

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

MINUTES

April 28, 2025

**1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, 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, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Jennifer Godtfring, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, Jenny Rexrode, Jacqueline Rivas, Michael Sobczak, Kristin Wallace, Dr. Patrick Winters

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

**1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 24, 2025, as presented.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, 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 April 21, 2025, following the Committee meetings, for personnel and legal matters, and on April 28, 2025, prior to the Board meeting, for safety and security matters.

**2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

**2.1 PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll***

Mr. Moll discussed the concerns of the community regarding the reported gas leaks and findings from UGI and Vision Mechanical; no gas leaks were found. He urged the faculty and staff to continue to report any issues or concerns. Mr. Moll asked for a moment of silence to honor a Schuylkill Valley student who recently passed.

**2.2 SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash***

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that the BCIU Board extended the contract of Dr. Jill Hackman, BCIU Executive Director, and she received an outstanding evaluation. Mrs. Lash reminded Board members to complete the survey for election of BCIU Board of Directors for districts whose current Board member's three-year term on the BCIU Board will expire on June 30, 2025. Mrs. Lash attended the

COLA meeting on April 8 with Dr. Taschner and Mrs. Wallace where they discussed the Governor's funding and next year's budget. Mrs. Lash reported on the Annie Sullivan Award and Recognition Event that was held on April 2 at the BCIU. This year's winner of the award was Tracey Miller, a paraprofessional from Govern Mifflin School District. Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff was honored with the 2025 PAPSA Distinguished Service Award. Mrs. Lash discussed some of the Legislative Updates including closure of the United States Department of Education, a New Indoor Air Quality Course and possible Head Start Federal Funding elimination. The Board may obtain the Legislative Directory of all Senators, Representatives, and map of the county along with addresses and phone numbers online. Schuylkill Valley School District is represented by Senator Chris Gebhard, House Representative Eric Weaknecht and two U.S. Congress Representatives, Madeleine Dean and Dan Meuser.

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

Mr. Moll asked HS administrators to remind students to apply early to the BCTC as there is typically a wait list. The enrollment for 2025-26 is 2,150 which is an all-time high. The BCTC home development in Oley is in it's third and final phase and they are looking at other properties for building sites. Two students and their instructors will attend the HOSA National Conference on June 17-22, 2025 in Nashville, TN. The SkillsUSA National Competition will take place on June 23-28, 2025 in Atlanta, GA. Students will continue to machine parts for the NASA HUNCH program; the part designed this year will be launched from the International Space Station.

**2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *Nicoleen M. Kleffel***

Mrs. Kleffel reported that their quarterly meeting was held on March 27. Some goals moving forward include adopting ordinances, rules and regulations for assessments, collection across the taxing jurisdiction, hiring additional staff to focus on discovery and enforcement, following up with businesses who are out of compliance, and reviewing additional information from businesses to ensure the EITC is calculated correctly.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that there is a webinar series that PSBA is offering over the summer for school board members with several courses available. They are free to board members as part of the district's PSBA membership. The PSBA Institute and Millersville University are offering Foundational AI for School Leaders, an asynchronous learning course introducing school leaders to the fundamental concepts and practical applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in educational settings. The course requires about eight to 10 hours of independent work through asynchronous instruction. The first cohort for this program will run June 16 through August.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that the foundation held their *Inaugural Red & Black Gala* on April 4. This was a successful fundraiser and they hope to donate towards future scholarships. The foundation has submitted a proposal for their earned income tax credit and they will be meeting on May 14 to discuss available funds for grants next year.

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

Louis Shucker, Bern Township – Technology and Its Effects on Students  
Carol Weyandt, Bern Township – Implementation/Communication of MOU with NBRPD  
Sally Horton, Leesport Borough/District Employee – Emotional Support Classrooms/Mental Health

**4.0 BOARD**

There were no items for Board approval.

**4.1 SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Luke spoke regarding a Right to Know request on a previous incident in September and a draft statement that was prepared by a Board member prior to the completion of the investigation. Ms. Luke also discussed the NBRPD MOU which began in March and noted police will be on campus at least two days per week at various buildings interacting with students.

**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 discussed various vacancies, interviews and the steps taken to fill these roles. She and Mrs. Rexrode met with the special education team to hear their concerns. They discussed the schedule, the impact on paraprofessionals and what they can do to increase the hiring of this position, and the multi-disability classrooms. Dr. Taschner praised, recognized and thanked Mrs. Kathleen Gwiazdowski for her time, commitment and guidance of students during their formative years and beyond. She also provided district highlights from the past month. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus performed the National Anthem at SV Night at the R-Phils in April and thanked our music teachers for making these events happen. The elementary school kicked off its *Panthers Read* program and the entire ES will be reading "Dragons in a Bag." The SV Junior Honor Society won "Most Original Design" and Most Educational Video" in the 2025 *Berks Canstructure* competition. Under the direction of Dr. Liz Schucker, 7<sup>th</sup> grade gifted Panthers entered the "What's So Cool About Manufacturing" competition and won the *Outstanding Cool* award for their Shark Tank inspired video collaboration with EasyPak. 8<sup>th</sup> grade held their Biography Reception and shared what they learned about their biography subjects while dressed in character. The middle school had an outstanding performance of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* along with the high school who did an excellent job with their performance of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Our SV FFA attended Spring Regional CDE Competitions, visited 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and SV Community Library for Ag Literacy Week, and hosted 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in the HS greenhouse to learn about plants. FFA members also attended the State Legislative Leadership Conference and Fleetwood Bank Agricultural Appreciation Dinner which provided insight into the agricultural industry. Four HS students attended the PA-TSA State Leadership Conference and competed in robotics, senior solar sprint, flight endurance and more. The BCIU Secondary Art Show was held at the Goggle Works with many senior high school students winning numerous awards. All work will be on display at the HS Spring Concert and Art Show on May 6. High school students attended the Central East Regional Science Olympiad with 700 students competing in over 46 events. Students practice and study throughout the year to prepare for their events. Taylor Henry, senior student, graduated from RACC before earning her high school diploma. This was made possible through the SVHS-RACC partnership for dual enrollment. Dr. Taschner congratulated Tina Nguyen, HS paraprofessional, SV's nomination for the Annie Sullivan Award, and thanked her for everything she does for our students. Our Food Service department received \$2,600 from *GIANT's Round Up at the Register* event, with the funds being used to support programs offered by food service.

**6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo***

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

6.1 Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignation due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2024-25 school year unless otherwise noted:

- Mrs. Kathleen Gwiazdowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

**6.2** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignation:

- Ms. May Raudenbush, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional, effective March 26, 2025.

**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** The transfer of Ms. Amanda Clark from Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School to Substitute Paraprofessional, effective April 11, 2025.

**6.3.2** Mr. Brett Hoch, Physics 7-12 Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 7, \$62,208, effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Mark Horrell.

**6.3.3** Ms. Maricela Moreno, Part-Time Food Services Worker, 4 hours per day at an hourly rate of pay of \$15.44, effective March 31, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Joanne Cummings.

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

Kayla Brooks - Guest Teacher  
Grace Good - Guest Teacher  
Barbara Hill - Custodian  
Rory Nilsen - Guest Teacher  
Anna Parmer - Guest Teacher  
Moira Vaughan - Paraprofessional

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

Scott Burkhart - MS  
Erica Czimcharo - ES/MS  
Jillian Darlington - ES  
Laura Gordon - ES  
Emily Klick - ES  
Melissa Kopicz - ES  
Robert Maulick - ES  
Megan Nunez - ES  
Brandy Pyne - ES/MS  
Timothy Shannon - ES  
Steffany Snell - ES  
Kelly Troutman - ES  
Megan Verdejo - ES  
Shayna Wagner - ES/MS  
Robert Wood, Jr. - ES/HS/MS

**6.3.6** Game worker for the 2024-25 school year, to be paid \$40 per event:

Caden Moyer

**6.3.7** Extracurricular appointments for the 2024-25 school year:

Mr. Frank Ammarell - Baseball Junior High Assistant Coach - Volunteer  
Mr. Luke Martinez - Track & Field Junior High Assistant Coach - \$2,000  
Mr. Micah Storms - Baseball Varsity Assistant Coach - \$3,500

- 6.3.8 Extracurricular advising appointment for the 2024-25 school year:

Mrs. Ronda Seymour - Musical Set/Costume/Make-up - Middle School - \$1,200

- 6.3.9 Extracurricular appointments for the 2025-26 school year:

Mr. Darriss Tinson - Football Junior Varsity Head Coach - \$6,430

- 6.3.10 Extracurricular advising appointment for the 2025-26 school year:

Mr. Timothy Kier - Football Equipment Manager - \$600

- 6.3.11 The use of three Part-Time Temporary Technology Projects Employees at a rate of \$15.93/hour.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

- 6.3.12 The position and associated job description for Principal, Schuylkill Valley Education Center.

**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the position and associated job description for Principal, Schuylkill Valley Education Center.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

- 6.3.13 Ms. Azucena Macedo, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent/Board Recording Secretary, \$66,747.20 (prorated for actual days worked) and the associated employment contract for the position. The effective date is upon release of current assignment and the appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Sue Christman.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve Ms. Azucena Macedo, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent/Board Recording Secretary, \$66,747.20 (prorated for actual days worked) and the associated employment contract for the position. The effective date is upon release of current assignment and the appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Sue Christman.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

- 6.3.14 The transfer of Dr. Joshua Kuehner from Schuylkill Valley Middle School Principal to Principal of Schuylkill Valley Education Center, effective July 1, 2025.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the transfer of Dr. Joshua Kuehner from Schuylkill Valley Middle School Principal to Principal of Schuylkill Valley Education Center, effective July 1, 2025.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

- 6.3.15 The rescindment of the retirement of Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Mary Ellen Kummerer.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the rescindment of the retirement of Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Mary Ellen Kummerer.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.4** Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence:
- Janna Kneeream, Secretary to the Principal at the high school, effective March 20, 2025, through May 1, 2025.
- 6.5** Approves the appointment of Mrs. Linda Lash, current PSBA liaison, as the PSBA Delegate Assembly participant representing the school district on October 21, 2025.
- NOTE: The annual PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference will be held October 19-21, 2025, and the PSBA Delegate Assembly will be held on October 21, 2025.
- 6.6** Approves the renewal of the agreement with educationplus, for the PA REAP teacher application system for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at a total cost to the district of \$1,099.00.
- 6.7** Approves the agreement with Docusign, for the eSignature Business Pro Edition system, for the period of May 6, 2025, through May 6, 2026, at a total cost to the district of \$3,042.
- 6.8** Approves the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026, which reflects an increase of \$30.56 in monthly premiums paid by seniors, and the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Vision Product for the period of 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026, which reflects no change in monthly premiums paid by the district.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation due to retirement in Item 6.1, as presented; and to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Ms. May Raudenbush, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional, effective March 26, 2025; and to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.11, as presented; and to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence in Item 6.4, as presented; and to approve the appointment of Mrs. Linda Lash, current PSBA liaison, as the PSBA Delegate Assembly participant representing the school district on October 21, 2025; and to approve the renewal of the agreement with educationplus, for the PA REAP teacher application system for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at a total cost to the district of \$1,099.00; and to approve the agreement with Docusign, for the eSignature Business Pro Edition system, for the period of May 6, 2025, through May 6, 2026, at a total cost to the district of \$3,042; and to approve the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026, which reflects an increase of \$30.56 in monthly premiums paid by seniors, and the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Vision Product for the period of 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026, which reflects no change in monthly premiums paid by the district.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, 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 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025.

**Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration**

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 7.1 Approves the cyber security software agreement for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.
- 7.2 Approves the 2025-2026 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies.
- 7.3 Approves the proposal from Visual Sound to replace the MS Auditorium sound system, projector and screen.
- 7.4 Approves pilot programming for the Zones of Regulation Curriculum, and for the EveryDay Speech Curriculum.

**Board Action: Moved by Bryan O'Donnell and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the cyber security software agreement for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented; and to approve the 2025-2026 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies; and to approve the proposal from Visual Sound to replace the MS Auditorium sound system, projector and screen; and to approve pilot programming for the Zones of Regulation Curriculum, and for the EveryDay Speech Curriculum.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, 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 7:31 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 19, 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 March 10, 2025, to April 29, 2025, as presented:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$4,433,937.53</b>
<b>CAFETERIA FUND</b>	<b>\$71,380.36</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND</b>	<b>\$101,811.29</b>
<b>MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND</b>	<b>\$16,889.65</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,624,018.83</b>

- 8.2 Approves the budget transfers, as presented.
- 8.3 Approves the Computer Service Rates for 2025-2026 with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for the district's fund accounting, payroll and personnel software. The estimated cost for

2025-2026 is \$26,815 based on estimated student enrollment at year end. This compares to the actual cost spent for 2024-2025 of \$25,727, a 4.23% increase due to annual rate increases.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from March 10, 2025, to April 29, 2025, as presented; and to approve the budget transfers, as presented; and to approve the Computer Service Rates for 2025-2026 with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for the district's fund accounting, payroll and personnel software. The estimated cost for 2025-2026 is \$26,815 based on estimated student enrollment at year end. This compares to the actual cost spent for 2024-2025 of \$25,727, a 4.23% increase due to annual rate increases.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.4 Approves the adoption of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's policies and procedures under the federal requirements of 34 CFR PART 300. The IU-adopted policies are implemented to fulfill the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and the regulatory requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the adoption of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's policies and procedures under the federal requirements of 34 CFR PART 300. The IU-adopted policies are implemented to fulfill the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and the regulatory requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.5 **THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 21, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

Approves the 2025-26 proposed final general fund budget in the amount of \$49,771,295. This budget does not include a tax increase.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the proposed final general fund budget in the amount of \$49,771,295. This budget does not include a tax increase.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, 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 8:04 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 9.1 Approves the Ontelaunee Township Pretreatment Program Discharge Permit. The permit shall be valid for a period of three years, expiring on March 31, 2028.

- 9.2 Approves the proposals from Republic Services for solid waste disposal and recycling services during the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the following amounts per building:

- High School - \$662.49 per month
- Middle School - \$612.26 per month
- Elementary School - \$662.49 per month

- 9.3 Approves Vision Mechanical, Inc. to provide labor and material to swap out the Trane water source heat pump unit in a middle school classroom in the amount of \$12,760.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Ontelaunee Township Pretreatment Program Discharge Permit. The permit shall be valid for a period of three years, expiring on March 31, 2028; and to approve the proposals from Republic Services for solid waste disposal and recycling services during the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, as presented; and to approve Vision Mechanical, Inc. to provide labor and material to swap out the Trane water source heat pump unit in a middle school classroom in the amount of \$12,760.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.4 Approves the emergency repairs to the pumphouse.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the emergency repairs to the pumphouse.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.5 Presentation: Schrader Group Architects - Field House

Mr. Harry Pettoni, Partner, gave a presentation on the Field House Project. He discussed two concept floor designs, two conceptual estimates, similar projects and a proposed schedule. The Concept Floor Plan, Version 1, is 38,970 square feet at a cost of \$18.7 million. The Concept Floor Plan, Version 2, is 42,880 square feet at \$20.4 million which accommodates an increase in the size of the indoor turf field from 40 yards to 50 yards. The numbers presented include the relocation of the softball field and track events but do not include any improvements under the bleachers or the relocation of the ticket booth. They are looking at a pre-engineered metal building structure for this project. The proposed timeline from 2025-2027 includes the schematic design beginning April 2025, design development July 2025, construction documents September 2025, permitting and approvals May 2025, bidding December 2025 with the Board approval of bids February 2026, and construction March 2026 through May 2027.

## 10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

### *Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi*

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 8:08 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 10.1 Approves the 2027 EF Tour Trip to Germany, France, and Spain for Schuylkill Valley High School students.
- 10.2 Approves the Schuylkill Valley High School Student Code of Conduct and Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 10.3 Approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student #4199.
- 10.4 Approves the Third Party Educational Trust for Student #4199.
- 10.5 Approves the Independent Contractor Agreement for School Physician Services with Dr. Angela Zawisza.
- 10.6 Approves the Penn State Health Team Physician and Athletic Training Services Agreement.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the 2027 EF Tour Trip to Germany, France, and Spain for Schuylkill Valley High School students; and to approve the Schuylkill Valley High School Student Code of Conduct and Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year; and to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student #4199; and to approve the Third Party Educational Trust for Student #4199; and to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for School Physician Services with Dr. Angela Zawisza; and to approve the Penn State Health Team Physician and Athletic Training Services Agreement.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.7 Approves the Schuylkill Valley Middle School Student Code of Conduct and Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Bendigo stated that in reading the Middle School Student Code of Conduct and Handbook for 2025-2026, he has some questions on drop off times and schedule times that are posted. He asked for clarification on these items and that this item be moved to the May 19 agenda.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to table the Schuylkill Valley Middle School Student Code of Conduct and Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.8 Approves the waiver of expulsion hearing release agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and the Parents of Student #2863.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the waiver of expulsion hearing release agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and the Parents of Student #2863.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.9 Approves waiver of expulsion hearing release agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and the parents of Student #5304.

April 28, 2025

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the waiver of expulsion hearing release agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and the parents of Student #5304.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**10.10** Presentation: Attendance Follow-up

Dr. Melissa Brewer, Director of Pupil Services, reviewed the student attendance process and provided a presentation of ongoing work regarding attendance. She reviewed the thresholds for unexcused/unlawful absences and how letters are sent for 3-day, 5-day, and 10-day absences. Dr. Brewer met with the assistant principals and Dr. Taschner to review Board Policy 204: Attendance, and the Administrative Regulations associated with the policy. The letters will be finalized with common language for all three buildings, and while we are only required to send the 3-day letter, the team recommends sending the 1-day and 2-day letters as well. They will also confirm the notification plan per letter for the 2025-26 school year and develop an attendance flow chart with language specific to the district's policy and administrative regulations.

**11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mrs. Steinke discussed the Prom event and students with allergies. She inquired if there is a procedure in place for students to disclose allergy information for future events. Dr. Taschner requested a follow-up from Mrs. Godtfring and to discuss this at the May Board meeting with an adjustment plan for the next year giving students the option to inform staff of any allergies when order tickets for events. Mrs. Kleffel shared that a professional contact stated that he visits many school districts to provide financial and budgeting information, and that Schuylkill Valley is one of the best districts he has ever visited. Our students were well-behaved and very respectful, and teachers and administrators were kind and accommodating when he visited.

**12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke, 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 9:13 p.m.

  
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Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors