

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

MINUTES

June 23, 2025

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:01 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: Azucena Macedo

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Jennifer Godtfriing, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, Jenny Rexrode, Michael Sobczak, Kristin Wallace, Dr. Patrick Winters, Louisa Trumbore, Brad Burrows, Jacqueline Rivas

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2025, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session on Monday, June 16, 2025, after the Committee meetings, for personnel matters, legal matters, and confidential student information. The Board also met in Executive Session on June 23, 2025, before the Board Meeting and after to discuss confidential student information and receive a safety and security report.

1.5 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS & STAFF

None

1.6 PRESENTATIONS

District Leadership Highlights 2025 presentation:

Food Service Department:

Presented by: Louisa Trumbore, Food Service Director

The Food Service Department had an exciting and successful year. With 23 dedicated team members across all three schools, they worked hard to serve nutritious, appealing meals to students every day.

Focus of the Year: Boosting Breakfast Participation

To encourage more students to eat breakfast at school, the team launched several initiatives: Announcements and reminders during the school week, a special Breakfast Participation Challenge in February and sample trays so students could see the full variety of options available.

As part of February's Breakfast Participation Challenge, the grades with the highest participation in each school received soft pretzel prizes. The winners were 4th grade at the elementary school, 6th grade at the middle school, and 10th grade at the high school. Thanks to these efforts, February saw a 5% increase in breakfast participation across the district. Some ideas to make breakfast more inviting included redesigning breakfast service lines to feel more like a convenience store featuring brighter lighting, colorful food choices, and more variety. This helped attract even more students to participate.

Participation Highlights – The high school's highest participation day saw up to 325 students served, middle school 295 students served in just 25 minutes, and the elementary school 209 students served in 10 minutes. Overall, the district saw an 8% increase in breakfast participation this year.

- Elementary School: increased by 4%
- Middle School: increased by 11%
- High School: increased by 7%

Year-over-Year Growth in Meals Served (Breakfast Only):

- Elementary: increased by 4,551 meals
- Middle School: increased by 14,588 meals
- High School: increased by 7,777 meals

Fun Highlights at the Elementary Level:

- "Shamrock Cups" for St. Patrick's Day
- "Dragons in a Bag", the team made 704 dragons for students.
- Special birthday celebrations with table linens
- Flavored water stations for added variety

Looking Ahead

The team is already planning for an even better 2025–2026 school year with cupcake-making activities, taste-testing events, a fresh new menu and design, involvement in Back to School Night, grab-and-go lunches during the summer, meals for student athletes over summer break and food service information packets for families at all schools. Mrs. Trumbore stated, all these ideas are a work in progress, and will take time to implement.

Business Office:

Presented by Kristen Wallace, Director of Finance

The Business Office had a productive year focused on training, efficiency, and smart financial management.

Training Initiatives

Staff completed a two-day virtual training course on the Transfinder Transportation System, helping improve understanding of transportation processes. The training allows these team members to serve as back-ups when needed, improving communication and operation flexibility.

- Participants included:
 - Assistant Director of Business Services
 - Transportation/AP Secretary
 - SVEC Secretary

Cross-Training Efforts

- Ongoing through June 30, 2025, staff are receiving training in payroll, taxes, and accounts receivable.
- The goal is to ensure there's coverage across departments and to provide the Assistant Director of Finance with additional experience in key financial areas.

Process Improvements

ACH Payments to Vendors

- As of June, 90 vendors are enrolled in Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments.
- 413 ACH payments have been processed thus far.
- Benefits include faster processing, lower costs, improved security, and greater convenience.

Business Office Highlights

- The 2025–2026 general fund budget was finalized with a 0% increase and includes a 1% budgetary reserve, reflecting strong financial planning.
- VANCO, the online ticketing platform previously used for high school events, was used for the middle school play in 2024–2025.
- The office renegotiated improved interest rates with Tompkins Bank, helping the district save money.
- A Student Activities presentation was held at the start of the school year to help staff better understand the processes.

Mr. Moll suggested the district consider using a Controlled Disbursement Account (CDA) or zero balance account in the future. This would allow payments to be processed from a separate account rather than directly from the main district account. Mrs. Wallace stated that while funds are currently withdrawn from the main account, she is interested in shifting to a secondary account setup in the future to improve control and efficiency.

Pupil Services/Special Education

Presented by Dr. Melissa Brewer, Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Brewer shared five major accomplishments from the 2024–2025 school year and highlighted upcoming goals.

1. Online Student Registration - The district transitioned from paper-based, in-person registration to a fully online registration system using the Sapphire Central Registration Portal. This allows families to submit all enrollment documents online. The system launched with Kindergarten registration and will expand to all K–12 registrations by July 1, 2025. As of June 23, 2025, 114 Kindergarten students are registered, with more expected.

2. Attendance Improvements - The department continues working to strengthen attendance policies and practices:

- Recommended updates to Board Policy 204 on attendance
- Standardized attendance letters across all three schools
- Created a new attendance flow chart based on the Berks Initiative for School Attendance (BISA)
- Developed clearer attendance guidance for both general and special education students
- Planning further updates for the 2025–2026 school year

3. Staff Training & Compliance Reporting - QBS Safety Care: 7 district trainers and 32 trained staff (with plans to expand). Threat Assessment Training, we have 15 team members trained across all schools using Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) protocols.

State & Federal Reports Completed:

- School Health Annual Reimbursement Request System (SHARRS) which entails health data gathered by the school nurses. The data was submitted in September 2024, and due again in September 2025.
- Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) was submitted using 2023–2024 data.
- CMCI process finished, had following up items for 2023–2024 which included file review of 40 new files, submission of requisite follow-up to reviewed files, and submission of staff/parent trainings conducted and planned.

4. Projects and Initiatives - The department managed a range of contracted services, including Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), School Psychologists (SPs), Occupational Therapists (OTs), and Physical Therapists (PTs). The Extended School Year (ESY) program began last week, with 83 eligible students invited and 58 confirming attendances. The Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) was administered to a small group of students—fewer than 1% of the student body. Staff underwent rigorous training from January through March, with the testing window spanning two months. For Early Intervention, the team worked with 15 incoming Kindergarten students, attending initial/Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings and visiting seven Berks County Intermediate (BCIU) classrooms

5. Additional Projects & Initiatives – The department developed a new mental health specialist job description and explored a support framework for the Berks County Youth Center (BCYC). They also increased Flight Team response capacity (for crisis and emotional support) and purchased new band uniforms for Schuylkill Valley High School. To improve efficiency and transportation, start and end times were adjusted at the middle and high schools. Other initiatives included the continued NSK12 reporting implementation, revised agreements with Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) and Berks County Prison (BCP), expanded virtual learning options, and improved tracking of attendance and funding for students involved with BCP.

Mr. Moll asked if families who are not comfortable with technology or need materials in other languages have resources and options available to them. Dr. Brewer stated that information was posted on the district's website stating parents/guardians can bring documents to the District Office for in-person help. Staff can assist with scanning and uploading documents. While few families have needed this support, it remains available to anyone who requests assistance. She also noted that the registration portal currently may not support multiple languages, but she will follow up and confirm this with the Board.

Sports Medicine

Presented by Brad Burrows, Head Athletic Trainer

The athletic department has continued to see a reduction in injuries thanks to the implementation of strengthening and corrective exercises, increased communication with coaches to identify team-specific needs, and a greater focus on treatment for athletes. From August 1 to May 1, a total of 4,039 treatments were provided. Injuries have trended downward across all sports, with the exception of Track, which accounted for 57% of all spring injuries.

Penn State Health (PSH) Contract Renewal - The three-year contract with Penn State Health was approved by the SV School Board and received today. The agreement includes one Athletic Trainer, Team Physician services, and annual physicals for student-athletes. Dr. Miller will continue as the district's Team Physician, conducting training room visits when needed and being available every Thursday at 5:00 p.m. during the sports seasons. This provides a convenient option for students who may have insurance limitations or need a quick evaluation or second opinion without requiring an MRI or X-ray.

The district currently hosts three athletic training interns during 8th period each day. Two of the interns, graduating seniors ranked in the top 2% of their class, will be replaced by two rising seniors in the upcoming school year. The Athletic Training Club has 6 to 10 members, depending on the season, and offers after-school learning opportunities in the athletic training facility as well as game coverage shadowing experiences.

Mr. Burrows provided a detailed breakdown of injuries and treatments by sport and season as of May 1, including comparisons between middle and high school athletes.

For the Fall Season High School football had the highest number of treatments, largely due to the high participation rate and the physical demands of the sport. Injury numbers remained low, with boys' and girls' soccer showing nearly equal injury counts. For the Winter season, Mr. Burrows highlighted co-ed swimming, noting the positive impact of having a physical therapist on staff. This professional has been instrumental in early detection and prevention of injuries, helping to keep winter injury numbers low. Lastly, for the Spring season, injuries were generally low across all sports, except for Track, which accounted for a significant portion of spring injuries. Mr. Burrows expressed a desire to see track injury numbers decrease in the future. He also presented a side-by-side comparison of spring injuries and treatment data from 2024 and 2025, noting that the numbers remained consistent year over year.

Education & Operations

Presented by Dr. Patrick Winters

Dr. Winters outlined the goals for Schuylkill Valley Education Center (SVEC) for the 2024-2025 school year which included developing student programming and daily scheduling, creating staff schedules, coordinating with county agencies, designing and implementing billing and transportation procedures, and launching virtual programming that could also be used in other

areas of the district. He also provided a snapshot of a typical student day at the youth center, emphasizing how the team strategically structured academic coursework alongside breaks and electives to support students. Key accomplishments he highlighted were expanding cyber programming to increase flexibility and access for students, hosted 13 bid meetings, educated 53 students over the course of the school year and the opportunities to visit SVEC Legislators that included State Senators Martin and Schwank, and State Representatives Jozwiak and Weaknecht to talk about the youth center and the work being done there. Dr. Winters provided an update on safety and security efforts, focusing on two key goals: revising the district's All-Hazard Plans including Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Action Guides and enhancing training protocols through tools like Raptor Technology and PennSSI threat assessments. Staff participated in refresher courses, new team member training, and internal tracking initiatives. Several physical safety measures were implemented across the district, such as installing lockdown shades and bench-style bollards at school entrances, which serve both as barriers and seating areas for students. Custom EOP Action Guides were also created specifically for Schuylkill Valley. Anti-bullying programs were held in all three schools, with guest speakers Tom Thelen at the high school, John Halligan at the middle school, and "Box Out Bullying" at the elementary level; all of whom had a meaningful impact on students and staff. On the training front, two teams attended PennSSI sessions in November, staff received training on Act 55 of 2022, and administrators took part in a BCIU tabletop safety exercise. The district also renewed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Northern Berks Regional and Bern Township Police Departments, and Dr. Winters praised the strong partnership and ongoing patrol efforts with law enforcement. Full staff training on the Raptor system was completed, including app usage which assists both staff and law enforcement. Additional initiatives included a district-wide school safety presentation by Max Schachter, the implementation of the "Stop the Prop" campaign, and unannounced narcotic sweeps—two each at the middle and high schools. Dr. Winters also shared information about the Explosive Canine Detection Initiative and emphasized the importance of critical infrastructure data reporting, which enhances coordination with Pennsylvania State Police. He noted that other safety measures have been put in place but cannot be publicly discussed for security reasons.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 **PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll***

No report.

2.2 **SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash***

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash shared highlights from the IU's 2025 Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of its departments and staff. During the executive session, Mr. Del Rosario also presented the IU's annual Safety and Security Officers Report. The IU is rolling out a new online employee handbook, which requires an electronic signature to confirm review and receipt. They also approved salary, and wage increases for transportation staff. Looking ahead, the IU will be opening two new classrooms at the Goggle Center for the Arts in the fall, in partnership with Helping Harvest, who will also sponsor a Head Start playground. Additionally, fingerprinting services will be ending, and those in need of this service are encouraged to use the Wyomissing Mail-in Ship for You Center. In terms of expansion, the IU will open a new learning center in the former Santander building in Reading, expected to launch in August 2026, located across from the Alvernia University campus. Mrs. Lash also provided updates on state and federal funding. The state budget may be delayed until as late as October. Federal grants from the Department of Education will now be distributed to the state in lump sums, except for Title IX funds, which will remain separate and flat-funded. She also discussed several legislative updates:

- House Bill 180 / Senate Bill 180: Proposes free school meals for all Pennsylvania students.
- House Bill 1539: Establishes the Electric School Bus Grant Program, offering financial and technical assistance for school districts transitioning to electric buses including costs related to vehicle conversion, infrastructure upgrades, staff training, and grant writing.

- House Bill 1565: Introduced to require firearm safety instruction for all students in grades K–12, starting in the 2026-2027 school year. The curriculum would be developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, in consultation with the State Police and Game Commission.

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

Mr. Moll shared several exciting updates from BCTC, including a hands-on housing project in Oley, where students work together to build homes. These houses are constructed using high-quality materials, especially valuable given the current housing market. He encouraged students interested in attending BCTC to register early, as programs tend to fill up quickly. BCTC also recently hosted a summer camp for approximately 100 seventh and eighth graders, giving them the opportunity to explore five different trades throughout the week in small groups. This helps students narrow down their interests, and about 20-25% later enroll in BCTC when eligible. The center also completed its second year of collaboration with NASA, with student-designed parts now on the International Space Station or in orbit. In recognition of strong leadership, Executive Director Michael Stauffer was nominated for an award due to his work in building partnerships with corporations and co-op programs. BCTC is considering closing its horticulture program due to low enrollment. The approximately 35 open slots from that program will be reallocated to create a new Health Professions suite, which is expected to add 40 new spots. This transition is planned to be completed over the summer. Lastly, BCTC has successfully completed its third and final negotiation for staff contracts, bringing all agreements current. The total number of students in the BCTC programs is 2,100. SVSD can host a student-parent meeting for interested families to get an opportunity to tour the BCTC to see the skills and trades, he encouraged the board to let him know if anyone is interested in setting this up.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *Nicoleen M. Kleffel*

Mrs. Kleffel stated their quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 26, 2025.

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

Mrs. Lash reminded everyone that the PSBA Leadership Conference will be held in October and encouraged anyone interested in attending to contact Mrs. Macedo, Executive Secretary, to register and reserve accommodation. She also noted that her next Liaison Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for July 15.

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

Mrs. Lash discussed information relayed from Mrs. Courtne Nein, president of SVEF. The Red and Black event is scheduled for March 13 and will be held at the Leesport Market. The district will also have a presence at National Night Out and several other upcoming community events. Additionally, they are currently awaiting approval of their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) application, which has not yet taken effect. There was interest in better understanding whether laminators are needed in the building, as this was part of a discussion on how to allocate grant funds. If laminators are not needed, the funds may be redirected for other purposes. She also mentioned a potential opportunity to speak at an upcoming in-service to share information about the foundation and to update a previously created video. In addition, there are plans to increase community advertising efforts to raise awareness, as many people are unfamiliar with the foundation and its purpose.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Louis Shucker – Bern Township, SVSD election cycles and future school direction.

Michele Ramsey – Centre Township, MIA/POW Flag

Craig Wojszwillo – Ontelaunee Township, MIA/POW Flag

Ed Perenti – Centre Township, MIA/POW flag

Sherry Faust – Bern Township, taxpayer funds, fieldhouse construction, student learning environments.

4.0 BOARD

There were no items for Board approval.

4.1 SOLICITOR'S REPORT

It was noted that the state budget will not be finalized by the June 30th deadline. Additionally, there was an amendment to the agenda, item 6.7 regarding Cardinal Point, which was presented as an opportunity for the board to keep its options open while determining the best course of action for armed security in the upcoming school year.

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

5.2.1 Superintendent's Update

Dr. Taschner opened by apologizing for the omission of three students from the graduation program, noting that high school administrators, along with Ms. Manzer, are working to correct the errors and ensure the students are properly recognized. She reflected on the success of the 2025 graduation event, acknowledging the hard work that went into making it a memorable evening for students and families. Dr. Taschner highlighted several recent student and program achievements, including: The Schuylkill Valley FFA program earning third place in the Chapter Scrapbook category at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention. Sarah Bundy and Keira Stork earned national certification through the NOCTI assessment in Principles of Agricultural Science – Animal, and Ian Schlappich earned the same certification in Principles of Agricultural Science – Plant. Lucy Kerr, Autumn Scheffler, and Keira Stork earned Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification, a national program focused on food safety, animal well-being, and ethical character in youth working with livestock. The Pennsylvania Youth Education Association (PYEA) wrapped up a record-breaking year, highlighted by events like the PA Farm Show Milkshake Truck, Powder Puff Football Game, and Mini-Thon. The organization raised \$18,216.91 for Four Diamonds, bringing their nine-year total donation to \$94,384.67 to support childhood cancer care and research. Dr. Taschner also attended the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame Ceremony, where Bruce Harbach was inducted and honored. She recognized the efforts behind the Winter and Spring Athletic Awards, thanking Mr. Miller and Nikki Rider for their work in organizing the celebrations. She also discussed the Retirement and Service Awards Dinner, congratulating all retirees, with special recognition to:

- Marlene Biroš – 23.55 years
- Sharon Chelius – 16.27 years
- Eva Frank – 17.27 years
- Kathleen Gwiazdowski – 31.12 years
- Sandra Griffiths – 34.02 years
- Trina Dunkelberger – 23.27 years
- Rita Ernst – 7.91 years
- Thomas Evanoksy – 19.88 years
- Mark Horrell – 32 years

A retiree tribute video will be shown at the July Board Meeting. To close out the school year, the district hosted a powerful and impactful presentation by Max Schachter on school safety. Finally, the Middle and Elementary Schools kicked off the first session of summer camps, beginning with the popular Garden Camp at SVES.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:51 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 6.1 through 6.3 for Board approval as presented.

- 6.1** Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignation due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2025-2026 school year unless otherwise noted:
- Ms. Sharon Witman, Special Education Paraprofessional at the High School, effective July 24, 2025.
- 6.2** 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.)
- 6.2.1** Approves Mr. Noah Hermany, Elementary PK-4 Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$56,303, effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Kathleen Gwiazdowski.
- 6.2.2** Approves the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year:
- George Eckert – Paraprofessional
Brittany Furnanage – Food Service Worker
Stacey Lehman – Custodian
Sierra Merkel – Paraprofessional
Benjamin Miller – Music Pk-12
- 6.2.3** Approves the following volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year:
- Kathy Gwiazdowski – ES
Melissa Hartranft – ES
Heather Johnston – ES/MS
Jennifer Logan – ES
- 6.2.4** Approves the following game workers for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid \$40 per event:
- James Guischarde
Jonathan Jenkins
Sierra Merkel
- 6.2.5** Approves the employment for the Extracurricular Employees for the 2025-2026 school year:
- Olivia Marts – Field Hockey Varsity Head Coach - \$7,090.00
Richard Sensenig – Field Hockey Varsity Assistant Coach - \$4,130.00
Steven Wise – Wrestling Assistant Coach – Volunteer
- 6.2.6** Approves the following Part-Time Temporary Technology Project Employees at an hourly rate of pay of \$15.93:
- Jesse Ganter-Scott

Jayce Iezzi
Logan Kraus
Charles Mertz

- 6.2.7** Approves the extended school year (ESY) staff, with teachers to be paid the professional hourly rate of \$40, per the SVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement, paraprofessional and substitute paraprofessionals to be paid at their regular hourly rate:

Amelia Herbert – Teacher
Maritssa Hernandez – Paraprofessional
Corie Kehr – Paraprofessional
Kimberly Luigard – Substitute Teacher
Olivia Martz – Teacher
Michael McDermott – Substitute Teacher
Jeremy Murphy – Teacher
Christine Nguyen – Paraprofessional
Beth O'Neill – Teacher
Roberta Nye – Paraprofessional
Bryan Poepperling – Teacher
Kristi Robinson – Teacher
Daniel Savage – Teacher
Aaryn Snyder – Teacher
Jeysalin Williams – Substitute Teacher
Sharon Witman – Paraprofessional
Millie Reppert - Paraprofessional

- 6.2.8** Approves summer school staff, with teachers to be paid the professional hourly rate of \$40, per the SVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: Teachers will only be used as student enrollment dictates.

Jodi Alderfer – HS
Melissa Bachman – ES
Morgan Boone – ES
Marrissa Ciccarone – MS
Christina Diltz – MS
Caitlin Doupe – ES
Howard Emerson – MS
Julie Emerson – ES
Stephanie Erb – ES
Jacob Ford – HS
Jessica Frantz – ES
Shannon Furst – MS
Christopher Gallo – MS
Marisa Horne – ES
Diane Hubler – HS
Jonathan Jenkins – MS
Hunter Jones – ES
Joel Kleinspehn – ES
Mary Ellen Kummerer – ES
Abby Maulick – MS
Corriann Myers – ES
Courtney Neary – ES
Donna Novakovich – ES
Meghan O'Donnell – ES
Brittany Pyle – ES
Matthew Reed – HS
Cassidy Reel – ES

Michelle Rowles-Cranmer – HS
Abbey Sassaman – HS
Ronald Sausser – MS
Taylor Serafin – ES
Alyssa Smith – ES
Roxanne Snyder - HS

- 6.3** Acknowledged the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves of absence:

Michelle DeStefano Konchar, Mathematics Teacher at the high school, effective August 18, 2025, through November 7, 2025.

Stephanie Wolfe, Transportation and Accounts Payable Secretary, effective May 22, 2025, through June 9, 2025.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve items 6.1 through 6.3 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4** Approves Act 93 Non-Certified Compensation Plan.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Linda Lash to approve item 6.4 as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Nays: O'Donnell

Motion passed 8 to 1.

- 6.5** Approves Act 93 Certified Compensation Plan.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve items 6.5 as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Nays: O'Donnell

Motion passed 8 to 1.

- 6.6** Approves the agreement with the Northern Berks Police Commission, along with the authority to execute it subject to solicitor review.

Mr. Bendigo requested to table the agreement with the Northern Berks Police Commission, along with the authority, to execute it subject to solicitor review explaining that the response received from the Northern Berks Police Commission was unexpected. He expressed concern about committing the current or any future board to a contract that renews every five years indefinitely. He emphasized that to move forward, representatives from both the SVSD Board and the Police Commission would need to agree on a framework that could then be reviewed and finalized by each party's solicitor. Mr. Bendigo also noted that feedback suggested not all members of the Police Commission were aligned with the response received and that one-on-one discussions needed to take place to develop a workable solution. Mrs. Steinke added that both she and Mr. Bendigo were scheduled to meet with the commission to discuss the matter, but the meeting was denied due to legal concerns. She stressed the importance of getting all involved parties together to resolve the issue collaboratively and stated that the revised contract received was not acceptable.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to table item 6.6 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.7** Approves to authorize the School District's Safety and Security Coordinator with the authority to execute an agreement with Cardinal Point Security for armed security for the 25-2026 school year subject to review and approval of the solicitor at a rate of \$44.00 per hour for an armed security guard at a rate of \$46.00 an hour for armed school police officer.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Linda Lash to approve item 6.7 as presented.

Mrs. Luke clarified to the public that the idea to potentially using them originated with the Board as a temporary solution while working to establish a contract with the Police Commission. She emphasized that the Board would prefer to use police officers but acknowledged the need to have a plan in place for the upcoming school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.8** Approves the increase in rates of pay for the community aquatics positions as presented.

Student Aide: \$14/hour
Student Lifeguard: \$15/hour
Adult Supervision: \$16/hour

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve item 6.8 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.9** Approves Ms. Melissa Schnabel, Full-Time Secretary to the Director of Curriculum and Learning, at an hourly rate of pay of \$22.61, effective date to be determined.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve item 6.9 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.10** Approves Mr. Anthony Neal, Mathematics 7-12 Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, \$56,303.00 effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Jared Guhl.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve item 6.10 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.11** Approves Ms. Madison Haines, Elementary PK-4 Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, \$56,303.00 effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Sandra Griffiths.

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve item 6.11 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.12** Approves of Ms. Victoria Grebloski, Mathematics 7-12 Teacher, Master's Step 20, \$88,748.00, effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the position vacated by the retirement of Mr. Tom Evansky.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve item 6.12 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.13** Approves Ms. Laura Rohrbach, English 7-12 Teacher, Master's Step 1, \$61,455.00 effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Kali Antalosky.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve item 6.13 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.14** Approves Ms. Alysia Collins, PK-12 Special Education Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$56,303.00 effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Danielle Green.

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve item 6.14 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.15** Approves of Dr. Casey Flanagan, Occupational Therapist, Doctorate, Step 1, \$61,455.00, effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Sarah Blaise.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve item 6.15 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.16** Approves Mr. Jeremy Grim, Mathematics 7-12 Teacher, Master's+30, Step 22, \$100,030.00 effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the newly created position.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve item 6.16 as presented.

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 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 7.1 through 7.9 for Board approval as presented.

- 7.1** Approves the quote from BCIU for Cloud Based Email Security, as presented.
- 7.2** Approves renewing the membership of the BCIU Ed Tech Pool Counsel for 2025-2026, at a cost of \$577.50, as presented.
- 7.3** Approves of server refresh and software renewal, as presented.
- 7.4** Approves of the three (3) year agreement with Riverside Technologies, Inc. for Managed Network Services, at an annual cost of \$18,000.00, as presented.
- 7.5** Approves the Apple Financial Services proposal, to replace 200 iPads for the Kindergarten classrooms, as presented.
- 7.6** Approves the science curriculum resources from Discovery Education for the elementary school and high school in the amount of \$33,900.00.
- 7.7** Approves the Ready to Teach kits from ECA for grades 3-5 in the amount of \$22,448.00. This reflects a three-year commitment for rental kits.
- 7.8** Approves the Open Sci-Ed Kits for grades six through eight in the amount of \$27,133.37.
- 7.9** Approves of the mathematics resources from McGraw-Hill for grades K-8 in the amount of \$219,215.77 which reflects a three-year commitment.

Moved by Franklin Ammarell and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve items 7.1 through 7.9 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.10 OTHER(OLD/NEW BUSINESS)

Dr. Taschner provided booklets that each class made and was published as a result of the new language arts curriculum for each of the board members.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 8:01 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 8.1 through 8.5 for Board approval as presented.

- 8.1 Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from May 12, 2025, to June 24, 2025, as presented:

GENERAL FUND	\$1,672,533.65
CAFETERIA FUND	\$39,667.81
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$32,921.92
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$43,290.00
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$60,611.94
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,849,025.32

- 8.2 Approves for the Business Office Personnel to process bills for payment up to and including June 30, 2025; the list of bills will be presented for ratification at the regular Board Meeting in July 2025.

- 8.3 Approves of the following depositories for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

Tompkins/VIST Bank
 PA School District Liquid Asset Fund
 PA School District Liquid Asset Max Fund
 TD Bank

- 8.4 Approves the liability and workers' compensation insurance package from Alera Group for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$237,634.
- 8.5 Approves the Director of Finance to authorize a rate lock for the upcoming electricity renewal on behalf of the district while working with the Solicitor on agreement review. This allows for the Director to lock in when rates are more favorable. The difference from last year was about \$35,000.00 increase from prior year and the largest increases were on the property side. Liability and workers' compensation also increased.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel, seconded by Linda Lash to approve items 8.1 through 8.5 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.6 Approves of the School Nutrition Program (SNP) Agreement between Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC) and Schuylkill Valley School District (SVSD) effective for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve item 8.6 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.7 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JUNE 16, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves of the receipt of a \$20,000.00 future special educator pipeline grant from PATTAN which provides paid dual enrollment fees for high school students who are pursuing a career as special education teachers and provides a stipend for teachers who host students in programs as interns in their classroom.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the receipt of a \$20,000.00 future special educator pipeline grant from PATTAN which provides paid dual enrollment fees for high school students who are pursuing a career as special education teachers and provides a stipend for teachers who host students in programs as interns in their classroom.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Moll, 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, June 16, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 9.1 through 9.4 for Board approval as presented.

- 9.1** Approves the proposal from Lobar Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$3,375.00 for the relocation of Door #E-108 in the District Administration Offices.
- 9.2** Approves the proposal from Honeywell in the amount of \$9,682.19 to repair the Variable Air Volume (VAV) system in office E-108 at the District Administration building.
- 9.3** Approves the maintenance agreement with TriState HVAC Equipment, LLC in the amount of \$18,850.00 for a term of one (1) year (7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026) for the inspection and maintenance of the High School Variable Refrigerant Volume (VRV) system, as submitted.
- 9.4** Approves the quotation from Elk Environmental Services for transportation and disposal of various chemicals located at the High School in the estimated amount of \$10,950.00.

Moved by Bryan O'Donnell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve items 9.1 through 9.4 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5** Approves of Full Landscape as the District provider of Landscape Services as presented.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve item 9.5 as presented.

There was discussion about the possibility of bringing maintenance services back in-house, now that the district has filled its final custodial vacancy and is currently fully staffed. More information will be available after they review the condition of the buildings and determine whether it is something that can be taken back on.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE APPROVED AT THE JUNE 16, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

- 9.6** Approves the proposal from Martin's Flooring, Inc. in the amount of \$62,735.00 to remove and dispose of the second-floor classroom area carpeting and replace with vinyl composition tile (VCT).
- 9.7** Approves the proposal from Martin's Flooring in the amount of \$86,980.00 to remove the carpeting from the Middle School corridors and common area and replace with polished stain concrete and vinyl cove bases.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve items 9.5 through 9.6 as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Kleffel, Moll, 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 7:38 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 10.1 through 10.3 for Board approval as presented.

- 10.1** Approves of the Agreement with the BCIU for regional support for students who are eligible for services per the ECYEH program.
- 10.2** Approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for student #4479.
- 10.3** Approves of the Third-Party Trust Agreement for student #4479.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve items 10.1 through 10.3 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.4** Approves of the Agreement with Caron Foundation for SAP Services for the 25-26 school year effective 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026.

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve item 10.4 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.5** Approves of the Settlement and Release Agreement for student #4199.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve item 10.5 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.6** Approves the student adjudication for student #4465.

- 10.7** Approves the student adjudication for student #5512.

Motion to table the student adjudication for student #4465 and #5512.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to table items 10.6 through 10.7 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.8** Approves of the Trust Agreement for student #3414 with Advocacy Alliance.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve item 10.8 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.9 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)**

Prom Location Update

Mrs. Godtfring explored several potential venues in the area, including the Reading Museum, Reading Phillies Field, and Stokesay Castle. While there is currently a contract in place, it includes termination language that provides flexibility if changes are needed. Mrs. Cammauf and Mrs. Godtfring will present available venue options at the July Committee Meeting.

- 11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mrs. Lash congratulated the High School on the great graduation and the orderly event.

- 12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Moll announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting to discuss confidential student information and receive a safety and security report.

- 13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Franklin Ammarell, 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.

June 23, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.


Lirida R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors