

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

MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2026

1.0 The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:30 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, Linda R. Lash, Lauren J. Matthews, Alfonso F. Rossi (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), Kelly J. Steinke, Carol E. Weyandt, Daniel B. Weyandt

Members Absent: Joseph M. Brown, David E. Moll

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Azucena Macedo

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Patrick Winters, Toni Crater, Jason Hansen, Michael Sobczak

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP (arrived at 6:44 p.m.)

1.3 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Weyandt reported that the Board met in executive session on February 23, 2026, following the Board Meeting for legal and personnel matters.

2.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mark Boyer, Bern Township – Boys Lacrosse
Jonathan Elliot, Centerport – Boys Lacrosse
Kattya Schnitker, Leesport – Boys Lacrosse
Sallie Gigliotti, Leesport – Boys Lacrosse
Carl Moyer, Leesport – Boys Lacrosse
Kameron Boyer, Leesport – Boys Lacrosse

3.0 POLICY PERSONNEL, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

3.1 The Board was requested to consider and approve the revisions to the February 23, 2026, adopted annual Schuylkill Valley School District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the revisions to the February 23, 2026, adopted annual Schuylkill Valley School District Calendar for the 2026-27 school year.

Dr. Winters informed the Board of several revisions to the 2026-27 District calendar that was adopted on February 23, 2026. The updates included moving Easter/Spring Break one week earlier for the upcoming school year. In addition, several end-of-quarter dates were adjusted by one (1) day to ensure each marking period remained consistent at 45 days.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

3.2 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)
None

4.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

- 4.1** The Board was requested to consider and approve the SVHS Boys Lacrosse Team to play a Varsity schedule for the 2026 season.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the SVHS Boys Lacrosse Team to play a Varsity schedule for the 2026 season.

The Board discussed their positions regarding whether the team should compete at the varsity level for the upcoming season.

Mrs. Steinke shared that as the parent of a freshman player, she understood the concerns but did not want her personal worries to influence the team's opportunity to play. She expressed support for allowing a varsity season and appreciated the community turnout in support of the program.

Mrs. Lash reflected on when the original lacrosse players first came before the Board seeking approval to establish the varsity program. She expressed concern about the possibility of the program declining, recalling the broader impact when the football program previously ended and then returned and how hard that was to reestablish. She felt the students should be given the opportunity to compete at the varsity level if they were prepared and had playing experience. She also recognized Athletic Director Mr. Hansen for his efforts coordinating with the PIAA and other districts to explore options for the team. She encouraged current players to support younger athletes by promoting the sport within the community.

It was noted that seven (7) eight-grade and seven (7) seventh-grade students were expected to join the program when they entered high school.

Mrs. Weyandt emphasized that the Board was not considering eliminating the program but was addressing the current gap between upperclassmen and younger players. She noted that both parents and student athletes have acknowledged the risks associated with participation and stressed the importance of proper preparation and training to promote player safety.

Mr. Rossi thanked the players and parents for attending the meeting and showing support for the program. He noted concerns about the participation gap among the sophomore and junior classes.

Mr. Ammarell thanked Mr. Hansen, Mr. Burrows, and the athletic staff for monitoring the program and bringing the matter to the Board's attention. He agreed with Mr. Rossi that parents and coaches knew the athletes best and supported allowing parents and student athletes to decide whether to participate.

Mr. Weyandt commented on the injury discussion, noting the importance of distinguishing concussions from other injuries. While he understood the senior's desire to play varsity, he emphasized that the sport could still be played at the junior varsity level. He expressed concern about the safety of younger players, particularly in relation to concussions, and stated that his priority was ensuring the safety of the younger athletes. He also questioned the current co-op arrangement with Fleetwood and whether other cooperative options with neighboring districts could be explored.

Mrs. Weyandt also expressed concern about the number of reported concussions and suggested the program review training and coaching practices to determine whether additional safety measures were needed. She supported allowing a varsity season this year but emphasized the importance of monitoring player safety and ensuring that opposing schools understood the team's roster composition, which included several younger players.

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

Nays: D. Weyandt

Motion passed 6-1.

- 4.2** The Board was requested to consider and approve the SVHS Boys Lacrosse Team play a Junior Varsity schedule for the 2026 season.

Following the approval of the varsity schedule, no vote was taken on this motion.

- 4.3 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)**

- 5.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None

- 6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors

