



SPECIAL BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS ACTION MEETING MINUTES **Wednesday, November 26, 2025**

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Monday, December 26, 2025

Members present: Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, and Michael Barnacz

Members absent: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, and Ken Keith

Others present: Elisa Ball, Beth Shore and Michael Taylor

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to Order - Board President

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.

Mr. Nelson stated that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast on SATV and the following:

Comcast Cable - Channel 28

Verizon FIOS - Channel 46

1.2 Notice of the Special Meeting

The Board Secretary, Mr. Taylor read aloud the following:

The Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors will hold a Special Board Action Meeting on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, beginning at 12:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room at the District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

The purpose of this meeting is to accept the resignation of an existing Board member and fill the vacant seat on the Board of School Directors. No other business will be transacted at this meeting.

The previously scheduled Board Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

1.3 Meeting Protocol

Mr. Nelson read aloud the following :

Welcome to a special public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to accept Board Members resignations and to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term created by the resignation of Mr. Braccio, as prescribed by Public School Code, Article III, Section 315.

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 must sign in on the blue sign-in sheet with name and the item(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the Board Secretary.

1.4 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.5 Roll Call - Board Secretary

Mr. Taylor called the roll.

Six Board members were present.

Solicitor, Ms. Shore made a statement that Superintendent Gallagher was not in attendance due to a previous out of town commitment.

2. Public Comments

2.1 Public Comments

Mr. Waldenberger of Telford expressed concern for the vacancy appointment. He noted that he provided the Board with his resume' for consideration of the appointment.

Ms. Tynebor of Lower Salford commented that no public interviews were being held to fulfil the vacancy and stated that the appointment should be postponed until after the newly elected Board members are sworn in.

Ms. Wisser of Upper Salford commented that the Board was missing an opportunity for transparency and requested that the resignations be tabled and appointments not be made until after the Board Reorganization Meeting.

Ms. Buetikofer of Souderton cited comments made by Mr. Nelson at a previous meeting, and stated that rushing an appointment was a garbage decision. Ms. Butikofer also stated that there was no reason to take a vote on the day before Thanksgiving.

Ms. DeGeiso of Upper Salford referenced dates and circumstances surrounding previous vacancies on the Board, noting that public interviews were held and votes were taken. Ms. DeGeiso also stated that delaying an appointment until new members are seated would suggest transparency and a willingness to work together with newly elected members.

Mr. DeGeiso of Upper Salford read aloud the definition character and noted that the Board lacked transparency by not holding public interviews to fill a vacant seat.

Ms. Jamison of Souderton expressed disgust toward the Board for holding a midday meeting before a holiday. She requested that the resignations be tabled and appointments be made after the new board members are seated.

Mr. Moyer of Upper Salford stated his objection to the agenda item and lack of proper notice.

Mr. Brigaman of Franconia Township expressed shame toward the Board for the proposed appointment to a vacant seat. Mr. Brigaman repeated the word shame aloud.

The audience was heard repeating the word shame.

Mr. Nelson recessed the meeting.

Mr. Nelson called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Brigaman relinquished his remaining time for public comment.

Mr. Moyer of Telford expressed his understanding of the Board's actions. Mr. Moyer thanked the Board members for their service.

Ms. D. Hecker of Franconia Township expressed disappointment in the Board action, stating that the community has spoken.

Ms. A. Hecker of Franconia Township stated that the community has spoken and encouraged the Board to do the right thing.

Mr. Verbeke reiterated the decision by the Board to appoint someone to fulfil the vacant seat. Mr. Verbeke also stated his objection to the Sunshine Law and cited School Code 701.C3. Mr. Verbeke cited preserved protocols as legal gymnastics and stated that service to the School Board should be selfless service not to serve a political party.

Mr. Nelson noted the objection to the Sunshine Law.

Ms. Johnson of Souderton expressed concern that the decision being made today may impact the future of education in the Souderton Area School District. Ms. Johnson also thanked the audience for coming out today.

Ms. Pugliese of Franconia Township stated that today's actions were a blatant attack on democratic rights. She also stated that there was no reason to push this decision through at this time and the appointment should be delayed until the newly elected members are seated.

Mr. Spiegel of Lower Salford Township expressed concerns regarding Board transparency, noting that rushing through a major decision to fulfil a vacant seat is a calculated choice.

Ms. Kratz of Lower Salford Township asked the Board to delay their decision to December 1. She questioned the reason for the fulfilling the vacant seat now. Ms. Kratz paused and waited for a response. Ms. Kratz suggested that if Mr. Brong is the appointee, he should decline.

Mr. Detwiler of Souderton cited justification for not supporting the Board's decision based upon the words in The Pledge of Allegiance. He called the action a lame duck power grab.

Mr. Souchet of Franconia Township commented on several observations he had made on the School Board over the course of several years; time limits, dismissive comments and extended monologues.

Solicitor, Ms. Shore reminded Mr. Souchet that comments are limited to agenda items.

Mr. Souchet cited Board practices that alienate the community and while the actions may be legal, they do nothing to repair the community divide, they only deepen the divide. Mr. Souchet requested that the board vacancy not be filled today.

Mr. Swindells of Lower Salford requested that the Board hold interviews for the vacant Board seat and wait on their decision until December 1. Mr. Swindells also expressed concern that the Board's decisions are an embarrassment to the school district and create suspicion of all their actions.

Ms. Zickefoose expressed concern that this process was not transparent. She also stated the desire for meetings to return to respectful conversation and encouraged productive actions.

Mr. Shapella of Telford questioned bringing such shame on the district. He also questioned why not give the new board members and the community to select someone to fill the vacant seat.

Ms. Torres of Telford stated that she had spoken at a Board meeting two year ago, encouraging the School Board to enact a policy for Board vacancies and appointments. She also stated that several neighboring districts have such a policy. Ms. Torres expressed concern that a questionable appointment erodes the trust of the school district. She requested that the Board develop a policy for Board appointment in a transparent and public manner.

Ms. Benner of Franconia Township reflected on elementary parent-teacher conferences and the focus of school district teachers. Ms. Benner encouraged the Board to empower its teachers and receive candidates, rather than appoint.

Ms. Burke of Lower Salford Township thanked the Board for their service and thanked the public for their attendance to this meeting. Ms. Burke stated that a neighboring district also has a vacancy on its Board and will be making its decision in public. Ms. Burke encouraged the selection of a candidate that could compromise with both sides.

Ms. Kozhushchenko read aloud an email she had sent to the Board expressing concerns about secrecy and transparency. She also expressed concerns about appointing a board member without the benefit of new board members being seated. She requested a delay until December 2.

Mr. Willauer of Telford expressed similar concerns to other speakers and urged the Board to delay its appointment and hold interviews. Mr. Willeuer cited shameful behavior and political game-man-ship.

Mr. Woehleke of Souderton thanked the audience for their attendance and expressed his thoughts that this Board does not exhibit servant leadership.

Solicitor Ms. Shore reminded that this comment period is for agenda items only.

Mr. Woehleke requested that the Board push this vote to another day.

Ms. Tatem of Franconia thanked the Board for their time and dedication. She stated her belief that the appointment is consistent with its by-laws and thanked the Board for doing the right thing.

3. Discussion/Action Agenda

3.1 Motion to Accept Resignation of Nicholas Braccio from the Board of School Directors

A roll call vote was taken.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF NICHOLAS BRACCIO FROM THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Motion by William Formica, second by Kimberly Wheeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

3.2 Motion to Accept Resignation of William Brong from the Board of School Directors

A member of the audience objected to the motion.

Solicitor Ms. Shore noted the objection and acknowledged the objection.

A roll call vote was taken.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM BRONG FROM THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS EFFECTIVE
IMMEDIATELY

Motion by Andrew Landis, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

3.3 Appointment to Fill Vacant Seat

Mr. Nelson nominated Mr. Brong.

The audience was heard stating the word shame.

Mr. Nelson stated that Mr. Formica has seconded the motion.

Solicitor Ms. Shore attempted to speak.

Mr. Nelson attempted to speak.

The audience was calling out. Mr. Nelson attempted to gain order.

Solicitor Ms. Shore stated that the Board does not need to identify on the agenda who they are nominating.

Mr. Verbeke announced himself and stated an objection.

A member of the audience was heard making an objection. Other members of the audience began stating objections.
A voice from the audience suggested that everyone stand and identify themselves to be included in the objection:

Chris Spigel, Harleysville

Adam Tate, Harleysville

Jean Kamakote, Telford

Cheryl Baldino, Upper Salford

Tata Lord, Telford

Inaudible, Lower Salford

Mary Jo Afflerbach, Lower Salford

Lauren Sigafoos, Lower Salford

Maureen Kratz, Lower Salford

Inaudible, Franconia

Inaudible, Franconia

Stephanie Jamison, Souderton

William Jamison, Souderton

Cindy Sheetz, Lower Salford

Inaudible, Lower Salford

Elise Bowers, Lower Salford

Inaudible, Lower Salford

Richard Detwiler, former school board member
Warren Nichols, Lower Salford
Patricia White, Lower Salford
Victor Verbeke, cited an objection to Policy 004.

The audience erupted into shouts of Shame, Shame

Cliff Buetikofer
Brian Shapella, Telford
Janet Walsh, Lower Salford
Eileen Tierney, Lower Salford
Austin Wissner, Lower Salford
Stephen Gillespie, Telford
Jill Dietrich, Lower Salford
Deb Schoen, Lower Salford
Donna Amaker, Salford
Rob Hurd, Lower Salford
Erin Tynebor, Lower Salford
John Waldenberger, Telford Borough
Emily Willauer, Telford Borough
A.J. Willauer, Telford
Victoria Kozhushchenko, Lower Salford
Mary Ryan, Harleysville
Caitlyn Johnson, Salford
Margaret Burke, Lower Salford
George Wilke, Souderton Borough
Jackie Stevenson, Telford
Craig Stevenson, Telford
Meredith Torres, Telford
Liz Cleary, Harleysville
Kathleen Kerr, Upper Salford
Samantha Bromley, Lower Salford
Robin Murphy, Harleysville
Chris Frey, Lower Salford
Patrick Kitt, Franconia
Perry Summers, Lower Salford
Scott Swindells, Lower Salford
Art Murphy, Franconia
Ernie Ringo, Franconia
Ann Westron, Franconia
Alicia Avakoes, Harleysville
Ben Wright, Lower Salford
Patricia Summers, Lower Salford

The audience continued to speak at once.

Solicitor Ms. Shore noted that the meeting was being recorded and all names were heard.

Ms. Wheeler attempted to speak. Mr. Nelson stated that it was not the time to do so.

Solicitor Ms. Shore stated that a Board member is permitted to comment for clarification.

Ms. Wheeler stated that she was voting in favor of Mr. Brong, as an experienced Board member.

A roll call vote was taken.

The audience stated Shame, Shame

MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF AN ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT ON THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Motion by Stephen Nelson, second by William Formica.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

4. Adjournment

4.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 1:36 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by William Formica, second by Michael Barnacz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a cursive "Taylor".

Michael Taylor

Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs