



BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY ACTION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Friday, January 23, 2026

Members present: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong

Members absent: Michael Barnacz

Others present: Elisa Ball, Frank Gallagher, Timothy Gilsbach, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Michael Taylor and Megan Zweiback

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to Order - Board President

Mr. Keith called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

This meeting is being recorded for broadcast on **SATV**. It will be available on the following local broadcast channels:

- Comcast Cable - Channel 28, Monday through Friday - 10:00 PM and Tuesday and Thursday - 2:00 PM
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1.2 Meeting Protocol

Welcome to a regular public meeting of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors. The Board encourages and allows citizens of the district to speak at a public meeting by following the procedures listed below:

- Persons wishing to address the Board about an item(s) listed on the agenda must sign in on the **blue** sign-in sheet and specify the item(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.
- Persons wishing to address the Board on a matter(s) not listed on the agenda must sign in on the **yellow** sign-in sheet, and a brief description of the matter(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.

Mr. Keith stated we may not agree with some of the views and opinions expressed in the room tonight, but folks have the right to share their opinion and view, and you have the right to share yours as well.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Keith led The Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Roll Call - Board Secretary

Mr. Taylor called the roll. Eight Board members were present.

2. Souderton Spotlight

2.1 SAHS International Culture Fest

A video was shared highlighting the recent High School International Culture Fest which showcased student exhibitions of food, dance and native traditions.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher commented on the fest and his desire for it to become an annual event.

3. Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

3.1 Student Representatives Update on Activities and Events at Souderton Area High School

Student Representative Nadia Choe spoke about the recent Financial Reality Fair which offered students the ability to simulate different types of financial circumstances. Nadia also spoke about high school Keystone exams and semester finals. She noted that the end of the first semester is Monday.

Niharika Inampudi gave updates on athletic teams as well as the upcoming 5th Grade Pathway Expo, the Winter Ball and Lip Dub.

Before moving to public comment, Mr. Keith made an announcement that there are consent and discussion action and consent and discussion action agenda items coming up. He stated that 6 items have been removed from consent to discussion. Therefore, if you see some things that aren't on the Consent agenda, you'll see this played out on the Discussion agenda.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items

4.1 Public Comment

Ms. Kratz of Lower Salford expressed concerns about the cost of the proposed tennis courts and an apparent lack of priority regarding the Halteman Road gate. Ms. Kratz asked the Board to place an item on the agenda including Franconia Township, and local emergency services that would seek a permanent solution to the Halteman Road gate.

Mr. Detwiler of Souderton spoke about the November 26, December 1, and December 18 Board meeting minutes; requesting recognition of objections and the District's response so that they do not continue to be pending objections.

Ms. Shockley of Lower Salford expressed concerns about a proposed tax increase that will place a burden on taxpayers already experiencing hardship. Ms. Shockley suggested that the district explore opportunities to offset a tax increase and that the District has a responsibility to be a part of sustaining efforts to support the community.

5. Report of the President

5.1 Report on Executive Session Meeting(s) held by the Board

Mr. Keith reported the following:

Two Executive Sessions were held on January 14, 2026, to discuss labor negotiations and personnel matters including retirements. The first session lasted approximately 15 minutes. The second session lasted approximately 30 minutes.

A board workshop was held on January 8, 2026, to provide information related to board members varied official responsibilities, with no deliberation or weighing of opinions. The workshop lasted approximately 2 hours.

A board workshop was held prior to tonight's meeting to provide information related to board members' official responsibilities with respect to the annual budget, with no deliberation or weighing of opinions. The workshop lasted approximately 45 minutes.

An Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss labor negotiations and personnel matters including staff appointments and resignations. The session lasted approximately 30 minutes.

6. Report of the Superintendent

6.1 The Superintendent will report on school district items

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher noted January as School Board Recognition Month and thanked the Board for their service.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher commented on the Halteman Road gate at the high school; the parameters of a traffic study are being worked with Franconia Township. He added that there are currently two locks on the chained gate, one lock is for district personnel, and the other lock is for first responders. He also noted that a Knox box is on order.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher also confirmed that the 911 call center does direct responders to use the Lower Road entrance to the high school.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher commented on the upcoming 5th Grade Expo being held at the high school praising the success of high school student leadership and the exposure of elementary students to high school academics and activities.

Dr. Gallagher stated that the school district is at its half-way point in the school year. The high school is having finals, and the second semester will begin next week.

Dr. Gallagher also commented on the forecasted snowstorm and said that he will decide about school, on Sunday evening.

7. Consent/Action Agenda

7.1 Consent/Action Agenda Protocol

The Superintendent made a recommendation to the Board for a motion to approve the Consent/Action item(s) listed. Board members were invited to remove items from the Consent/Action agenda if further discussion is needed.

7.2 Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CHECK LISTINGS FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

7.3 Approve Request(s) to Attend Conferences/Workshops

The Administration is seeking Board approval of conference/workshop requests as listed below:

Kimberly Wilson
High School Science Teacher
PAEE (Pennsylvania Environmental Educators Conference)
Gettysburg Conference Center
Gettysburg, PA
March 8-10, 2026
\$612.24
Budget: High School Curriculum

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST(S) TO ATTEND CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS AS LISTED.

7.4 Approve Request(s) for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

The Administration is seeking approval for requests for the following out-of-state and/or overnight field trips:

SAHS Cheerleading
National Cheer Competition
ESPN Center / Disney Parks
Orlando, FL
February 5 - 9, 2026
17 students / 4 coaches
Funding: Students

SAHS Choir & Orchestra Students
SAHS Global Studies and AP Human Geography Students
Consulate General for the Peoples Republic of China NYC
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY
February 19, 2026
105 students / 7 teachers
Funding: Students

Franconia ES - 3rd Grade Classes
Adventure Aquarium
Camden, New Jersey
March 17, 2026
61 students / 31 adults
Funding: Home & School

SAHS Journalism Students

NBC Studios at Rockefeller Center
 New York, NY
 March 26, 2026
 25 students / 3 teachers
 Funding: Students

SAHS FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Students
 FBLA State Competition/Conference
 Hershey Lodge
 Hershey, PA
 April 12-15, 2026
 50 students / 4 teachers
 Funding: IVEF Grant

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S) AS LISTED:

7.5 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Staff

RESIGNATION	
LITTLES, NAIF	Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher, Souderton Area High School Effective: January 6, 2026
VOLLRATH, EMILY	BCBA, Franconia Elementary School Effective: February 20, 2026
NEW HIRE	
COHEN, ALEXANDER Replacement for Naif Littles (Resigned)	Math Teacher, Souderton Area High School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE <u>Effective:</u> January 20, 2026 through end of 2025-2026 school year <u>Education:</u> Slippery Rock (BS) 2024 Slippery Rock (MEd) 2025 <u>Experience:</u> Fall 2025 - Math Student Teacher, Butler Area Senior High School <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$31,170.69 - M (1)
HALLMAN, OLIVIA Replacement for Jami Mazin (Sabbatical)	Kindergarten Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE <u>Effective:</u> Second semester of 2025-2026 school year <u>Education:</u> Penn State (BS) 2023 <u>Experience:</u> Aug 2025-present - Souderton Area School District, Building Substitute/Extended Per-Diem Substitute Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School; Sept 2023-Aug 2025 - Souderton Area School District, Intervention Teaching Assistant, Vernfield Elementary School <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$26,764.50 - B (1)
LORENCE, RACHEL Replacement for Andrea Lystad (Sabbatical)	Wellness Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE <u>Effective:</u> Second semester of 2025-2026 school year <u>Education:</u> West Chester (BS) 2025 <u>Experience:</u> Fall 2025 - Student teaching placement <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$ 26,764.50 - B (1)
PALAZZI, TAYLOR Replacement for Renaë Derstine (Medical Sabbatical)	Reading Specialist, Oak Ridge Elementary School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE <u>Effective:</u> Second semester of 2025-2026 school year <u>Education:</u> Bloomsburg (BS) 2018 Bloomsburg (MA) 2020 <u>Experience:</u> Sept 2025-present - Wissahickon School District, LTS Reading Specialist, Wissahickon Middle School; March 2021-June 2025 - Radnor Township School District, Building Substitute/LTS STEM Teacher, Radnor Elementary School <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$30,846 - M (1)

ROBBINS, SHAWN Replacement for Amanda Nolan (Childrearing)	Art Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE <u>Effective:</u> January 5, 2026 through end of 2025-2026 school year <u>Education:</u> Arcadia (BA) 1987 University of Florida (MA) 2021 <u>Experience:</u> Nov 2025-present - Souderton Area School District, Extended Art Substitute Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School; Aug 2021-June 2025 - Sarasota Academy of the Arts, Art Teacher <u>Recommended Salary:</u> \$61,692 (pro-rated based on start date) - M (1)
REQUEST FOR CHILDREARING LEAVE	
NOLAN, AMANDA	Art Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School Request for Childrearing Leave, following 12-weeks leave under FMLA, through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Nolan plans to return at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

7.6 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Contracts for Teachers Who Earned Tenure

Name	Position/School
Jenna Brown	Art Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School
Sarah Hower	Art Teacher, EMC Elementary School
Colin Moyer	Social Studies Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS FOR TEACHERS WHO EARNED TENURE

7.7 Approve Personnel Items - Support Staff

RETIREMENT	
HIGGINBOTHAM, DOROTHY	Food Service Assistant, District-Wide Effective: December 23, 2025
RESIGNATIONS	
BUBNIS, ZACHARY	School Police Officer, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: January 30, 2026
HOCKMAN, SOPHIA	Classroom Instructional Assistant, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: January 9, 2025
JENKINS, JENNA	Special Education Instructional Assistant, Souderton Area High School Effective: January 5, 2026
NEW HIRES	
CASTILLO, CAONABO Replacement for Brittany Brown (Resigned)	Registered Behavior Technician, EMC Elementary School Effective: January 12, 2026 Wage: \$24.60 per hour - Hours: 6.75 per day
LAING-ZEKAS, LAURIE Replacement for Barbara Shoemaker (Resigned)	Cafeteria Monitor, Indian Crest Middle School Effective: January 8, 2026 Wage: \$14.08 per hour - Hours: 3 per day
MYERS, TRACEY Replacement for Kayla Hlywiak (Resigned)	Intervention Teaching Assistant, West Broad Street Elementary School Effective: January 21, 2026 Wage: \$23.14 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day
NGUYEN, PHIL Replacement for Jenna Jenkins (Resigned)	Special Education Instructional Assistant, Franconia Elementary School Effective: January 20, 2026 Wage: \$21.49 per hour - Hours: 6.75 per day

NICE, TYLER Replacement for Richard Lauer (Transfer)	Custodian/Lawn Maintenance, Souderton Area High School Effective: January 5, 2026 Wage: \$25.06 per hour - Hours: 8 per day
PHAM, CHRISTIAN	Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide, EMC Elementary School Effective: December 15, 2025 Wage: \$14.08 per hour - Hours: As Needed
SIRAK, ZACHARY Replacement for Leanne Sebastian (Resigned)	Title I Intervention Teaching Assistant, EMC Elementary School Effective: January 8, 2026 Wage: \$23.14 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day
WARREN, ALEXANDRA Replacement for Kimberly Mento (Transfer)	Special Education Instructional Assistant, Salford Hills Elementary School Effective: January 16, 2026 Wage: \$20.94 per hour - Hours: 6.75 per day
TRANSFERS	
GUERRA, SILVIA Replacement for Tanya Hilbert (Resigned)	From: Part-Time Custodian, Souderton Area High School To: 2nd Shift Custodian (Floater), District-Wide Effective: December 22, 2025 Wage: \$26.38 per hour - Hours: 8 per day
HONG, THUVAN Replacement for Oscar Morales (Transfer)	From: 2nd Shift Custodian, Souderton Area High School To: 2nd Shift Custodian, District Office Effective: January 5, 2026 Wage: \$26.38 per hour - Hours: 8 per day
MENTO, KIMBERLY Replacement for Fred Tarsitano (Retired)	From: Special Education Instructional Assistant, Salford Hills Elementary School To: STARR Program Job Coach, Souderton Area High School Effective: January 12, 2026 Wage: \$23.14 per hour - Hours: 6.5 per day
MOORE, CHASE Replacement for Joshua Thayres (Transfer)	From: Part-Time Custodian, Vernfield Elementary School To: 2nd Shift Custodian, Oak Ridge Elementary School Effective: January 6, 2026 Wage: \$26.38 per hour - Hours: 8 per day
THAYRES, JOSHUA Replacement for Kirk Eisenhard (Transfer)	From: 2nd Shift Custodian, Oak Ridge Elementary School To: Day Shift Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: January 5, 2026 Wage: \$26.38 per hour - Hours: 8 per day

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPORT STAFF

7.8 Approve Personnel Items - Mentors & Peer Coaches

Name	Position	Term	Salary
Lindsay Germeroth	Mentor for Olivia Hallman	Second Semester	\$300
Michelle Clausz	Mentor for Shawn Robbins	Remainder of School Year	\$335
William Gross	Mentor for Rachel Lorence	Second Semester	\$300
Beverly Hanrahan	Peer Coach for Taylor Palazzi	Second Semester	\$150
Brad Garrett	Mentor for Alexander Cohen	Second Semester	\$305

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - MENTORS & PEER COACHES

7.9 Approve an Early Retirement Incentive Plan for Souderton Area Education Association

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE AN EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN FOR SOUDERTON AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

7.10 Approve Personnel Items - Additions to Winter 2026 Community Education Instructors

Name	Position	Rate
Sophia Ofalt	Kids Corner Director	\$22.50 per hour - As Needed
Ayden Watson	Kids Corner Assistant	\$15.25 per hour - As Needed

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADDITIONS TO WINTER 2026 COMMUNITY EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

7.11 Approve Course Name Change - Heritage Spanish to Advanced Spanish

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE COURSE NAME CHANGE - HERITAGE SPANISH TO ADVANCED SPANISH

7.12 Approve High School Technology Education Course: Game Design

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COURSE: GAME DESIGN

7.13 Approve the High School Visual Arts Course: Alternative Materials

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS COURSE: ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

7.14 Third Reading and Final Adoption of Policy 005 - Organization

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE THIRD READING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF REVISIONS TO POLICY 005 - Organization

7.15 Second Reading of new Policy 000 - Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 000 - BOARD POLICY/PROCEDURE/ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

7.16 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 001 - Name and Classification

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 001 - NAME AND CLASSIFICATION

7.17 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 002 - Authority and Powers

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 002 - AUTHORITY AND POWERS

7.18 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 003 - Functions

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 003 - FUNCTIONS

7.19 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 006.1 - Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 006.1 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

7.20 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 007 - Policy Manual Access

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 007 - POLICY MANUAL ACCESS

7.21 Second Reading of Review of Policy 008 - Organization Charts

Resolution: APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 008 - ORGANIZATION CHARTS

7.22 Approve School Club for 2025-2026 School Year at Indian Valley Middle School

The Administration recommends approval of student club at Indian Valley Middle School for the 2025-2026 School year.

Cosmic Comics ! - a place for students to make and share their comic creations.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SCHOOL CLUB FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR AT INDIAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

7.23 Approve Proposed 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

7.24 Approve Indian Crest Track Resurfacing Project

The Administration recommends approval of the Indian Crest Track Resurfacing Project with FieldTurf and selection of the Add Alternate Football Goalposts at a cost of \$542,347.29.

Resolution: APPROVE INDIAN CREST TRACK RESURFACING PROJECT

7.25 Approve Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) Amendment with Reynolds/SitelogIQ

The Administration recommends approval of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement (GESA) Amendment with SitelogIQ, Inc. for renovations at Indian Valley Middle School, Indian Crest Middle School and Salford Hills Elementary in the total amount not to exceed \$599,803

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 3

7.26 Approve 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget

The Administration recommends approval of the 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget as presented on the PDE 2028 in the amount of \$169,088,561 requiring a tax increase in excess of the Act 1 Index and authorize the Administration to apply for special education referendum exception in accordance with Act 1.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026-2027 PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET

7.27 Approve Confidential Settlement and Release

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

7.28 APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong

8. Discussion/Action Agenda

8.1 Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from November 26 and December 2025

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 26, DECEMBER 1, DECEMBER 10 AND DECEMBER 18, 2025, SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Ms. DeGeiso stated that she had asked for the minutes to be under discussion because she did not feel that the specifics and information in the draft included all of the public comments.

Mr. Souchet also echoed Ms. DeGeiso comments.

Mr. Keith stated that a roll-call vote would be held. Yay means you accept the minutes and no means you do not accept the minutes as posted.

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, William Brong

Nay: Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer

8.2 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 004 - Membership

APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 004 – MEMBERSHIP

Ms. DeGeiso commented the reason she asked for this to be a discussion item is because one major piece is vacancies, and we had 30 members of the public stand in objection to the most recent vacancy.

Ms. DeGeiso also stated that as a board, that is something that should be discussed, even if it is not something added to the policy, but a guidance document, like other school districts incorporate.

Ms. DeGeiso added that another item that she would like to discuss is potentially having student representation on the board, asking if they can be incorporated into the board setting. She also noted that someone shared with her that they were actually a student representative on their board when they were in high school.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher stated that he was in favor of the idea of students serving in some capacity on the Board, however a framework to establish that setting would need to be discussed. He mentioned that he will ask fellow Superintendent's if they currently have students serving on their boards.

Ms. Buetikofer also expressed to the administration that she would be more comfortable if this policy had some type of framework or besides that the school code requires a vacancy to be filled within 30 days.

Ms. Wisser thanked the Board and the administration for having this time to comment on the policy and stated that since we are in the process of revising this policy, that now would be the time to address any of those issues with the vacancy and appointment process.

Ms. Wisser echoed, having a student representative to the Board. In addition, she requested that administrative guidelines be made available for board vacancies.

Mr. Souchet stated regarding the policy, he suggested that we should probably explore having a type of resignation policy to reappoint somebody or to appoint somebody. He also stated given the events of the recent months, I think the community wants it. He also stated that creating a policy to deal with resignations and appointments would be a very good use of the board's governance time. He said that he believes it would save the administration some time, and it's something that could benefit the community.

Motion by William Brong, second by Rosemary Buetikofer.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, William Brong

Nay: Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer

8.3 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 006 - Meetings

APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 006 – MEETINGS

Ms. DeGeiso stated that her concern was for draft minutes, and that she had expressed a concern about this at the committee meeting last week, that draft minutes being available for the public consumption prior to board approval, as well as the agenda creation itself.

Ms. DeGeiso stated that she would like board members to have the ability to add items to an agenda for discussion.

Ms. Wisser stated her agreement with Ms. DeGeiso and asked for specific ways to revise the agenda preparation so that there is a little more input from the majority of the board. She acknowledged that she does not know what that would look like but would like further discussion on how that could look.

Mr. Souchet stated that the 9 elected board members here have a wide set of skills and diversity regarding professional experiences as well as contributions. He stated that identifying a policy by which the agenda can be influenced by board members can only make the board better, make the governance better, and make the output of the Board better.

Mr. Brong asked if this is a no vote, it's going back to policy to be revised, correct? Mr. Keith responded, that is correct. Mr. Brong reiterated that if it doesn't pass, he wanted to make sure the public understands, if it's a no, it's getting kicked back to be re-hashed again.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher added that the original policy remains in place.

Dr. Hey stated that we had some of this discussion at the committee meeting last week, about three board members making a request to add an agenda item to the meeting. That language was added for this second reading.

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, William Brong

Nay: Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer

8.4 Second Reading of Revisions to Policy 006.2 - Broadcasting Board Meetings

Ms. DeGeiso stated her understanding that we have the ability to allow public participation via comments in an emergency situation as dictated in another policy, we should have the ability to provide that all the time. She also stated that in conversation with Dr. Hey, live streaming attendance is actually quite low and it does not seem that it would be that much of a burden to collect that information ahead of time and verify residency in order to have that potentially read at a board meeting.

Ms. Buetikofer also stated that she has seen other districts accept public participation and would like the district to definitely research and consider very strongly allowing the public to participate virtually during our meetings.

Ms. Wisser also stated support for allowing public participation in virtual meetings.

APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF POLICY 006.2 - BROADCASTING BOARD MEETINGS

Motion by William Brong, second by Corinne DeGeiso.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, William Brong

Nay: Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer

8.5 Approve Indian Valley Track Resurfacing Project

The Administration recommends approval of the Indian Valley Track Resurfacing Project with FieldTurf and selection of the Add Alternate Football Goalposts at a cost of \$740,041.42.

Mr. Brong stated that he was the one who asked us to have this pulled for discussion. He stated that he is not against resurfacing the track. He just wants to make it very clear that he is for getting it resurfaced. His question to the administration was why do we, or do we need to spend an additional \$300,000 to make it an official competition track when, for the last 17 years, it's been used, as is. If we spend this additional money, we'll have three full competitive tracks in this district, where most districts only have one.

He reiterated that he is not against fixing the track. He just doesn't think it's money that we need to spend when we're going to redo the track at Indian Crest and if there's going to be a track meet, he does not think there is a major issue for Indian Valley to hold that at Indian Crest.

Ms. DeGeiso acknowledged Mr. Brong's comments but noted that it doesn't address the safety issue of the track at Indian Valley. Ms. DeGeiso also stated that she understood Mr. Brong's concern, but since there are more than 100 kids on a track team any given season. And they're running on an oval gravel track right now.

Mr. Brong reiterated that he is not saying no to the track. He expressed concern for the adding a pole vault pit and other items, which adds up to \$300,000. Again, he stated that he is not against fixing the track. He wanted to make it clear.

Ms. DeGeiso spoke in favor of the pole vaulters and long jump team needing a practice space also.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher stated his clarification that it was the administration's recommendation, and the goal here is to equalize the two schools.

He also noted that there are issues with scheduling. And we have a very busy track and complex at the high school that is scheduled with high school primarily. He also stated that the Indian Valley students deserve the same type of track as Indian Crest. That's why we're recommending this.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher also stated that he does not know how many other school districts in the Commonwealth have middle schools with official tracks but knows that a significant amount of them in the Commonwealth do. He stated that the administration is standing by its recommendation. It has been talked about for years and believe it's the right thing to do. We've always tried to keep these two buildings equalized.

Ms. Wheeler agreed with Ms. DeGeiso on safety concerns and with Dr. Gallagher on making both middle schools equal in their track surfaces.

Mr. Formica reminded everyone that track improvement costs have already been included in the bond issuance. He stated confidence that the budget could still be balanced with these projects in it.

APPROVE INDIAN VALLEY TRACK RESURFACING PROJECT

Motion by Rosemary Buetikofer, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong

8.6 Approve High School Tennis Court Reconstruction Project

The Administration recommends approval of the base bid for High School Tennis Court Reconstruction Project with FieldTurf in the amount of \$683,890.35.

Mr. Keith stated that just so everybody's on the same page, this is the base bid, the asphalt, the macadam traditional tennis court.

Ms. Wisser thanked Mr. Keith for the conversation they had earlier today. She expressed concerns with the base project. She stated her understanding that the bond was approved back in October, and it does cover this cost. She also expressed concerns about the approved GESA amendments tonight, and not knowing if there are future amendments coming down.

Ms. Wheeler expressed her support for the tennis court project noting its use not only by students, but also community members. She also commented on the girls tennis team and her opinion that not fixing the courts would be doing a disservice to some of our student athletes as well as our community.

Ms. DeGeiso stated that she had spoken with Dr. Hey about the project earlier this week and has overall concerns about the current preliminary budget and the amount of deficit that is being faced. She expressed concerns that there is potential to go over the Act 1 Index and that the district is offering retirement incentives to teachers. She stated that it feels like a lot of financial games being played.

Ms. DeGeiso also stated that she recognizes that the money is already accounted for in the debt service. But to Mrs. Wisser's point, she expressed fear that there might be something else that comes along and takes priority over tennis courts. She also acknowledged the amount of recent construction, but that does not include things that will come up in coming months for schools that haven't been touched yet. Vernfield, potentially, the District Office, the high school. She stated that she was not sure if it's the best use of spending. She also stated that she does not want to neglect any of the students nor kick it down the road. She also expressed concern about having to borrow more next year to cover the rest of our projects.

Mr. Formica pointed out that the contractor gave the bids on the three projects together at a discount if all three were done. He also expressed concern that if the district does not do the tennis courts, the other two project prices get raised. It's going to cost us more money for the other projects.

Mr. Souchet stated that at the committee meeting the tennis court project was discussed and his notes indicate that the tennis court is playable with repairs. He asked anyone to refresh his memory if that was incorrect. He reiterated his understanding that the tennis courts are playable. They do need maintenance. The maintenance doesn't last very long, but it can be done.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor responded with an estimated repair of approximately \$15,000 just about a month or so ago to patch cracks that are already going to need to be repaired before the spring season.

He also stated that it costs approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year, every year to do crack repair and maintenance. That's about what the debt service is on the base bid of the tennis courts to begin with. He also stated that the school district got about 17 years out of these courts and that typically, you get about 12 to 15 out of them initially. He also stated that if the district does not approve the resurface, there will still be a recommendation next year to resurface the courts altogether.

Mr. Taylor also stated that it could be considered as kicking the can down the road. We could do it, but also the industry standard for the recent years is the cost increase about 5% every year, therefore, there are no savings to the school district. He added, in addition to that, the bond debt service will not change for next year if you do it or don't do it. The money that was borrowed is borrowed. What would be affected is potentially not borrowing that much more the following year.

Mr. Taylor also stated that district budget issues this year will not be affected either way, except for the fact that if resurfacing is not done now, it will not be paid out of debt service. It will be paid out of general operating expenditure from this year's budget, which we don't have funds for.

He also stated that the district could potentially be spending an extra \$30,000 to \$50,000 this year out of this current year's budget that's not budgeted for just to get one more year, then still having to do the repair anyways. That is the impact. He reiterated that those are the board's options, it is the board's choice, but that would be the financial impact if more money would have to be spent out of the operating budget this year, that's not budgeted.

Ms. Buetikofer stated her understanding of the tennis courts being part of the phys ed curriculum at the high school and as a retired teacher, she supports having a good quality court. She also asked that the decision be made separately on the two options for the courts.

Mr. Brong stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Taylor and the district is working on what we call a 5 to 10-year plan. This program will show us what we're going to need to fix the next 5 to 10 years, which should help on making decisions like this.

Ms. DeGeiso stated that without that program, it still makes it very difficult to make those decisions now.

Ms. Wheeler asked about the number of students participating in Summer tennis camp. Dr. Gallagher stated that it is well over 100 students.

Mr. Keith commented on a couple of things. He noted that our collective tax dollars went into paying for this court in 2009 or so when the district opened. He stated his understanding from Tarkett, 13 to 15 years for this type of tennis court is a life expectancy, and Souderton is at year 17.

He stated that the tennis courts need to be refreshed. It has passed its due date, and that court deserves to be updated for the appropriate playing surface for the benefit of the athletes and those attending the camp. He also stated that from an inflationary perspective, if you're dealing in asphalt, it's petroleum-based product, and gasoline's not getting cheaper. It's rather volatile from a marketplace perspective. It will go up. Between now and then we will have other things. Cracks will get wider. Water will seep in. You will have more freeze and thaw and it will buckle. It's just how things work.

So for all those factors considered, what we're putting into our buildings across this district, the fact that we're upgrading a track to make sure we're competitive, the fact that we do have a strong competitive team, and for the benefit of all athletes that use that, my opinion on the matter is, this is a couple years overdue. I think it was money well spent to wait, but I believe that the time has come for the tennis court to be taken care of.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher stated that administration had pushed for the best price on the projects and it remains a strong recommendation to get the projects completed.

Mr. Keith stated that a yes vote is to do the macadam Surface Tennis Court Project and a no vote is you are saying no to the tennis court project.

A clarification was stated that if the post tension concrete option was not accepted, the project would be completed with asphalt.

APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong

8.7 Approve High School Tennis Court Reconstruction Project - Post Tension Concrete Add Alternate

Mr. Keith asked Mr. Taylor to give a brief overview of the post-tension project.

Mr. Taylor explained that the post-tension concrete, similar as you have in bridge construction, that if there is a crack, which there might be hairline cracks, but it's pulled back together so that it won't spread, and as it freezes and thaws, it doesn't widen. He noted that there is a 50-year warranty on any crack repair.

He also stated that the district will have to repaint the surface every five, seven years like the pavement, but we will not be fixing cracks for 50 years at our cost.

You can stay with the asphalt, and we would be paying every 15, hopefully for 17 or 20 years, you're resurfacing the asphalt.

Mr. Formica cited costs associated with each type of construction and stated that the math just doesn't work to go with the asphalt. He said that this Board owes it to future boards and our school district in 15 years and 30 years and 50 years down the road to upgrade it because otherwise it's going to be a maintenance nightmare.

Ms. DeGeiso reiterated her question to the vendor inquiring about other schools in the area that have this type of upgraded foundation and the response was there were private schools in Pennsylvania and some public schools in New Jersey. Ms. DeGeiso stated concerns about spending money in a thought bubble.

Mr. Souchet asked if the maintenance costs on the post-tension concrete were higher than those on asphalt. Mr. Taylor responded it's really the repairing the cracks in the asphalt and then having to replace the asphalt sooner than you would the concrete.

Mr. Brong stated that during his construction career he has never done a concrete tennis court, and while he understands new technology, he stated his feelings that asphalt was a better choice.

Mr. Keith stated that he was going to ask for a vote just so everybody's crystal clear. If you vote yes, you are voting yes to taking the extra warranty and using the pre-tensioned concrete system. If you vote no, we're going to default back to the asphalt-based tennis court.

APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ADD ALTERNATE

Motion by William Brong, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Andrew Souchet, Rosemary Buetikofer

Nay: Alexandra Wisser, Corinne DeGeiso, William Brong

9. Future Meetings

9.1 Future Meetings

DATE	ORGANIZATION	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday January 28 2026	MCIU Board of School Directors Meeting	6:45 PM	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 2 West Lafayette Street Norristown
Wednesday February 11 2026	SASD Board Committee Meetings	6:30 PM	District Administrative Office 760 Lower Road Souderton
Wednesday February 18 2026	NMTCC Joint Operating Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	North Monto Technical Career Center 1265 Sumneytown Pike Lansdale
Thursday February 26 2026	SASD Board Action Meeting	7:00 PM	District Administrative Office 760 Lower Road Souderton

10. Report of the Solicitor

10.1 Report of the Solicitor

There was no report.

11. Unfinished/New Business of the Board

11.1 Unfinished/New Business from the Board

Mr. Brong gave an update from North Montco Technical Career Center stating that the Director, Beth Ann Haas was retiring the end of the school year. He said that the Joint Operating Committee held a meeting and agreed to begin a search for a replacement director.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher added that the search process would be led by the sending school Superintendents.

Ms. Wisser addressed public comments made at the December board meeting. She stated that the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and the Right to Know law are not frivolous laws. They are essential. She also stated that they exist to ensure that the public is informed and to hold government officials accountable to the communities they serve.

Ms. Wisser continued to speak, stating that her lawsuit and her attorney worked with the school district to reach a fair resolution, and the case has since been withdrawn.

She also stated that she wants to remain focused on working collaboratively and in good faith to serve our students, families, and communities while working on the school board.

12. Public Comments

12.1 Public Comments

Mr. Shelly of Lower Salford thanked the Board for their service but expressed disappointment that no recent candidates or current members used union-made campaign materials, calling it a missed opportunity to show support for unions in a district with a largely unionized workforce. He criticized recent meeting schedules that prevented him from speaking, noted frustration with the special meeting, and hoped Board members listened to community concerns about resignations and communication. Mr. Shelly defended the previous Board's email responsiveness and condemned members who did not publicly address concerns about Mr. Formica's past comments toward women, saying he would not have remained silent. He urged the new Board to address this issue at every meeting, increase transparency, foster a genuinely welcoming environment for all community members, and ensure resignation discussions are never again held behind closed doors.

Mr. Swindells of Lower Salford shared his appreciation that his children have attended Souderton Area Schools and praised the talents of students and the work of teachers, administrators, and staff. He acknowledged the difficulty of serving on a board and said that publicly discussing agenda items, as has occurred in recent months, helps the community better understand district matters and promotes transparency. Mr. Swindells raised concerns about the long history of board appointments made following resignations—sometimes involving friends or associates—which he said has previously led to national embarrassment and creates confusion about the ethical, though legal, process that allowed Mr. Brong to resign and then return to the Board, giving the appearance of incumbent credibility. As the district reviews its policies, he urged revisions to the board appointment process that go beyond simply requiring a community member in good standing with 30 days' notice, recommending public interviews and open consideration of resumes. He concluded by expressing appreciation that the Board appears to be moving in a more transparent direction.

Ms. Derstine of Franconia requested that the district update its policies to require parental notification if a student indicates they will use a different name or pronoun at school, noting that parents are already informed about many matters, including recent safety concerns. She argued that such a change in identity reflects a serious psychological issue requiring counseling and care best determined by parents, and emphasized the importance of protecting children and parental rights. She concluded by expressing her expectation that the newly elected Board members—who campaigned on transparency—clearly state their positions on this issue.

Superintendent Dr. Gallagher responded and stated that student issues are handled individually.

13. Adjournment

13.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by William Brong, second by Rosemary Buetikofer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Ken Keith, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Alexandra Wisser, Andrew Souchet, Corinne DeGeiso, Rosemary Buetikofer, William Brong

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.

Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs