

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

MINUTES

February 2, 2026

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, Carol E. Weyandt, 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, Joseph M. Brown, Linda R. Lash, Lauren J. Matthews, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Carol E. Weyandt, Daniel B. Weyandt

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Azucena Macedo (absent)

Administrative Staff Present: Matt Ammons, Toni Crater, Jason Hansen, Dr. Patrick Winters, Jennifer Godtfriing, Dr. Jennifer Gabryluk, Dr. Jenny Rexrode, Jackie Rivas,

Solicitor: Bonnie Young, 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 November 24, 2025, the Reorganization Meeting of December 2, 2025, and the Special Meeting of December 15, 2025, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Weyandt reported that the Board met in executive session on Monday January 5, 2026, for personnel matters and following the Committee Meeting on January 19, 2026, for personnel, legal, safety and student matters.

1.5 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Berks County Heroes Recognition:

Dr. Winters recognized Dr. Solomon Lausch who was selected as a Berks County Hero by the American Red Cross, Pennsylvania Rivers Chapter and the 2026 Heroes Breakfast Planning Committee. He stated simply being nominated for a Hero Award spoke volumes about Dr. Lausch's character and contributions. The Heros Breakfast was created to recognize community heroes and to bring to life the Red Cross mission of helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Schuylkill Valley community was fortunate to have individuals like Dr. Lausch who worked tirelessly to make Berks County a better, safer place to life. The Community Impact Hero Award, for which he was nominated and selected for, was presented to an individual, community group, neighborhood organization or local company that demonstrated a commitment to making a difference in the community. Dr. Lausch visits the elementary school regularly, reads in students' classrooms, spends time at lunch and is a hero to many of our youngest learners. Dr. Winters welcomed Mr. Peter Brown, Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Pennsylvania Rivers Chapter that serves Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties to share a few words.

Mr. Brown thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He stated the Heroes Breakfast will be held on March 6th and extended an invitation to the board and the school district. Mr. Brown read for the public the nomination that was received for Dr. Lausch. He stated as the Executive Director of the American Red Cross, he had the responsibility for Berks County as part of the chapter since 2020 but had been active as a volunteer and engaged with the chapter for almost 20 years before that. He stated this was the 24th annual Heroes Breakfast and one of the longest continuously operating fundraising and community acknowledgements and recognition events in Berks County. He thanked the teacher who nominated Dr. Lausch.

Mrs. Weyandt thanked Dr. Lausch for his dedication to Schuylkill Valley. She added that it was an honor and a privilege to serve under his guidance as Superintendent of Schuylkill Valley School District for all those years. She highlighted his commitment to Schuylkill Valley School District by moving to the community, staying in the community even after retirement and now continued to give back to Schuylkill Valley after all these years was a testament to his dedication to Schuylkill Valley and the students.

Recognition of Schuylkill Valley School District School Board Members

Dr. Winters recognized and thanked the Board Members for their outstanding service and steadfast commitment to the success of students, staff and schools. He noted that January was School Board Appreciation Month. On behalf of the district, Dr. Winters extended his heartfelt gratitude for their guidance and foresight and dedication to making the district a place where excellence thrives and futures are built.

1.6 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

There were no student or staff recognitions this month.

1.7 PRESENTATIONS

SVSD Data Follow-up,

Presented by Mrs. Jenny Rexrode, Director of Curriculum

Mrs. Rexrode presented historical achievement and growth data, including PSSA and Keystone results, School Performance Profile scores, and the Future Ready Index.

Achievement data (PSSA/Keystone) showed that in 2024–25:

Elementary Reading: 45.9% proficient/advanced (below state average of 49.9%; did not meet state target). Growth was "Green," with a building score of 77 (above state average of 75.4).

Middle School Reading: 48.4% proficient/advanced (below state average; did not meet state target). Growth was "Blue," with a score of 83 (above state average), indicating more than one year's growth.

Literature Keystone: 56.8% proficient/advanced (above state average but below state target). Growth was "Red," with a building score of 50 (below state average).

Elementary Math: Growth was "Blue," with a score of 96 (well above state average of 74.9).

Middle School Math: 27.3% proficient/advanced (below state average). Growth was "Red," with a score of 50 (below state average).

Algebra I Keystone: 46.3% proficient/advanced (below state target). Growth was "Green," with a score of 72 (near state average).

Science data was limited due to the transition to new STEELS standards. In 2025, some science scores were not reported because of changes to testing and standards. Mrs. Rexrode reviewed PVAAS growth measures, explaining how projections determine whether students meet, exceed, or fall short of one year's expected growth. She also outlined state literacy initiatives, including Act 47, emphasizing structured literacy in response to low statewide proficiency rates.

She concluded by reviewing the School Performance Profile and Future Ready Index, which incorporated assessment, growth, attendance, graduation, and demographic data. She noted that math standards were last updated in 2014, and the district had implemented new curriculum resources within the past two (2) years to address updated standards and improve outcomes.

ELA, MATH, and Science Survey Results

Presented by Mrs. Jenny Rexrode

Mrs. Rexrode reported that a survey was administered to ELA, Math, and Science teachers, with a two-week response window. Participation rates were 54% for ELA, 51% for Math, and 37% for Science.

Teachers identified the need for additional training and professional learning time, particularly related to implementation of Math and ELA resources, School Pace, IRLA, ALEKS, and Reveal Online. Common themes across all subject areas included the need for more collaboration time, professional development days, and time to work within grade-level or departmental teams. Additional requests included supplemental vocabulary and spelling resources, intervention and enrichment materials, MTSS supports, decodables, below-grade-level math materials, expanded classroom libraries, and benchmark assessments. Teachers also noted a desire for more assessment tools, including STAR, CDT, DIBELS, and Firefly. Time was emphasized as a significant need, especially in Science.

Strengths identified:

- ELA: Strong classroom libraries, high-interest leveled texts, project-based learning, and writing focus.
- Math: ALEKS platform, online access, standards alignment, and differentiation.
- Science: Engaging, hands-on lessons aligned to standards.

Challenges identified:

- ELA: Limited assessments and created materials; gaps in grammar, vocabulary, and writing resources.
- Math: Student skill gaps, need for more intervention materials, and additional time for implementation.
- Science: Comprehensive lessons require more planning time, collaboration, and support for special education access.

Teachers also suggested targeted professional learning topics, including deeper training on current programs, small group instruction, MTSS support, model lessons, and increased collaboration time.

Potential Future Athletics Projects

Presented by: Mr. Jason Hansen, Athletic Director

High school and middle school locker rooms:

Mr. Hansen provided an update regarding proposed improvements to the high school and middle school locker rooms and outdoor athletic facilities. At the high school, the boys' locker room was identified as outdated. It was proposed to remove nonfunctional middle lockers to create additional changing space. With 24 new lockers currently on one wall, adding lockers to the opposite wall would provide approximately 48 lockers for P.E. and after-school athletic use. For the girls' locker room, proposed updates include repainting walls and floors, adding branding elements, and possibly installing whiteboards for team preparation. At the middle school, current lockers were smaller than high school lockers. It was proposed to replace wall lockers with larger units capable of holding backpacks. Unused shower areas could potentially be repurposed for storage. For outdoor facilities, a need for secure storage for baseball and softball equipment was identified, as teams currently store expensive equipment in limited-access closet spaces. A permanent scoreboard was also requested for the junior football field, noting that the baseball, hockey, and junior high football fields currently do not have scoreboards. Consideration was given to making select purchases, such as a scoreboard or storage container, within the current fiscal year and saving funds toward future locker room renovations.

Gym Proposal Layout Change:

Presented by: Mr. Jason Hansen, Athletic Director

Mr. Hansen reviewed concerns with the current gym layouts and scoreboard setup at both the high school and middle school. At the high school, concerns included limited bench space, players

seated in the second row, the head coach seated in the walkway, lack of designated space for the trainer, fan traffic crossing in front of team benches, and the score table not being centered. He proposed reconfiguring the gym layout by repositioning the score table to the center of the court, relocating athlete seating to the opposite side, and utilizing stadium chairs previously purchased by the Booster Club. The revised layout would increase student section space by approximately 40 percent, improve access to locker rooms, provide a designated area for trainers, and create a more professional appearance. At the middle school, concerns included congestion at entrances, limited trainer space, traffic flow issues in front of benches, and an inefficient check-in area. He proposed replacing the existing scoreboard with a wireless unit and relocating team benches to improve traffic flow and fan access.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – *Carol E. Weyandt*

Mrs. Weyandt addressed several items currently under board review. The board was returning to the practice of first and second readings of policies prior to approval to allow time for board and public review. The Policy, Personnel, and Public Relations Committee would review hiring and interview procedures, including development of a standardized exit interview form. The updated hiring procedures would support district-wide hiring and the superintendent search process. The board planned to gather input from union representatives as part of this review. The Budget and Finance Committee meeting was moved to the following Tuesday to allow additional time for policy discussions. The Curriculum Committee will hold a workshop meeting to review and discuss staff curriculum survey results. A standardized process with required signatures is also being developed for removal of classroom books to ensure transparency and documentation. Public comments for the Act 34 Hearing regarding the Fieldhouse Project must be submitted by mail or hand delivery to the district office no later than February 6, 2026. The community superintendent survey is available online, with a deadline of February 3, 2026. The board had received the first batch of superintendent applications and expected additional batches before the February 17 deadline. A strong pool of candidates had expressed interest. The board will meet with the BCIU on February 23 to review survey results and applications. First-round interviews are scheduled for early March, with subsequent rounds to follow. Teachers and administrators will be included in the interview process, with input from union leadership and administration. Mrs. Weyandt also noted technical issues with her board email account and asked for patience from the public as she worked to resolve them.

2.2 SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash*

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that although she was unable to attend last month's full meeting due to a scheduling conflict, she did participate in the Officer meeting. She shared that a State Senate hearing on improving literacy was held January 12 at Daniel Boone High School, with Dan Richards representing the BCIU. The mandated services budget was approved, with costs increasing slightly for Schuylkill Valley due to additional needs. The BCIU Education Foundation continued to focus on early education initiatives. New board members were seated and participated in orientation. Building projects are underway, including renovations to the BCIU building for additional classroom space. The Centre Avenue location will close and be replaced with a new classroom facility on the same property. She also noted that the BCIU ranked 13th out of 500 employers in the 2026 Top Lehigh Valley Workplace Awards.

Mrs. Weyandt added that herself and Dr. Winters attended a Board President and Superintendent Program that was at the BCIU and the guest speaker talked about A.I and sent out the PowerPoint presentation which she would forward to the rest of the board.

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

Mr. Moll was not present.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – Joseph M. Brown

Mr. Brown reported that he would have a report at the March Board meeting as the next meeting for the Tax Committee was March 19.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash stated the Governor would be presenting the State budget and on February 6 at noon there would be a workshop that board members could attend. She reminded new board members to complete their New Board Member Training with PSBA. There is a new director monthly meet-up on February 18th provided by PSBA at noon.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Linda R. Lash

The Foundation is having their fundraising on March 13 and there are tickets still available. They are looking for raffle donations if anyone is interested. They are also looking for attendees, and they have been giving out grant money to staff.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Louis Schuckert – Bern Township, Literacy Proficiency and involvement of parents
Roxanne McMurtry – Centre Township, General Fund Balance

4.0 BOARD

There were no items for Board approval.

4.1 SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT

Monthly Reports

5.1 The following monthly reports have been provided to the Board:

5.1.1 Enrollment Year-To-Date

5.1.2 Principals' Dashboard Reports

5.2 Superintendent's Update

Dr. Winters shared that the District received \$247,972.00 in non-competitive Ready to Learn grant funding, focused on STEM and Agriculture programming at the high school. A new Curriculum and Learning webpage will be added to the District website to share resources and updates with families. For budget context, he noted that 72.9% of households in the District do not have children under age 18, according to the Berks County Planning Commission. He addressed questions from the Act 34 Hearing, clarifying that the referenced \$2.5 million figure includes architect/engineering fees, construction management, testing and inspections, commissioning, permits, weight room equipment, furniture and fixtures, athletic and concession equipment, miscellaneous items, and builders' risk. A five-year capital improvement plan is being developed through the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Act 34 Hearing transcripts have been received, and an FAQ document will be posted on the website. If the fieldhouse project proceeds, a dedicated webpage section will provide project updates. Snow makeup days were clarified. Three (3) snow days (December 2, January 26, January 27) will be made up on February 13, March 30, and March 31. A fourth snow day would be made up on April 1 as a Flexible Instructional Day (FID). Any additional days beyond four (4) would be added to the end of the school year per the approved calendar.

Student and program highlights included:

- SVES Spelling Bee and Gifted Keystone Competition
- Middle School "Schools to Watch" designation (fourth time earning this recognition)
- 8th grade team winning "Most Efficient City" at the Future City Competition
- High School Musical Honors Festival recognitions
- TSA Team placements at the Region 9 Leadership Conference
- Participation in the Berks County Science Olympiad (300 students from 19 schools)

- FFA Mid-Winter Convention, National Midwestern Virtual CDE, and ACES Conference participation
- Owen Eisenhofer breaking six swimming records at a dual meet
- Noah Gehret bowling a perfect game
- Senator Chris Gebhard presenting Abby McCaffrey with a Senate Citation for her PIAA District III Class AA Girls Golf Championship
- Cheer team advancing to State semi-finals for the second consecutive year; currently ranked 8th in the co-ed division and 1st in Division 2A statewide; varsity team named Grand Champion at the Kedron Spirit Classic; junior high team also placed 1st
- Multiple wrestling tournament achievements
- PYEA Winter Gold Out raising \$350 for Four Diamonds

Dr. Winters concluded by encouraging community attendance at upcoming District events.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Franklin M. Ammarell

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:34 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, Tuesday February 17, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 6.1 through 6.2 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:

Mrs. Julia Cherry, 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School
Mrs. Sally Horton, Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School – Effective February 27, 2026

- 6.2 Accepts with regrets and best wishes for the future, the following resignations effective with the last day of the 2025-26 school year, unless otherwise noted:

Brittany Cassidy, Food Services Worker at the High School – Effective December 23, 2025
Joshua Danswer, Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School – Effective January 21, 2026
Maritssa Hernandez, Special Education Paraprofessional at the High School – Effective December 5, 2025
Stephanie Erb, Certified School Nurse at the Elementary School – Effective January 16, 2026
Yesenia Gonzalez-Jimenez, Shift 2 Custodian at the High School – Effective November 14, 2025
Michelle Putt, Shift 1 Custodian at the High School – Effective January 7, 2026
Allie Rothenberger, 4th Grade Teacher at the Elementary School – Effective January 5, 2026
Corielle Yarde, 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School - Effective January 5, 2026

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve 6.1 through 6.2 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 6.3 through 6.3.14 for Board approval as presented.

- 6.3** Approves the employment of the following (all elections are contingent upon receipt and district approval of all necessary pre-employment forms, certifications, state-mandated physical examinations, clearances, etc):
- 6.3.1** Approves Mr. Logan Borkey, English 7-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Middle School, Bachelor's Step 2, \$57,413.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective October 6, 2025, through December 23, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Cassandra Baran.
 - 6.3.2** Approves Ms. Heather Hadwin, English 7-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Middle School, Bachelor's Step 2, \$57,413.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective October 6, 2025, through December 23, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Cassandra Baran.
 - 6.3.3** Approves Ms. Haley Kieffer, Computer Science 7-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the High School, Bachelor's Step 1, \$56,303.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective January 12, 2026, through the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Bryan Binkley.
 - 6.3.4** Approves Ms. Catalina Lassen, Art PK-12 Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, \$56,303.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective January 5, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Carey Steward.
 - 6.3.5** Approves Ms. Ann Ostrowski, Part-Time Library Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$13.11, effective December 22, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Ms. Josephine Gruber.
 - 6.3.6** Approves Ms. Kristie Robinson, Elementary Education Grades PK-4 Teacher, Master's Step 8, \$70,718.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective January 5, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Allie Rothenberger.
 - 6.3.7** Approves Ms. Virra Saling, Secretary to the Principal at the Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$20.58, effective December 8, 2025, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Kimberly Loose.
 - 6.3.8** Approves Ms. Charlee Sherman, Health Assistant at the Middle School, at an hourly rate of \$28.84, effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Elizabeth Oswald.
 - 6.3.9** Approves Ms. Jenna Weidenheimer, Elementary Education Grades PK-4 Teacher, Bachelor's Step 1, \$56,303.00, (prorated for actual days worked), effective January 5, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Corielle Yarde.
 - 6.3.10** Approves the following substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Brittany Cassidy – Food Services Worker
 - Jessica Christman – Chemistry 7-12, Environmental Education K-12 & General Science
 - Charles Grebloski – Guest Teacher
 - Hunter Jones – Homebound Instruction
 - Karissa Moyer – Custodian
 - 6.3.11** Approves the following co-curricular assignments for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Kayla Ackelson: POP Costumes - \$1,500.00
 - Lisa Chillot: PYEA Advisor - \$1,761.00
 - Alina Gostev: Director of Vocal Music (ES) - \$600.00
 - Sarah Hilpmann: Director of Vocal Music (ES) - \$668.00

6.3.12 Approves the following mentors for the 2025-26 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full-year mentors and \$5887.50 for half year mentors:

Kathy Batson for Jacob Edgette: Half Year
 Jennifer Blessing for Jenna Weidenheimer: Half-Year
 Nadine Poper for Catalina Lassen: Half-Year
 Amanda Redcay for Kristie Robinson: Half-Year
 Stacy Hallman for Haley Kieffer: Half-Year

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

Madison Bruder – ES
 Andrew LeClair – ES
 Carey Steward – ES
 Richard Shappell – ES
 Douglas Unger – ES

6.3.14 Approves the following extracurricular appointments for the 2025-26 school year. Approval is subject to the satisfactory receipt of all required clearances, background checks, and executed employment contracts.

Kenneth Adams: Softball Junio High Assistant Coach - \$2,110.00

6.3.15 Approves the following Community Aquatics employees for the 2025-26 school year

Last Name	First Name	Position	Base Sal	Yrs Exp	Exp Bonus	Salary
Bitting	Ben	Student Lifeguard	\$15.00	2	\$0.50	\$15.50
Campbell	Kyle	Adult Supervisor	\$16.00	11	\$2.75	\$18.75
Readinger	Cerina	Student Lifeguard	\$15.00	2	\$0.50	\$15.50
Waldrop	Reese	Student Lifeguard	\$15.00	3	\$0.75	\$15.75

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Joe Brown to approve 6.3 through 6.3.15, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 6.4 through 6.5 for Board approval as presented.

6.4 Approves the personal leave of absence of Ms. Deborah Hornberger, Food Services Worker at the High School, effective November 3, 2025, through November 21, 2025.

6.5 Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves of absence:

David Barnett, Custodial Supervisor – Effective October 27, 2025, through December 4, 2025
 Catherine McGowan Pennebaker, Assistant Director of Finance – Effective December 30, 2025, through approximately March 16, 2026
 Stacy Miller, Assistant Director of Business Operations – Effective December 17, 2025, intermittently through December 17, 2026

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve 6.4 through 6.5 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 6.6 through 6.7 for Board approval, as presented.

6.6 Approves Policy 008: Organization Chart for a First Reading.

6.7 Approves Policy 903: Public Comment in Board Meetings for a First Reading.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve 6.6 through 6.7, as presented.

Regarding Policy 903, Mrs. Steinke noted that sometimes people may not be comfortable with standing in front of a crowd and speaking and if someone who already spoke is willing to speak on behalf of someone else, she did not feel it should be prohibited. She noted in her review of the policy, it stated if there was a group of people that they should designate a representative and asked if something could be added for that.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.8 Approves the agreement with Amergis Healthcare Staffing for substitute nursing services, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Agreement with Amergis Healthcare Staffing for substitute nursing services as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.9 Approves the amendment to the Non-Certified Employee Compensation Plan that removes the following language from Section 9. Leaves of Absence, Item C. Sick Leave: "The employee must establish a 403 (b) TSA account prior to separation of service, or the employee shall forfeit this benefit.

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the amendment to the Non-Certified Employee Compensation Plan that removes the following language from Section 9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.10 Approves the amendment to Ms. Dana Carter's Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, approved compensated leave of absence to add that the leave is approved with the condition that Ms. Carter will not extend her working hours with her second employer, and further, that she will not work during school hours.

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the amendment to the Non-Certified Employee Compensation Plan that removes the following language from Section 9. Leaves of Absence, Item C. Sick Leave: "The employee must establish a 403 (b) TSA account prior to separation of service, or the employee shall forfeit this benefit.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.11 Approves the two-year appointment of Dr. Patrick Winters, Acting Superintendent of Schools, to the Berks County School Districts Health Trust Full Board.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the two-year appointment of Dr. Patrick Winters, Acting Superintendent of Schools, to the Berks County School Districts Health Trust Full Board.

Dr. Winters provided some background information on this item. He stated that every district within the county that is part of the Berks County Health Trust must have a management representative and a labor representative. The previous superintendent was the management representative for the district on the health trust. She was also on the executive board and fulfilled both roles. Schuylkill Valley needed to have somebody administratively to serve in that management role. All appointments on that board serve two (2) years, however Dr. Winters would serve in this capacity until the new superintendent was named and that individual would finish out the remainder of the term.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 6.12 Ms. Laura Schaeffer, Certified School Nurse, Bachelor's Step 21, \$78,409.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Stephanie Erb.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve Ms. Laura Schaeffer, Certified School Nurse, Bachelor's Step 21, \$78,409.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Stephanie Erb.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 6.13 Letter of Engagement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) for Schuylkill Valley School District Superintendent Search Services, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the Letter of Engagement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) for Schuylkill Valley School District Superintendent Search Services, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, C. Weyandt, D. 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, January 19, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 7.1 through 7.6 for Board approval as presented.

- 7.1 Approves the 2026-2027 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Lauren Matthews and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the 2026-2027 Schuylkill Valley High School Program of Studies, as presented.

Mrs. Godtfring addressed several program and course updates. For Science, prerequisites for Earth and Space Science in grades 9 and 10 will be removed and updated. A scheduling change was made after last year's Program of Studies approval requiring all 9th graders to take Biology. Students may now double up and take both Biology and Earth and Space Science in 9th grade. The 8th–9th grade course selection form and teacher recommendation options were updated to reflect these changes. For AP physics, Brett Hoke was hired and teaching that class. He was hired to replace the teacher that retired. They are taking it as an AP class and will take the exam this year. It was not offered as dual enrollment due to RACC's requirements for the teacher to teach the dual enrollment. He is working on finishing that master's program. For English AP literature and AP language, language was offered this year and students were enrolled. Mr. Bagenstose is teaching it, and AP Literature is being offered next year. For math remediation, the course could still be offered or if the district could decide to only have students take Keystone once after Algebra I in 8th grade or 9th grade for some students. For social studies AP government there has been historically issues with course requirements due to the sentence that the department chose to include which stated, "All students must take one course from each of the following areas throughout their high school career: Government, American History 20th Century, World history". Therefore, there were students who went from honor civics to AP Government, to world, and would skip American History and not fulfill the stipulation in the department's requirements. They tried to provide students with the option within each grade level to take the courses that would fulfill the requirement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 7.2 through 7.5 for Board approval as presented.

- 7.2 Approves the 5.2 Refill Agreement with ECA for Grade 5 Science Kits for Semester 2 in the amount of \$1,270.08.
- 7.3 Approves the proposal from Follett Software for an annual subscription of ML Drawings in the amount of \$875.00.
- 7.4 Approves the quote and affiliate membership in 1EdTech, as presented.
- 7.5 Approves the agreement with BCIU for ten (10) Zoom licenses for student #5751, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve 7.2 through 7.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.6 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Joseph M. Brown

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 8:03 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 8.1 through 8.8 for Board approval as presented.

- 8.1 Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from November 10, 2025, to January 27, 2026, as presented:

GENERAL FUND	\$5,678,207.26
CAFETERIA FUND	\$85,057.28
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$262,248.79
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$10,996.80
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$28,596.85
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,065,106.98

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve/ratify the payment of bills in the following amounts from November 10, 20025, to January 27, 2026, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 8.2 through 8.3 for Board approval as presented.

- 8.2 Approves the donation from the local Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) in the amount of \$200.00 for the MS National Junior Honor Society.
- 8.3 Approves the donation of two (2) big screen TVs by Iron Valley Real Estate to serve as Athletic Department displays.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve 8.2 through 8.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4 Approves the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2025-26 Real Estate Taxes billed on July 1, 2025, which are delinquent after December 31, 2025, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 139 bills totaling \$340,160.37. Last year, there were 149 bills totaling \$398,640.73.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Joe Brown to approve the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2025-26 Real Estate Taxes billed on July 1, 2025, which are delinquent after December 31, 2025, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 139 bills totaling \$340,160.37. Last year, there were 149 bills totaling \$398,640.73, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.5** Approves the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes, which are delinquent after December 31, 2025, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 47 bills totaling \$23,907.28.

Board Action: Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes, which are delinquent after December 31, 2025, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 47 bills totaling \$23,907.28, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.6** Approves the 2025-2026 IDEA Part B Sub-Contract Agreement with the BCIU and accepts funds in the amount of \$443,840.96. The agreement is contingent on PDE's approval of services as outlined in the agreement through the BCIU's application for IDEA-B 611 funding.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Lauren Matthews to approve the 2025-2026 IDEA Part B Sub-Contract Agreement with the BCIU and accepts funds in the amount of \$443,840.96. The agreement is contingent on PDE's approval of services as outlined in the agreement through the BCIU's application for IDEA-B 611 funding, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.7** Approves the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$11,825.06 for the period of 1/1/2026 through 06/30/2026.

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$11,825.06 for the period of 1/1/2026 through 06/30/2026, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.8** Approves the budgetary transfers as presented.

Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the budgetary transfers as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.9** Approves the Tax Collection Agreement for tax collectors elected in November 2025, and each Tax Collector elected or appointed thereafter, for a four-year term effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

Board Action: Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the Tax Collection Agreement for tax collectors elected in November 2025, and each Tax Collector elected or appointed thereafter, for a four-year term effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.10** Approves the Butler, Agnew & Associates Consulting Services Agreement, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to approve Approves the Butler, Agnew & Associates Consulting Services Agreement, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 8:33 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 9.1 through 9.2 for Board approval as presented.

- 9.1** Approves the quote from Berkshire Mechanical to repair the High School ERV-4 Auxiliary Cafeteria Unit in the amount of \$2,650.00.
- 9.2** Approves the quote from R.J. McCarville Associates, LTD. to repair the basketball backstops located in the MS Main Gym.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve 9.1 through 9.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.3** Approves the quote from Berkshire Mechanical to repair MS KVU-1, the Greenheck MAU outdoor unit above the middle school kitchen.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the quote from Berkshire Mechanical to repair MS KVU-1, the Greenheck MAU outdoor unit above the MS Kitchen, as presented.

Dr. Winters informed the board that this unit needed a new blower motor, motor starter, inlet air actuator and the belt tension needed to be set. This quote allowed them to come out and replace the parts to get the unit running as it should to get the right temperature running in the kitchen.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 9.4 Quote from Landis Bonfitto Mechanical Group Inc. to repair the Watts Pressure Relief Valve on the right-hand boiler and two AO Smith hot surface igniters on two of the water heaters.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the quote from Landis Bonfitto Mechanical Group Inc. to repair the Watts Pressure Relief Valve on the right-hand boiler and two AO Smith hot surface igniters on two of the water heaters.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5 **OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)**

Snow removal:

Mr. Rossi stated he had noticed a lot of the municipalities were going around tidying up their snow removal after the storm. He noted that the district may want to also tidy up the parking lot to be prepared for the next possible storm.

- 10.0 **STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Kelly J. Steinke

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 8:37 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1 Approves visiting author, Ross Burach, who will provide two school-wide presentations, an author lunch, book signing and three presentations at Family Reading Night on February 24, 2026, at SVES.

Board Action: Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve visiting author, Ross Burach, who will provide two school-wide presentations, an author lunch, book signing and three presentations at Family Reading Night on February 24, 2026, at SVES, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.2 Approves the BCIU 2025-26 Agreement with SVSD for services provided by BCIU and the respective hourly rates reflected in Appendix A of the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the BCIU 2025-26 Agreement with SVSD for services provided by BCIU and the respective hourly rates reflected in Appendix A of the agreement, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.3 Approves the Schuylkill Valley Elementary School to enter into a Program Host Site Agreement with Helping Harvest in order to continue participation in the Weekender Program.

Board Action: Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the Schuylkill Valley Elementary School to enter into a Program Host Site Agreement with Helping Harvest in order to continue participation in the Weekender Program, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.4** Approves the transportation for the High School Cheer Team to attend the State Cheer Competition in the amount of \$4,130.00

Board Action: Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the transportation for the High School Cheer Team to attend the State Cheer Competition in the amount of \$4,130.00, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.5** Approves the Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems Standard 2-Year Agreement with Schuylkill Valley School District.

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to approve the Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems Standard 2-Year Agreement with Schuylkill Valley School District, as presented.

Mr. Ammons clarified that the district did not utilize this service intentionally, this would be for when students were hospitalized or off-site due to medical concerns. This agreement stated that they could receive education services while they were there.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.6** Approves the 2026 Ski Club Vermont Trip.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the 2026 Ski Club Vermont Trip.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.7** Approves the finalized contract for the 2026 Prom venue.

Board Action: Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the finalized contract for the 2026 Prom venue, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 10.8 through 10.9 for Board approval as presented.

- 10.8** Approves the contract with ARETHUSA Sound for the 2026 POP Musical in the amount of \$6200.00.

- 10.9 Approves the contract with ARETHUSA Sound for the 2nd Annual MS Musical in the amount of \$6,750.00.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Joe Brown to approve 10.8 through 10.9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 19, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 10.10 The PMEA District Jazz Festival trip.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve of the PMEA District Jazz Festival trip.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.11 **OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)**

BCIU Student Art Show:

Mrs. Lash stated every year the BCIU hosts the student art show and this year the contributor for Schuylkill Valley School District was Madison San Juan and was titled "Together We Will Shine." She congratulated Madison on her achievement.

Dive Team:

Mrs. Matthews congratulated the divers including Charlotte Swenderman who placed 1st in the past week's championship receiving a perfect 10, Carly Crills placed 3rd and Christian Hedrick placed 5th. The team is headed to championships this weekend at Wilson High School.

She also recognized the week as National School Counselors week.

Oliver Messner Badge achievement:

Mrs. Weyandt recognized Oliver Messner for earning all 141 Boy Scout merit badges. She noted that only 644 individuals have achieved this distinction. There was also an article released on his accomplishment in the Reading Eagle.

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

12.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

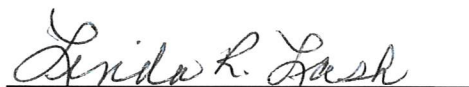
13.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 p.m.


Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors