6.1.1 Christina Nguyen as the Head Unified Bocce Coach at a salary of \$4,500 based on the season start date of December 10, 2024.

6.1.2 Doug Mayers for the following coaching positions:
- 2024 High School Assistant Track & Field Coach at a salary of \$3,102 (pro-rated based on actual days worked)
- 2024 High School Assistant Cross-Country Coach at a salary of \$3,980
- 2025 High School Assistant Track & Field Coach at a salary of \$5,170

6.1.3 Matthew Reed as the High School Assistant Bocce Coach at a salary of \$2,250 which was pro-rated for the season starting on December 10, 2024.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the employment in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.1.4** Bryan Weyandt as an Assistant Junior High Softball Coach at a salary of \$1,750.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve Bryan Weyandt as an Assistant Junior High Softball Coach at a salary of \$1,750.

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

Abstain: Weyandt

Motion carried.

- 6.1.5** Co-curricular appointment for the 2024-25 school year:

Lisa Chillot - FFA Head Advisor - \$10,000

- 6.1.6** Approves the Board President to execute an agreement for the purchase of services from Northern Berks Police Department in Schuylkill Valley School District Schools, subject to review of the agreement by the School District Solicitor.

- 6.1.7** Ms. Roxanne Bollman, Elementary Education K-6th Teacher at the elementary school, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$54,803 (prorated for actual days worked), effective December 16, 2024, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Alexis Maulick.

- 6.1.8** Substitutes for the 2024-25 school year:

Katie Kowalski – Guest Teacher

Michael Krishock – Guest Teacher

Michael McDermott – Guest Teacher

- 6.2** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2024-25 school year unless otherwise noted:

- Mr. Thomas Evanosky, Mathematics & Science Teacher at the high school, effective March 3, 2025.

- Mrs. Mary Ellen Kummerer, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school.

- 6.3** 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.):

- 6.3.1** Ms. Deborah Hornberger, Part-Time Food Services Worker, four hours per day at an hourly rate of \$15.44, effective January 7, 2025, to fill the newly created position.

- 6.3.2** Mr. Aden Reich, Full-Time Custodian, eight hours per day at an hourly rate of \$17.54, effective date December 9, 2024, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Andrew Miller.

- 6.3.3** Volunteers for the 2024-25 school year:

JoAnn Altman – ES
Eric Garcia – ES/MS
Kevin Mickle – ES
Tracy Williams - ES

- 6.4** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Kali Antalosky, English Teacher at the high school, effective with the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.
- 6.5** Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves of absence:
- Kimberly Clay, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective November 19, 2024, intermittently through the end of the 2024-25 school year.
 - Erik Johanson, Technology Education Teacher at the high school, effective December 13, 2024, through December 20, 2024.
 - Meghan O'Donnell, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school effective approximately January 22, 2025, through April 23, 2025.
- 6.6** Approves the childrearing request of Mrs. Meghan O'Donnell, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school, effective approximately April 24, 2025, through the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.
- 6.7** Approves the personal leave of absence of Ms. Karen Bauder, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective December 6, 2024, with the end date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 6.1.5 through and including 6.1.8, as presented; and to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignations due to retirement in Item 6.2; and to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.3; and to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Kali Antalosky, English Teacher at the high school, effective with the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year; and to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves of absence in Item 6.5, as presented; and to approve the childrearing request of Mrs. Meghan O'Donnell, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school, effective approximately April 24, 2025, through the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year; and to approve the personal leave of absence of Ms. Karen Bauder, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective December 6, 2024, with the end date to be determined.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.8** Approves the Law Enforcement MOUs Between Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Schuylkill Valley Middle School, Schuylkill Valley High School, and the Northern Berks Regional Police Department.
- 6.9** Approves the Law Enforcement MOUs Between Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Schuylkill Valley Middle School, Schuylkill Valley High School, and the Schuylkill Valley Education Center and the Bern Township Police Department.
- 6.10** Approves the revisions to Policy 113.1: Discipline of Students with Disabilities.
- 6.11** Approves the revisions to Policy 113.2: Behavior Support.
- 6.12** Approves the revisions to Policy 113.4: Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information.

- 6.13 Approves the revisions to Policy 123: Interscholastic Athletics.
- 6.14 Approves the revisions to Policy 150: Title I - Comparability of Services.

Board Action: Moved by Franklin Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the Law Enforcement MOUs Between Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Schuylkill Valley Middle School, Schuylkill Valley High School, and the Northern Berks Regional Police Department; and to approve the Law Enforcement MOUs Between Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Schuylkill Valley Middle School, Schuylkill Valley High School, and the Schuylkill Valley Education Center and the Bern Township Police Department; and to approve the revisions to Policy 113.1: Discipline of Students with Disabilities; and to approve the revisions to Policy 113.2: Behavior Support; and to approve the revisions to Policy 113.4: Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information; and to approve the revisions to Policy 123: Interscholastic Athletics; and to approve the revisions to Policy 150: Title I - Comparability of Services.

Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, 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 8:05 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration,

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the security awareness training subscription renewal in the amount of \$2,947.00 for a term of 12 months.
- 7.2 Approves the Employment Experience/Internship Program agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and EQUUS Workforce Solutions for a term beginning February 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025. EQUUS operates as the provider for young adult(s) programming selected by the Berks County Workforce Development Board.
- 7.3 Approves the service agreement from Berks County Intermediate Unit for participation in the Berks Cybersecurity Consortium effective January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$5,750.00.
- 7.4 Approves the quote from Revver for technical support in the amount of \$500.00.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the security awareness training subscription renewal in the amount of \$2,947.00 for a term of 12 months; and to approve the Employment Experience/Internship Program agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and EQUUS Workforce Solutions for a term beginning February 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025. EQUUS operates as the provider for young adult(s) programming selected by the Berks County Workforce Development Board; and to approve the service agreement from Berks County Intermediate Unit for participation in the Berks Cybersecurity Consortium effective January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$5,750.00; and to approve the quote from Revver for technical support in the amount of \$500.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.5 Other (Old/New Business)

Curriculum Update

Mrs. Jenny Rexrode, Director of Curriculum and Learning, reviewed the progress of the Math Curriculum Committee which met for the first time on January 14 with 19 teachers in attendance. The committee started by reviewing data from the Keystones, PSSA's and PVAAS. They also unpacked math standard 2.2, algebraic concepts, from K-12, starting in kindergarten with our students understanding addition and subtraction up to ten. At their January 28 meeting, they will continue to look at the standards and review the district's courses and how students should progress through them from K-12.

The Science Curriculum Committee met on December 5, 2024, and is made up of STEAM, STEM, technology and engineering teachers. They reviewed and discussed the STEELS standards (science, technology, engineering, environmental literacy, and sustainability) to understand what needs to be accomplished at each grade level. Their next meeting will be a discussion of science sequencing and materials. The committee is excited about pushing our ag program down to the middle school and elementary school. With the STEELS standards, earth science will now be covered in middle school and students will have a robust science background by the time they reach 9th grade.

English Curriculum from K-10 was completed last year and teachers are putting it to use in the classrooms. Students are reading now more than ever and also writing creatively. The next step will be scheduling 11th grade curriculum writing. The report card committee met on January 15 to decide on the content for the second quarter report cards at the elementary school. They will be discussing grading and assessment K-12, professional learning opportunities that are job embedded, and using common assessments so we have more data to support our students and their growth.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 8:11 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

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 November 11, 2024, to January 27, 2025, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$5,756,020.03
CAFETERIA FUND	\$108,484.51
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$99,144.35
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$12,599.26
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,976,248.15

- 8.2** Approves the 2024-2025 IDEA Part B sub contract agreement with the BCIU and accepts funds in the amount of \$476,684.39. The agreement is contingent on PDE's approval of services as outlined in the agreement through the BCIU's application for IDEA 611 B funding.

- 8.3** Approves the budgetary transfers, as presented.

- 8.4 Approves the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2024-2025 Real Estate Tax billed on July 1, 2024, which are delinquent after December 31, 2024, and the board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 149 bills totaling \$398,640.73 (last year there were 147 bills totaling \$378,891.50).
- 8.5 Approves the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2024, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 29 bills totaling \$23,346.54.
- 8.6 Approves the agreement with a National Purchasing Cooperative, Buy Board. This agreement will facilitate compliance with state procurement requirements and identify qualified vendors of commodities, goods and services for Cooperative Members.
- 8.7 Approves the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$8,433.96 for the period 1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from November 11, 2024, to January 27, 2025, as presented; and to approve the 2024-2025 IDEA Part B sub contract agreement with the BCIU and accepts funds in the amount of \$476,684.39. The agreement is contingent on PDE's approval of services as outlined in the agreement through the BCIU's application for IDEA 611 B funding; and to approve the budgetary transfers, as presented; and to approve exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2024-2025 Real Estate Tax billed on July 1, 2024, which are delinquent after December 31, 2024, and the board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 149 bills totaling \$398,640.73 (last year there were 147 bills totaling \$378,891.50); and to approve exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2024, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 29 bills totaling \$23,346.54; and to approve the agreement with a National Purchasing Cooperative, Buy Board. This agreement will facilitate compliance with state procurement requirements and identify qualified vendors of commodities, goods and services for Cooperative Members; and to approve the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$8,433.96 for the period 1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Bryan J. O'Donnell

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1 Approves Change Order #9 from A.N. Lynch in the amount of \$490.10 for the labor, material and supervision to re-install four (4) additional light fixtures that were previously removed by the mechanical contractor during the HS HVAC Upgrade Project.
- 9.2 Approves Change Order #4 from S.B. Conrad, Inc. in the amount of a \$10,000.00 allowance deduct for unused allowance on the HS HVAC Upgrade Project.

- 9.3 Approves the Bulk CO2 Product Purchase Agreement with Philadelphia Extract Company for the middle school natatorium.
- 9.4 Approves the Certificate of Substantial Completion from S.B. Conrad, Inc. for the High School HVAC Upgrade Project.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve Change Order #9 from A.N. Lynch in the amount of \$490.10 for the labor, material and supervision to re-install four (4) additional light fixtures that were previously removed by the mechanical contractor during the HS HVAC Upgrade Project; and to approve Change Order #4 from S.B. Conrad, Inc. in the amount of a \$10,000.00 allowance deduct for unused allowance on the HS HVAC Upgrade Project; and to approve the Bulk CO2 Product Purchase Agreement with Philadelphia Extract Company for the middle school natatorium; and to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion from S.B. Conrad, Inc. for the High School HVAC Upgrade Project.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5 Approves the Certificate of Substantial Completion from MYCO Mechanical, Inc. for the elementary school HVAC Upgrade and high school Rooftop Unit Project.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Kelly Steinke to table Item 9.5, as presented.

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

Motion to table passed unanimously.

- 9.6 Approves the quote from Elk Environmental Services to perform onsite sample testing and disposal of chemicals.
- 9.7 Approves the agreement with Ontelaunee Township, subject to review from the District Solicitor.
- 9.8 Approves the disposal of five (5) Hotpoint electric stoves and one (1) Hotpoint dishwasher. These items have been replaced with updated equipment in the Family and Consumer Science classroom. While the stoves were operational at the time of replacement, the dishwasher was no longer functional.
- 9.9 Approves the Certificate of Substantial Completion from Pagoda Electrical, Inc. for the Schuylkill Valley HS/ES Emergency Generator Upgrades.

Alicia Luke, Esq., noted that consistent with the discussion at the January 20, 2025 meeting, she made some revisions to the proposed easement agreement with Ontelaunee Township, Item 9.7. This agreement is regarding the swale by the pumping station. She forwarded the document to the Ontelaunee Township solicitor and received confirmation on January 27 that they are agreeable to the revisions. Bill McMullen, Arrow Consulting, added that the township portion of the project is scheduled by PennDOT to let on June 25, 2025, pending approval of all documents.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the quote from Elk Environmental Services to perform onsite sample testing and disposal of chemicals; and to approve the agreement with Ontelaunee Township, subject to review from the District Solicitor; and to approve the disposal of five (5) Hotpoint electric stoves and one (1) Hotpoint dishwasher. These items have been replaced with updated equipment in the Family and Consumer Science classroom. While the stoves were operational at the time of replacement, the dishwasher was no longer functional; and to approve the Certificate of

**Substantial Completion from Pagoda Electrical, Inc. for the Schuylkill Valley HS/ES
Emergency Generator Upgrades.**

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.10 Other (Old/New Business)

High School Evacuation

Mr. David McDonaldson reported on the recent gas leak from rooftop unit 16. Berkshire Mechanical came in the day following when the leak occurred and they discovered that it was not always detectable because it was after the gas valve that turns on and off by the machine. It was a small leak but when it came on it would find its way into the ductwork. Berkshire Mechanical is inspecting the units and will let us know if there are any issues.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 8:20 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and Keystone/RedRock Job Corps to provide education and training options to students of Schuylkill Valley High School.
- 10.2** Approves the contract with Arethusa Designs LLC for lighting for the middle school musical on April 11 & 12, 2025. This is the same company used for lighting for the high school musical.
- 10.3** Approves the Release and Settlement Agreement between the parents of Student #3414 and the Schuylkill Valley School District.
- 10.4** Approves the Release and Settlement Agreement between the parents of Student #4205 and the Schuylkill Valley School District.
- 10.5** Approves homebound instruction for Student #3419.
- 10.6** Approves homebound instruction for Student #4305.
- 10.7** Approves homebound instruction for Student #4318.
- 10.8** Approves the agreement with Elite Educational and Therapeutic Support Services, LLC, for the Independent Educational Evaluation (including Occupational Therapy) for Student #5682.
- 10.9** Approves the payment schedule for this year's proposed POP pit orchestra members as follows:
 - 14 musicians at a maximum rate of \$400 each for a total of \$5,600.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and Keystone/RedRock Job Corps to provide education and training options to students of Schuylkill Valley High School; and to approve the contract with Arethusa Designs LLC for lighting for the middle school musical on April 11 & 12, 2025. This is the same company used for lighting for the high school

musical; and to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement between the parents of Student #3414 and the Schuylkill Valley School District; and to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement between the parents of Student #4205 and the Schuylkill Valley School District; and to approve homebound instruction for Student #3419; and to approve homebound instruction for Student #4305; and to approve homebound instruction for Student #4318; and to approve the agreement with Elite Educational and Therapeutic Support Services, LLC, for the Independent Educational Evaluation (including Occupational Therapy) for Student #5682; and to approve the payment schedule for this year's proposed POP pit orchestra members in Item 10.9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.10 Other (Old/New Business)

Student Code of Conduct Presentation

Mrs. Jacqueline Rivas, Elementary School Assistant Principal, reviewed the Student Handbook Review Survey that was published for the ES, MS and HS in December. Each survey was representative of sections found within the Code of Conduct at each level. The high school had ten questions; middle school had 12 questions; and the elementary school had 11 questions. The survey was offered to all faculty and support staff and they received 9 responses from the high school; 17 responses from the middle school; and 20 responses from the elementary school. The feedback at the elementary school consisted of clarification on notifying the school of an absent student; to provide more information to parents and students regarding Panther Pride awards; dress code clarifications; and constructive positive feedback. The middle school feedback included support for the current MS cell phone statement; dress code clarifications; formatting/layout/punctuation; and constructive positive feedback. Mrs. Jennifer Godtfriing, high school assistant principal, noted that the high school provided constructive positive feedback; formatting/layout/punctuation/wording; dress code clarifications; and E-Hall pass clarifications.

Mrs. Godtfriing reviewed the next steps in the handbook process which include working toward a translated version of the handbooks; working toward interactive handbooks on the SVSD website for the 2025-26 school year; considering staff recommendations for the 2025-26 handbooks; and refining language consistency across all building levels.

Schuylkill Valley Education Center (SVEC) Update

Dr. Patrick Winters, Chief Education and Operations Officer/BCYC, provided a revenue summary, general enrollments trends, and detention programming in 2026-2027. The revenue summary for the collection period of July 1, 2025, through January 16, 2025, was \$42,008.85 for the total amount billed and \$8,051.14 for the total amount received. Collection will continue as school districts are required to pay. There are specific provisions that if they do not pay, PDE will step in and assist in resolving the issue. Regarding enrollment trends, on a weekly basis they are averaging about 8-10 students with the majority of students from Berks County. There is one student currently in an out-of-district placement with SV providing transportation. The Berks County Detention Center Programming is targeted for the 2026-2027 school year. At this point the location is across the street from the Berks County Youth Center and beside the Berks County Prison. It is a multi-floor facility and is intended to be a multi-county facility that will include Berks, Dauphin and Lehigh counties. One possibility being discussed is having both detention and shelter in that one facility. The opening date of the facility has not been determined but could be as early as the end of the first quarter of 2026 or as late as the third quarter of 2027. Upon completion of the center, we will have oversight of educational programming for both the shelter and detention. Our contract for programming at the Berks County Prison expires at the end of the 2026-2027 school year and we would start oversight of programming at the prison in the 2027-2028 school year, unless we made the decision to end our contract with the BCIU for the prison a year early.

Dr. Winters also provided a Safety and Security update. In the next few months, bullying assemblies are scheduled for the elementary school, middle school and high school. There will be parent/student

training with Assistant District Attorney Meg McCallum for middle and high school students regarding the legal ramifications of making school threats and how social media plays a part. On January 28, Dr. Taschner and Dr. Winters will meet for a Community Tabletop Exercise Meeting with the police chiefs, an emergency management professional from Lower Heidelberg Township, and Russell Del Rosario from the BCIU.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Steinke asked for an update on communications from the district. Mr. Mike Sobczak, Director of Technology, noted that for the past few months IT has been reviewing Sapphire parent/guardian emails and phone numbers and comparing them to our Blackboard system. A letter has been drafted, and they are preparing a mailing to homes explaining how families can enroll in Community Portal and update their own email and phone numbers. Families will still need to reach out to the district regarding the order of contacts and who will be the primary contact.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moll announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting for personnel and legal matters.


13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors