

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

MINUTES

August 25, 2025

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

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

Board Member Paul L. Bendigo was not physically present but participated and voted via speakerphone.

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Azucena Macedo

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Jennifer Godtfring, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, Jenny Rexrode, Michael Sobczak, Kristin Wallace, Dr. Patrick Winters, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell,

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 28, 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 August 6, 2025, for personnel matters and on August 18, 2025, following the Committee meetings, for confidential student information, legal, security and personnel matters, and on August 25, 2025, prior to the meeting for personnel matters, and after the Board meeting, for personnel, legal and confidential student information.

1.5 RECOGNITION OF STUDENT AND STAFF

Mr. Jason Hansen, Athletic Director, on behalf of the board recognized the following individuals for their accomplishments.

- Allyson McKechnie - BCIAA's 2025 Spring Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year
- Terry McKechnie – BCIAA's 2025 Spring Girls Track and Field Coache of the Year
- Bruce Harbach – Pennsylvania Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame

1.6 PRESENTATION

2025 General Obligation Bond Resolution:

Mr. Zack Williard of PFM Financial Advisors and Mrs. Lauren Stadel of Raymond James gave a presentation on the 2025 General Obligation Bond Resolution. Mr. Williard reviewed the updated

borrowed numbers, debt service, and the proposed bid timeline. Mrs. Stadel discussed the details of the resolution and the timing involved. She explained that the borrowing figure appears inflated partly due to the inclusion of capitalized interest for the first two (2) years. The resolution is structured to provide flexibility based on the bids received. Mrs. Stadel noted that the resolution specifies the District will continue to set aside funds in the budget for debt service, pledging its full faith, credit, and taxing power to repay the bonds. This structure allows the financing team to market the bonds at an agreed upon suitable time, with the District applying semiannual payments in a timely manner to the paying agent, who then distributes the funds to bondholders.

2.0 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 reported that the BCIU Learning Center for the Head Start classrooms is opening in the GoggleWorks complex. The site will include two (2) classrooms as well as additional spaces, and an open house is scheduled for Wednesday September 17, which she plans to attend. She also noted that on Thursday evening, Mr. Jim Boscov was recognized as the 2025 BCIU Outstanding Community Partner. He is the 11th recipient of this award and currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Boscov's, as well as Chairman of the City of Reading. The BCIU also held it's start-of-the-year event for administrators, featuring guest speaker Mr. Adolf Brown, who is recognized as "the World's Greatest Educator." In addition, the IU earned the National Top Workplace Recognition Award, one of only 16 organizations across the United States to receive the honor. Over the summer the IU hosted two Camp Connects for children who had experienced the loss of a family member. A total of 23 children from across the state participated. Finally, Mrs. Lash shared that she received a copy of the IU's start-of-year report. The theme for the 2025-26 school year was "Aspire, Adapt, and Advance" and the report outlines each department's priorities for the year.

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

Mr. Moll reported that their first meeting is scheduled for August, with the Officer Meeting held earlier in the evening at 5:00 p.m. He highlighted several updates:

- NOCTI Scores: The East Campus in Oley achieved a record high, with 98.6% of students scoring competent or advanced on the NOCTI exams.
- Horticulture Program: This will be the final year for the Horticulture Program due to low enrollment.
- Enrollment: On the first day of school enrollment stood at 2,072 students.
- Career Camp: Over the summer, the school hosted a career camp for 240 students entering Vo-Tech. The program provides students with a week-long experience, allowing them to rotate through various programs. Participation filled quickly.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *Nicoleen M. Kleffel*

Mrs. Kleffel reported that there was no committee update at this time and noted that the committee will meet at the end of the quarter.

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

Mrs. Lash discussed two (2) items. First, she noted that the annual conference is scheduled for the week of October 19-21. She also shared updates regarding the state budget, explaining that Pennsylvania lawmakers have shown little urgency in reaching an agreement, even though the deadline passed nearly two (2) months ago. She explained that the lack of urgency stems from the fact that Pennsylvania does not shut down in the absence of a budget, unlike other states. While September 1 was originally suggested as a possible target date for an agreement, as that date approaches, she does not see any progress being made.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reported that the Foundation participated in In-Service Day, where they spoke with teachers about payroll deductions and made connections for raffle items that were handmade by students. The Foundation was also present at the Elementary School's Meet the Teacher Night on Tuesday and will be attending the High School's event as well. She noted that the Foundation has welcomed new board members, providing additional support throughout the year. Their next meeting will take place in September to plan the fall outing. Preparations are also underway for the Red and Black Event with hopes for increased attendance this year. Additionally, Mrs. Lash shared that, at Mrs. Nein's request, teachers are reminded that three (3) \$500.00 grants, one for each building, are available for application. She thanked Mrs. Nein for sharing this information.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Louis Shucker, Bern Township – Artificial Intelligence
Carol Weyandt, Bern Township – Superintendent/District day to day operations, disposal of old textbooks, dress code, staff training, Middle School Semester block scheduling

4.0 BOARD

There were no items for Board approval.

4.1 SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Luke discussed the bond presentation and noted that her Fox Rothschild colleagues prepared the resolution included on the Board's agenda for approval. She added that they will continue working with the District throughout the process by assisting with due diligence, settlement, document preparation, and related matters.

4.2 PSBA OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Board is requested to consider and recommend the election of officers for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Section E-3 Advisor
- PSBA Insurance Trustees – Choose up to 2

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to elect Holly Arnold, President-Elect; Matt Vannoy, Vice President; Andrew Kline, Section E-3 Advisor, and Kathy K. Swope, PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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 district highlights from the past month. She began by thanking administrators, custodians, food service staff, the business office and the technology department for their efforts in preparing for the start of school. She also expressed appreciation to the PTAs for

their support during Back to School Nights. She highlighted the three (3) days of New Teacher Induction, noting that the bus ride, particularly the stop at Plum Creek, was a standout moment. Teacher In-Service Days welcomed staff back with breakfast and included a significant portion of the mandated trainings, helping to set a positive tone for the new school year. Presentations were led by administrators and covered topics such as security, discipline, student activity funds, curriculum, de-escalation strategies, and professional ethics, as well as other issues teachers may encounter in the opening weeks of school. PYEA also participated in the leadership retreat. Dr. Taschner recognized Schuylkill Valley FFA for being awarded the Student Environmental Organization of the Year Award by the Berks County Conservation District. The group also received a certificate of recognition from the Berks County Conservation District. The group also received a certificate of recognition from the Berks County Board of Commissioners for its outstanding accomplishments. In addition, the FFA team participated in Penn State University's Ag Progress Days alongside the County Commissioners. Lastly, she shared that the High School Girls' Basketball Team traveled to Myrtle Beach to compete in the NTBA National Tournament.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 6.1 through 6.9 for Board approval as presented.

6.1 Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignations:

- Ms. Jenifer Brendel, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective June 6, 2025
- Mr. Nicholas Wojciechowski, 5th Grade Teacher, effective August 12, 2025
- Mr. Vito Zazo, IT Technician, effective July 31, 2025
- Ms. Krissi Swavely, Food Services Worker, effective June 6, 2025
- Dr. Cathy L. Taschner, Superintendent, effective November 12, 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. Lorenzo Cinicola, Custodial Supervisor, at an hourly rate of \$34.90, effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. David McDonaldson.
- 6.2.2** Approves Ms. Yesenia Gonzalez Jimenez, Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$20.21, effective July 21, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Charles Fellows.
- 6.2.3** Approves Mr. Stephen Mickulik, Principal at the Middle School, at an annual salary of \$113,500.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Dr. Joshua Kuehner.
- 6.2.4** Approves Ms. Chole Zimmerman, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional, six (6) hours per day at an hourly rate of \$13.66, effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Ms. Rita Ernst.
- 6.2.5** Approves the following game workers for the 2025-26 school year, to be paid \$40.00 per event:

Kristi Kauffman
Megan Osilka
Isabella Romingn

6.2.6 Approves the following volunteers for the 2025-26 school year:

Melissa Hassler – ES
Angela Kirn – ES
Lauren Matthews – HS/MS
Amy Miller – HS (Student Internship – Willow Creek Veterinary Center)
Tammy Witmer – HS (Student Internship – Reading Midwife Center)

6.2.7 Approves the following mentor for the 2025-26 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full year mentors and \$587.50 for half year mentors:

Jodi Alderfer - Half Year
Morgan Boone - Full Year
Christina Diltz - Full Year
Creg Drake - Full Year
Julie Emerson - Half Year
Megan Fox - Full Year
Melissa Hottenstein - Full Year
Corriann Myers - Full Year
Sue Raynes - Full Year
Sarah Reed - Half Year
Michelle Rowles-Cranmer - Full Year
Abbey Sassaman - Full Year
Elizabeth Schucker - Full Year
Taylor Serafin - Full Year

6.2.8 Approves the following substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:

Yanelis Alverdi Vazquez - Custodian
Rachel Brister - Elementary Education K-4, Special Education PK-12
Angela Davis - Guest Teacher
Tara Ebling - Guest Teacher
George Eckert - Paraprofessional
Nelda Eddinger - Homebound, Elementary Education K-6 (Retired)
Kiley Esbenshade - Food Services Worker, Paraprofessional
Kimberly Foreman - English 7-12 (Retired)
Jamie Greenwood - Guest Teacher
Sandra Griffiths - Elementary K-6, Homebound (Retired)
Susan Heckman - Nurse
Aaron Hinsey - Social Studies 7-12
Colleen Hodnik - Elementary Education K-6 (Retired)
Veronica Hyland - English 7-12, Library Science K-12
Deanne Johnson - Mathematics 7-12
Susan Jones - Food Services Worker
Kalika Kauffman - Paraprofessional
John Paul King - Guest Teacher
Sharon Koller - Spanish (Retired)
Katie Kowalski - Guest Teacher, Paraprofessional
Michael Krishock - Guest Teacher
Kimberly Luigard - Elementary Education K-6
Brenda Martin - Guest Teacher
Jennifer Mazaika - Paraprofessional
Michael McDermott - Guest Teacher

Mary McMenamin-Blatt - Guest Teacher
Charles Moody - Paraprofessional
Wendy Noll - Paraprofessional
Anne Ostrowski - Guest Teacher
Fran Pucul - Guest Teacher
Roberta Nye - Guest Teacher
James Pirtle - Mathematics 7-12 (Retired)
Joseph Reedy - Social Studies 7-12 (Retired)
Reannna Reynolds - Guest Teacher, Homebound
John Ries - Guest Teacher
Tiffany Rollman - Paraprofessional
Carly Schaffer - Guest Teacher
Janet Scull - Speech Correction (Retired)
Jane Sigoda - Homebound, Elementary Education K-6 (Retired)
Susan Staus - Guest Teacher, Paraprofessional
Cynthia Steele - Mathematics 7-12 (Retired)
Donna Unger - Elementary Education K-4
Katey Vandergrift - Guest Teacher
Moira Vaughan - Paraprofessional
Tiffany Wagner - Elementary Education K-4
Dorothea Weeks - Social Studies 7-12
Jeysalin Williams - Guest Teacher
Christine Wysocki - Homebound, Paraprofessional, Elementary Education K-6 (Retired)
Alexandra Yeager - Guest Teacher, Paraprofessional
Victoria Zimmerman - Guest Teacher

6.3 Approves the following changes to the per diem substitute wage rates for the 2025-26 school year:

Nurse substitute from \$150.00/day to \$160.00/day
Teacher day to day substitute from \$160.00/day to \$170.00/day
Teacher day to day substitute ten (10) or more cumulative days in a school year from \$170.00/day to \$180.00/day.
Teacher short-term substitute (6-44 days in same assignment) from \$180.00/day to \$190.00/day.
Retired teacher substitute from \$195.00/day to \$205.00/day

6.4 Approves the childrearing request of Mrs. Michelle DeStefano Konchar, Mathematics Teacher at the high school, effective November 10, 2025, through January 26, 2025.

6.5 Approves the University-District Certification Program MOU with Wilkes University School of Education Certification Programs in partnership with Schuylkill Valley School District

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

Courtney Neary, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school, effective approximately October 9, 2025, through December 1, 2025.

6.7 Approves the renewal of the agreement with VectorSolutions for its Vector Training, Employee Safety and Compliance Library for trainings for district staff, at an annual cost of \$2,270.70, for the period of 09/25/2025 – 09/24/2026.

6.8 Approves the renewal of the agreement with General Healthcare Resources, LLC, to provide substitute nurses at the hourly rate of \$55.00 for an LPN and \$65.00 for an RN.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded Bryan O'Donnell to consolidate and approve items 6.1 to 6.9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.9 Approves the fall coaching salaries for the 2025-26 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the fall coaching salaries for the 2025-26 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.10 Approves the addition and revision of the following extra and co-curricular positions.

Mr. Moll requested information on participation rates of the co-curricular activities, including when the events are held and the number of hours involved. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the additional positions being added are meeting student needs and that attendance and time commitments from teachers are documented, as these roles come with additional salaries.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.11 Approves the Resignation and Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release Agreement 0002501738.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Resignation and Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release Agreement 0002501738.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.12 Approves Ms. Karen Heiland, Reading Specialist K-12 Teacher, Master's+42, Step 22, \$103,533.00 effective pending release from current assignment, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Deborah Wrestler.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve Ms. Karen Heiland, Reading Specialist K-12 Teacher, Master's+42, Step 22, \$103,533.00 effective pending release from current assignment, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Deborah Wrestler.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.13 **THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**

Approves the of Mr. Stephen Mickulik, Principal at the Middle School, at an annual salary of \$113,500.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Dr. Joshua Kuehner.

Board Action: Moved Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve Mr. Stephen Mickulik, Principal at the Middle School, at an annual salary of \$113,500.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Dr. Joshua Kuehner.

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

Motion passed unanimously

6.14 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves the bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2025-26 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2025-26 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.15 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves of Ms. Karly King, Special Education PK-8 Teacher, Master's Step 6, \$67,730.00, effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Charlotte Lupia.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve of Ms. Karly King, Special Education PK-8 Teacher, Master's Step 6, \$67,730.00, effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Charlotte Lupia.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.16 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves the following Certified Building Substitute Teachers for the 2025-26 school year, at an annual rate of pay \$46,3003.00 (reduced rate of pay with single level benefit option available and prorated for actual days worked):

Logan Borkey
Heather Hadwin
Aaron Hinsey
Veronica Hyland
Kim Luigard
Donna Novakovich

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the Certified Building Substitute Teachers for the 2025-26 school year, at an annual rate of pay \$46,3003.00 (reduced rate of pay with single level benefit option available and prorated for actual days worked) as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.17 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves of Mr. Matthew Christman, Mathematics 7-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the high school, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$56,303.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, through approximately January 27, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Michelle DeStefano Konchar.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve of Mr. Matthew Christman, Mathematics 7-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher, at the high school, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$56,303.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, through approximately January 27, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Michelle DeStefano Konchar.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.18 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:

Approves of Ms. Tiffany Wagner, Elementary Education PK-4 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Elementary School, Master's, Step 2, \$63,049.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, end date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Caitlin Doupe.

Board Action: Moved by Bryan O'Donnell and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve of Ms. Tiffany Wagner, Elementary Education PK-4 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Elementary School, Master's Step 2, \$63,049.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, end date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Caitlin Doupe.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Linda R. Lash

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:20 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 7.1 through 7.11 for Board approval as presented.

- 7.1 Approves the renewal quote from SchoolStatus, LLC for the Smore for Teams software subscription beginning 9/6/2025 and ending 9/5/2026 in the amount of \$1,360.00, as presented.
- 7.2 Approves the Statement of Work Agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit for job embedded professional learning for our mathematics teachers, as presented.
- 7.3 Approves the articulation agreement with SUNY Morrisville for our Agricultural Science Program.
- 7.4 Approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Berks County Head Start for the 2025-26 school year.
- 7.5 Approves the Statement of the work with Pearson to provide virtual programming for the 2025-26 school year.
- 7.6 Approves the purchase of a new Earth Networks Weather Station at a cost of \$10,894.00, as presented.

- 7.7** Approves the purchase of ten (10) copies of the Introduction to Veterinary Science textbooks at a cost of \$1,419.00, as presented.
- 7.8** Approves the renewal of the Project STEM licenses for the 2025-26 school year at a cost of \$2,000.00, as presented.
- 7.9** Approves the MindTap Century 21 Accounting digital access at a cost of \$1,125.00, as presented.
- 7.10** Approves the renewal of the eDynamic Learning License for the Virtual Business Sports and Entertainment Lab at a cost of \$1,360.00. This license renewal is for a period of three (3) years, 7/22/2025 – 7/21/2028.
- 7.11** Approves the purchase of 35 user licenses for the CertPrep MOS Practice Tests at a cost of \$3,290.00.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to consolidate and approve items 7.1 through 7.11 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.12 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)

Mrs. Steinke inquired about the possibility of implementing an overall communication system. She noted that other schools are using platforms that are not solely dependent on email, social media, phone or text. She asked whether there could be one consolidated location for District information so that families and staff can access everything in one place, rather than having it dispersed across multiple platforms. Dr. Taschner stated the information would be gathered and presented to the board at a later date.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:20 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 8.1 through 8.2 for Board approval as presented.

- 8.1** Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from July 14, 2025, to August 26, 2025, as presented:

GENERAL FUND	\$2,415,114.55
CAFETERIA FUND	\$16,597.23
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$20,577.88
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$8,689.86
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,460,979.52

- 8.2** Approves the disposal of a one-four-tier rolling rack due to poor condition.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to consolidate and approve items 8.1 and 8.2 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves the SVSD 2025 GOB Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds to provide financing for the planning, designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing of a new athletic facility to be utilized as a field house.

The Board emphasized that if the project does not move forward, the District is not obligated. It was also clarified that while the District has the potential to borrow \$23.5 million, this does not mean that the full amount will be withdrawn. Mrs. Steinke further inquired whether there would be a meeting of the entire Board, not just the Building and Grounds Committee to discuss the Field House Project. Dr. Taschner stated she would schedule the meeting date.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the SVSD 2025 GOB Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds to provide financing for the planning, designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing of a new athletic facility to be utilized as a field house.

Roll Call Vote: Board Vote

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Individual Vote

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4** Approves the issuance of the invoice for services rendered in the Schuylkill Valley Education Center (Berks County Youth Center) for the 2024-25 school year.

The Board explained to the public that an estimate was requested for the total cost of the Youth Center; however, at that time the District did not yet have accurate information on the number of students being served, the resources required, how billing would be processed, or what challenges might arise. The initial estimate was approximately \$767,401.00 and included Lincoln Learning Solutions, technology start-up costs, supplies, transportation, personnel, and the addition of two (2) general education teachers at the middle school. These teachers were added to prevent class sizes from increasing, as it was initially believed the program might affect the middle school numbers. A credit was later applied because no middle school students participated, and those related costs were removed from the bill. In Addition, the nine-passenger van, originally included at a cost of \$264.00 per day to transport students was also removed from the estimate. Before adding the remaining costs of special education and shared transportation, the revised bill stands at \$245,868.00. This figure includes approximately \$115,000.00 received for renting the Youth Center this year. Once the final special education and shared transportation costs are determined, they will be presented to the Board. It was further noted that the County's costs for the Youth Center would essentially equate to the debt service increase associated with the Field House project.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the issuance of the invoice for services rendered in the Schuylkill Valley Education Center (Berks County Youth Center) for the 2025-26 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.5** **THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2025, BOARD MEETING:**
Approves the bus routes for the 2025-26 school year and authorizes the Director of Finance and Assistant Business Manager to make necessary changes throughout the 2025-26 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the bus routes for the 2025-26 school year and authorizes the Director of Finance and Assistant Business Manager to make necessary changes throughout the 2025-26 school year.

Yeas: Ammarell, 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 7:22 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the quote from Mainline Commercial Pools for the purchase of a replacement UV light for the Middle School Natatorium in the amount of \$5,707.10.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the quote from Mainline Commercial Pools for the purchase of a replacement UV light for the Middle School Natatorium in the amount of \$5,707.10.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.2** Approves the quote from Building Maps for Illustration – Change to Existing Maps for two (2) additional fire evacuation maps for classrooms at Schuylkill Valley Elementary School in the amount of \$120.00.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the quote from Building Maps for Illustration – Change to Existing Maps for two (2) additional fire evacuation maps for classrooms at Schuylkill Valley Elementary School in the amount of \$120.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 15, 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 the five (5) year Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement with Millersville University.
- 10.2** Approves the Settlement Agreement and Release with the parents of Student #3006 for placement at John Paul II Academy for the 2025-26 school year.
- 10.3** Approves the Agreement between SVSD and Thomson Reuters for the three (3) year subscription to CLEAR Proflex for 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to consolidate and 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 the contract with Acorns to Oaks for Educational Psychological Services for the 2025-26 school year.

Dr. Taschner noted she requested to work alongside the Solicitor on this matter. They are using last year's agreement as a basis; however, the District's version is more extensive and includes provisions such as contractor email communication, particularly in relation to special education. These sections are being further refined. She added that this contractor was used last year and did a very good job for the district.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the contract with Acorns to Oaks for Educational Psychological Services for the 2025-26 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.5** Approves the agreement between SVSD and Linked in Literacy LLC for August 21, 2025, through June 30, 2026, to provide confidential student services at a rate of \$130.00 per hour (pro-rated for actual work completed), pending review and approval of the Solicitor.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the agreement between SVSD and Linked in Literacy LLC for August 21, 2025, through June 30, 2026, to provide confidential student services at a rate of \$130.00 per hour (pro-rated for actual work completed), pending review and approval of the Solicitor.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.6** Approves the master agreement and statement of work (SOW) between SVSD and Onward Search for confidential student services, subject to review and approval by the Solicitor.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the master agreement and statement of work (SOW) between SVSD and Onward Search for confidential student services, subject to review and approval by the Solicitor.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.7** Approves the Client Assignment Confirmation with Soliant for School Psychologist Services, subject to review and approval of the Solicitor.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the Client Assignment Confirmation with Soliant for School Psychologist Services, subject to review and approval of the Solicitor.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

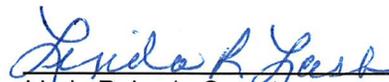
13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.


Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors