

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

MINUTES

December 2, 2025

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board Secretary, Linda R. Lash, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL/LIST OF HOLDOVER MEMBERS

Holdover members: Franklin M. Ammarell, David E. Moll, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Daniel B. Weyandt

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Azucena Macedo

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Patrick Winters, Jason Hansen, Joshua Kuehner, Jenny Rexrode, Michael Sobczak, Louisa Trumbore

Solicitor: Beth Shore, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

Dr. Winters provided clarification regarding the Act 34 Resolution and advertisement for the Fieldhouse Project. He explained that the architect advised that the maximum project cost listed in the resolution was understated by \$94,200.00 due to the exclusion of capitalized interest. If approved, the resolution would require correction to include capitalized interest, resulting in a revised maximum project cost of \$24,877,416.00

2.0 NOTICE OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING

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

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

4.0 SELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (from holdover members)

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

Board Action: Moved by David Moll to nominate Franklin M. Ammarell for temporary President.

Yeas: Ammarell, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

Franklin Ammarell served as the temporary President.

5.0 CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FOR NEWLY ELECTED OR REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Franklin M. Ammarell, Temporary President, read the Certificates of Election from the Berks County Board of Elections for:

Joseph M. Brown – Region 1

Linda R. Lash – Region 1

Lauren J. Matthews – Region 3

Carol E. Weyandt – Region 2

6.0 SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED AND REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Linda R. Lash, Temporary President, administered the oath of office to the newly elected and reelected Board members:

Joseph M. Brown Four-year term to include first Monday in December 2029
Region 1

Linda R. Lash Four-year term to include first Monday in December 2029
Region 1

Lauren J. Matthews Four-year term to include first Monday in December 2029
Region 3

Carol E. Weyandt Four year term to include first Monday in December 2029
Region 2

7.0 LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TERMS

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Franklin M. Ammarell | Region 2 | 2023-2027 |
| Joseph M. Brown | Region 1 | 2025-2029 |
| Linda R. Lash | Region 1 | 2025-2029 |
| Lauren J. Matthews | Region 3 | 2025-2029 |
| David E. Moll | Region 3 | 2023-2027 |
| Alfonso F. Rossi | Region 3 | 2023-2027 |
| Kelly J. Steinke | Region 1 | 2023-2027 |
| Carol E. Weyandt | Region 2 | 2025-2029 |
| Daniel B. Weyandt | Region 2 | 2023-2027 |

8.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Temporary President Franklin M. Ammarell, asked for nominations for President.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll to nominate Carol E. Weyandt for President

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously for Carol E. Weyandt for Board President.

9.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

President Carol Weyandt asked for nominations for Vice President.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll to nominate Franklin M. Ammarell as Vice President.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously for Franklin M. Ammarell as Vice President.

10.0 APPOINTMENTS: BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Board is requested to consider and appoint representatives as listed:

10.1 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER: JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE

Mr. David Moll agreed to continue to serve as the representative through December 31, 2027. Mr. Daniel Weyandt agreed to serve as the alternate representative, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Weyandt, through December 31, 2027.

10.2 PENNSYLVANIA SCHOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON (One-Year Term)
Mrs. Linda Lash agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and Mrs. Lauren Matthews agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

10.3 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE (One-year term)
Mr. Joe Brown agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and Mrs. Kelly J. Steinke agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

10.4 BERKS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE (Five-year term: January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030)
Dr. Winters will reach out to Mr. Geoffrey Miller to see if he would like to continue to serve as the representative for Berks Vocation-Technical Authority until December 31, 2030.

Board Action: Moved by Joseph Brown and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve to consolidate items 10.1 to 10.4 as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS

11.1 BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
Mrs. Linda Lash is presently the representative through June 30, 2026, as appointed at the June 15, 2023, BCIU Board Meeting.

Mrs. Weyandt also noted that Linda R. Lash is presently the Board Secretary approved at the May 27 Board Meeting for a four (4) year term running from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2029.

12.0 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: 2026 and 2027

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

Franklin Ammarell, Chair
Kelly Steinke

Lauren Matthews
Alfonso Rossi

Curriculum and Technology

Linda Lash, Chair
Lauren Matthews

Daniel Weyandt
Joseph Brown

Budget and Finance

Joseph Brown, Chair
Kelly Steinke

David Moll
Alfonso Rossi

Buildings and Grounds

Alfonso Rossi, Chair
Franklin Ammarell

Daniel Weyandt
David Moll

Student Services and Activities

Kelly Steinke, Chair
Daniel Weyandt

Linda Lash
Joseph Brown

13.0 MEETING DATES: 2026

The Board is requested to consider and approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the meeting dates for 2026.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

14.0 PROCESSING OF BILLS

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 24, 2025, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2026 for ratification.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the authorization of the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 24, 2025, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2026 for ratification.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

15.0 OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 EMPLOYMENT – EXTRACURRICULAR

The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of the following extracurricular assignments for the 2025-26 school year. Approval is subject to the satisfactory receipt of all required clearances, background checks, and executed employment contracts:

John White – Wrestling Junior High Head Coach - \$6,900.00

Tanner White – Wrestling Junior High Assistant Coach - \$2,430.00

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the extracurricular assignments for the 2025-26 school year. Approval is subject to the satisfactory receipt of all required clearances, background checks, and executed employment contracts.

Mrs. Weyandt asked if this completed all the openings for coaches in the wrestling program.

Dr. Winters confirmed that these were the last two (2) remaining hires.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

15.2 ACT 34 RESOLUTION AND ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED FIELDHOUSE PROJECT

The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of the Act 34 Resolution and Advertisement for the Proposed Fieldhouse Project.

Mrs. Weyandt read for the public the Act 34 Resolution and Advertisement for the Proposed Fieldhouse Project.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the Act 34 Resolution and Advertisement for the proposed Fieldhouse Project as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Mr. Rossi clarified that the vote was solely to approve the advertisement and scheduling of a public Act 34 hearing for transparency and public input and was not to approve the project or authorize any expenditures.

Dr. Winters stated that upon approval of the resolution, the necessary corrections would be made, and the resolution would be advertised for 20 days prior to the hearing. He noted that the Act 34 hearing was scheduled for January 7 and would include a presentation on the project history, current plans and schematics, and a review of project financing costs, and budget. Representatives from the Schrader Group and Raymond James would be present.

Mr. Brown requested that the new board members be provided with background information on the Fieldhouse project prior to the hearing.

Motion passed unanimously.

15.3 STERLING ACT TAX CREDIT

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to submit the Certification of Sterling Act Tax Credit for Calendar Year 2024 prior to the December 15 required submission date, with the actual amount and Certification form to be presented at the Committee Meeting in January 2026 for ratification.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Business Office to submit the Certification of Sterling Act Tax Credit for Calendar Year 2024 prior to the December 15 required submission date, with the actual amount and certification form to be presented at the Committee Meeting in January 2026 for ratification.

Dr. Winters provided an overview of the Sterling Act, noting that the District is required to submit the Sterling Tax Credit annually by December 15. He explained that the submission required Philadelphia wage data for employees working in the Philadelphia area, which is typically provided by Berks EIT by late November or early December. Dr. Winters stated that the District had not yet received the data from Berks EIT. He explained that the authorization request would allow the Finance Department to submit the required documentation to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to meet the December 15 deadline.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

16.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Weyandt presented several topics for Board consideration. She requested that the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) be invited to a special board meeting, tentatively on December 15, to provide an informational presentation on superintendent search services, procedures, and costs to assist the board members unfamiliar with the process. There was Board consensus to pursue this presentation if BCIU was available.

Mrs. Weyandt also discussed the need for improved communication with staff and the community, suggesting surveys and outreach methods including postcards to reach households without students enrolled in the district. She outlined considerations for survey development, timelines, and application processes. She proposed a structured framework for superintendent interviews, outlining potential roles for board members, administrators, and staff across multiple interview rounds. She further recommended that the district formalize interviewing and hiring procedures, noting that current policies date to 2013. She suggested principals oversee hiring of their staff, the

board participate in interviews for Act 93 and administrative positions at its discretion and the Athletic Director oversee coach hirings.

Mrs. Weyandt requested that the district develop written midyear evaluations of the newly implemented English Language Arts and math programs. She asked Dr. Winters to consider evaluation questions and present a draft for board review prior to distribution to faculty.

She also requested a formal procedure for removal and disposal of classroom materials, consistent with Policy 706.1, and proposed revisions to the district organizational flowchart to better reflect the standard chain of command. The Board requested job descriptions and duties for positions reflected on the organizational chart.

Mrs. Weyandt raised concerns regarding paraprofessional staffing and special education support at the elementary level. Mr. Rossi emphasized the need to evaluate staffing levels, resource allocation, and compensation. Dr. Winters stated that countywide salary data released annually by BCIU would be shared with the Board once available.

Mrs. Weyandt asked for updates on potential emotional support classroom at the middle school.

Dr. Winters noted no formal discussions had occurred and cited challenges related to staffing stability.

The Board requested continued review of emotional support services at all levels within the district.

Mrs. Lash read a Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) announcement regarding Future Reading Board initiatives and encouraged Board members to participate in upcoming AI learning opportunities.

Dr. Winters and Mrs. Lash also shared community event reminders.

Regarding the middle school pool, Mrs. Matthews requested training coverage due to a staff medical leave.

Dr. Winters stated the district was ensuring certified pool operator coverage and confirmed that Mainline Pools had serviced and verified proper operation of the UV systems, which would continue annually.

Mr. Brown requested that the district also review exit procedures for employees to better understand reasoning for departure citing recruitment and retention as ongoing challenges.

17.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, C. Weyandt, D. Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors