February 18, 2026

At 6:00 p.m. the Board held their Committee Meeting, briefly reviewing agenda items. In addition, Trane presented to the Board regarding maintenance projects and application for the Public School Facility Improvement Grant. Also, Brenda Pawlowski, Kotzan, presented the June 30, 2025 Audit Report. The Board ended their Committee Meeting and entered Executive Session to discuss personnel. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:55pm to start the Regular Meeting.

The Blacklick Valley School Board met in person in Regular Session at 6:56p.m. for General Purposes in the Conference Room of the Blacklick Valley Jr. Sr. High School, 555 Birch Street, Nanty Glo, PA 15943 with Angela Villa, Board President, presiding and the following members present and/or attending via phone:

Michael Gdula, Elizabeth Kreashko, Larry Kupchella, Gregory O'Farrell, Shawn McMullen, Jeffrey Szymusiak, Joe Villa, and Don Thomas.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mr. William Kanich, Superintendent, Bethany Peracchino, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Ed Alexander, High School Principal, Nichole Kolarik, Special Education Coordinator, and the Nanty-Glo Journal.

Recognition of Guests- None.

Moved by Gregory O'Farrell, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively	Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively	Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively	Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively	Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively	**Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Jeffrey Szymusiak, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2026.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively	Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively	Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively	Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively	Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively	**Motion Carried**

Moved by Gregory O'Farrell, seconded by Joe Villa, to approve the following motions:

Motion to approve the payment of the Regular Bills in the amount of **$91,146.71.**
Motion to approve the payment of the Cafeteria Bills in the amount of **$33,018.30.**
Motion to approve the estimated payment of the February 2026 Payroll in the amount of **$318,888.84** and the estimated transfer of **$318,888.84** from the General Fund to the Payroll Account.
Motion to approve the estimated payment of the February 2026 Cafeteria Payroll in the amount of **$14,814.58** and the estimated transfer of **$14,814.58** from the Cafeteria Fund to the General Fund Account.
Motion to approve the Cafeteria Fund Report for the month ending January 31, 2026, showing a balance of **$417,811.47.**
Motion to approve the Athletic Fund Report for the month ending January 31, 2026, showing a balance of **$7,252.57.**

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the Local Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2025.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to authorize the Business Manager to work with Epic Communications to solicit bids for replacement network equipment (network switches) through the E-Rate process. This does not commit the District to doing the project. The cost to the District would be 15% of the total project cost, which will be determined after bids are received.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act – Part B, Section 611, sub grant contract with the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act – Part B, Section 619, sub grant contract with the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to advertise for RFPs for a Food Service Management Company beginning in the 26-27 school year.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Jeffrey Szymusiak, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to approve Snyder Brothers as the District's gas supplier for a term of 30 months at a fixed price of $4.23400/DTH, effective 2/1/27.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the Resolution to Pursue the Public School Facility Improvement Grant for Boilers and Controls Upgrades, authorizing the Superintendent and Business Manager to apply for the Public School Facility Improvement Grant.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the Project Development Agreement with Trane U.S. Inc.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively — Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively — **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the 2026 Extended School Year Agreement between the Blacklick Valley School District and Alternative Community Resource Program, Inc.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively — Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively — Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively — Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively — Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively — **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to waive the First Reading of the revisions to the following School Board Policies:

a) 103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
b) 104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
c) 204 Attendance
d) 234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Student
e) 317 Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
f) 317.1 Educator Misconduct
g) 320 Freedom of Speech by Employees
h) 339 Uncompensated Leave
i) 601 Purchases Subject to Bid
j) 611 Purchases Budgeted
k) 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance
l) 626.1 Travel Reimbursement-Federal Programs
m) 918 Title I and Parent Engagement

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively — Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively — Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively — Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively — Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively — **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to authorize the Superintendent to apply to the PA Department of Education for the use of Flexible Instruction Days for the 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 school years.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Joe Villa, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to approve the intermittent FMLA leave for employee number 105 for the duration of the 25-26 school year.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Joe Villa, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to approve the maternity leave of employee number 90192, beginning February 20, 2026 through the end of the 25-26 school year, with a return at the beginning of the 26-27 school year.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Gregory O'Farrell, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to hire Jen Bezek as a Junior High Softball Coach at a 25-26 salary of $2,843.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to hire Monica Emerson as a Junior High Softball Coach at a 25-26 salary of $2,843.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively **Motion Carried**

Moved by Joe Villa, seconded by Jeffrey Szymusiak, to hire Ethan Joiner as a Junior High Baseball Coach at a 25-26 salary of $2,843.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to hire Christopher Yahner as a Junior High Baseball Coach at a 25-26 salary of $2,843.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively **Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Jeffrey Szymusiak, to hire Christine Mallin as a Substitute Cafeteria Worker at a starting rate of $10/hour, effective 2/17/26.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively | Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively | Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively | **Motion Carried**

Moved by Jeffrey Szymusiak, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to hire Tammy Boring as a Junior High Girls Volleyball Coach at a 26-27 salary of $2,200.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively | Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively | Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively | Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively | Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively | **Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to hire Kayla Penksa as a Junior High Girls Volleyball Coach at a 26-27 salary of $2,200.00.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively | Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively | Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively | Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively | Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively | **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to terminate Wendy White as a paraprofessional.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively | Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively | Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively | Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively | Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively | **Motion Carried**

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the hiring of Michelle Gongloff as a paraprofessional at a rate of $10/hour.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the maternity leave of employee number 90160, beginning August 1, 2026 and running through October 2, 2026.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

Moved by Elizabeth Kreashko, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the maternity leave of employee number 90188, beginning June 1, 2026 and extending through January 2027.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively
Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively
Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively
Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively
Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively
Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively
Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively
Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively
Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively
Motion Carried

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

High School Principal, Ed Alexander, stated that the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team finished the season as three time champs of the Westpac. They lost to Williamsburg in the District 6 playoffs. Drama opens up with The Little Mermaid on March 6th at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. All shows are posted on the website. Also, Spring sports start March 3rd.

Superintendent, William Kanich, stated that Conemaugh Hospital requested our art students to paint the windows in the walkway between two of their hospitals. Grace Farabaugh does an excellent job with these students and projects. Also, three students qualified for Skills at the Vo-Tech. We also had two students move on to Regional Band.

Moved by Gregory O'Farrell, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting on Motion:

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Elizabeth Kreashko Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Bethany Peracchino, Board Secretary