

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

MINUTES

February 23, 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, David E. Moll, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Carol E. Weyandt, Daniel B. Weyandt

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Azucena Macedo

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Patrick Winters, Matt Ammons, Robin Brightbill, Dr. Jennifer Gabryluk, Jennifer Godtfring, Jason Hansen, Jenny Rexrode, Jacqueline Rivas, Kristin Wallace, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell,

Solicitor: John Miravich, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2026, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Weyandt reported that the Board met in executive session following the Committee meeting on February 17, 2026, for personnel, legal, and student matters.

1.5 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

This time is reserved for recognition of students and staff.

There were no student or staff recognitions.

1.6 PRESENTATIONS

NASUP Conference:

Presented by: Jenny Rexrode

Mrs. Rexrode thanked the Board for supporting her attendance at the National Association of School and University Partnerships (NASUP) Conference in Arlington, Virginia. She presented two sessions at the conference. The first, From Campus to Classroom: Reimagining Teacher Induction through School-University Collaboration, highlighted the district's partnership with Kutztown University to support ongoing teacher learning. The second presentation, From Many Roads to Shared Renewal: Voices of Teachers in Partnership, was delivered alongside three Schuylkill Valley High School Teachers, Matt Wasotsky, Cindy Koehler, and Jake Ford and focused on the high school cohort earning their coaching endorsement. Mrs. Rexrode also shared that session

Choice-Based Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and Reading Research were particularly beneficial.

NASUP Conference:

Presented by: Dr. Shannon O'Donnell

Dr. O'Donnell thanked the Board on behalf of the elementary staff for supporting their continued participation in the NASUP Conference, marking their third year attending in partnership with Kutztown University. The team presented on the sustainability of their school-university partnership and brought seven (7) elementary teachers to share their experiences. All seven (7) teachers earned their PDE coaching endorsement through the program. Dr. O'Donnell was also invited to speak to approximately 600 attendees at a luncheon alongside Dr. Norris from Kutztown University. The PechaKucha-style presentation highlighted the origin and growth of the partnership, recent PDE data regarding emergency certifications versus certified teachers in Pennsylvania, and the importance of addressing educator retention. She emphasized the program's success in achieving 100% teacher retention among participants.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – Carol E. Weyandt

Mrs. Weyandt provided updates on the superintendent search, noting that the district received 28 applications and is narrowing the pool to approximately eight (8) candidates for first-round interviews, which will begin next week. She reminded the public that the Board holds workshop meetings for all five (5) committees during the first two (2) weeks of each month and referenced the revised workshop schedule for the remainder of the year.

Committee updates included:

- **Policy, Personnel and Public Relations:** Working on updating policies, developing a standardized hiring and interview procedure, reviewing paraprofessionals salaries ahead of the June 30 contract expiration, creating a standardized exit interview form, and reviewing athletic advertising guidelines for potential additional revenue.
- **Curriculum and Technology:** 17 teachers attended the recent meeting, with multiple instructional items discussed.
- **Budget and Finance:** Reviewed financial reports, ongoing budget matters and the district's overall fiscal position.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Developing a five (5) year capital improvement plan, including HVAC systems and smaller facility projects. Fieldhouse bids are expected next month, with further discussion to follow upon receipt.
- **Student Services and Activities:** Discussed special education and pupil service's needs, kindergarten registration and boys' lacrosse.

She added that she would like a student council representative to come to the board meetings and report on their activities.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that at the most recent IU meeting, members reviewed a new state mandate impacting school boards and districts. The IU's Preschool and Early Intervention program introduced a new therapy dog named Reese. The 27th Annual Board President, Superintendent, and CTC Directors meeting was held at the IU, attended by Dr. Winters and Board President Weyandt. Head Start training was conducted, and the annual Head Start audit will take place before

the end of the school year, with two(2) board members participating. She shared information regarding the Annie Sullivan Award, with nominees and the winner to be recognized on April 8, 2026, at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences. She also discussed Governor Shapiro's proposed budget. On February 18, PDE issued additional guidance related to implementation of Act 47 of 2025, requiring districts to update Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with law enforcement agencies, regardless of recent revisions. Updated MOUs must be submitted to PDE by June 30. She also noted that House Bill 17, now Act 2 of 2026, requires instruction in print, joint italics, and cursive handwriting in all elementary public and private schools in Pennsylvania. The legislation takes effect April 12, 2026. She briefly reviewed additional House and Senate bills currently under consideration.

2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that the upcoming BCTC meeting will include discussion of the open Chief Financial Officer position, which is expected to be filled within the next 45 to 60 days. He shared that the board previously reached a consensus to hold a future board meeting at BCTC and has contacted the Executive Director to coordinate a date. He encouraged the public to attend the award-winning house project in Oley. He also noted proposed modifications to the tractor-trailer behind the wheel program to increase driving hours and enhance competitiveness.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – Joseph M. Brown

No report.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reminded the new board members to complete their School Board training and reminded the board of the new director monthly meetup with the next one coming up on Wednesday March 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The School Safety Summit will be held on March 26 in Mechanicsburg. There is information for superintendent evaluations that the board may wish to review before a new superintendent is hired. March 13th to 15th is the COSSBA National Conference and the liaison quarterly meeting will be held on April 23rd.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Linda R. Lash

She reminded everyone of the Red and Black event coming up on March 13, 2026.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Bryan O'Donnell, Ontelaunee Township – Superintendent Search process
Leslie Boyer, Bern Township – Boys Lacrosse JV Season
Kameron Boyer, Bern Township – Boys' Lacrosse JV Season

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 provided clarification on the proposed 2026–27 District calendar. PDE revised its requirements, changing language from “and” to “or” allowing districts to meet instructional

requirements by either 180 days or the required instructional hours (990 secondary / 900 elementary). He also reviewed Act 80 provisions, which allow in-service or conference days to count as instructional days even when students are not physically present. He discussed the potential use of Flexible Instructional Days (FID) for inclement weather. FID days would be asynchronous, allowing students to access and complete assignments online during the day. If approved, a committee led by Mrs. Rexrode, including teachers and administrators, would develop guidelines and structure for FID implementation. Regarding textbook disposal, Dr. Winters emphasized transparency and communication. A standardized form and protocol have been developed and shared with building administrators to ensure proper documentation and checks and balances in the disposal process. He announced an upcoming budget information workshop for the Board with Mrs. Wallace and himself. The session will serve as an informational workshop to help determine the appropriate timing for a future public budget presentation. Under Student Services and Activities, the district was exploring expanded partnerships with the YMCA, including potential childcare options on in-service days, possible expansion to grade five (5) if interest exists, and the possibility of a summer camp hosted at the elementary school. Kindergarten registration will return to the elementary school this spring, with five (5) days of screening involving kindergarten teachers. A flyer will be distributed to the community. He reminded the public that April 1 will serve as a FID day to make up for the most recent snow day. Dr. Winters shared upcoming event dates and times and highlighted several student achievements from the past month. The SVES Garden Club won the 2nd Annual Farm in the Classroom Competition, earning an aquaponics system. Several high school students were selected for the Lebanon Valley College Honors Choirs, joining 150 singers from 21 schools. He congratulated the boys' basketball team for defeating Wyomissing in the quarterfinals and advancing to play Berks Catholic in the semifinals. At the Girls Diving District III 2A Championship, Charlotte Schwendeman placed first and Carly Crills placed second, with both qualifying for states. The Unified Bocce team earned second place in their division and third overall in counties. Lainey Crespo placed fourth in the Girls' Wrestling Sectional Tournament, advancing to districts. Students also competed in the BCIAA Boys Singles Bowling Tournament, and Elyssa Sellers was recognized as the "Spotlight on Berks Sports Athlete of the Week." He also noted the district's participation in the Giant Feeding School's program, which supports the Food Service Department in addressing childhood hunger.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Franklin M. Ammarell

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

6.1 Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignation:

Danielle Conrad, Special Education Paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective January 23, 2026.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Linda Lash to accept with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignation of Danielle Conrad, Special Education Paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective January 23, 2026.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board consolidated items 6.2.1 through 6.2.6 for Board approval as presented.

- 6.2** Approves the employment of the following (all elections are contingent upon receipt and district approval of all necessary pre-employment forms, certification, state-mandated physical examinations, clearances, etc.):
- 6.2.1** Mr. Matthew Christman, Certified Building Substitute Teacher at the high school, \$46,303.00 (reduced rate of pay with single level benefit option available and prorated for actual days worked), effective January 28, 2026, to fill the vacancy created by the newly created position.
 - 6.2.2** Ms. Jaclyn Ciesla, Assistant Director of Food Services, at an annual salary of \$47,000.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the newly created position.
 - 6.2.3** Ms. Heather Hadwin, Special Education PK-12 Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the middle school, Bachelor's Step 2, \$57,413.00 (prorated for actual days worked), effective January 22, 2026, through the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the compensated leave of absence of Ms. Dana Carter.
 - 6.2.4** Mr. Jared Shaak, Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$26.38, effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Michelle Putt.
 - 6.2.5** The following substitutes for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Melissa Becht – Guest Teacher
 - Steven Hinsey – Guest Teacher
 - Brandon VanSchaick – Guest Teacher
 - 6.2.6** The following volunteers for the 2025-26 school year:
 - Cynthia Baez – MS/ES
 - Christina Brown – ES
 - Nicole Kelly – ES/HS (Student Internship – Stork Plows)
 - Scott Knoebel – ES
 - Christopher Skalamera – ES
 - Amber Triplett – ES
 - Danny Voorhies – ES/MS/HS

Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Joe Brown to approve 6.2.1 through 6.2.6 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3** Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence:
- Michelle Gaul, MS Science Teacher, effective January 28, 2026, through approximately March 28, 2026.
- Felicia McDevitt, Grade 1 Teacher, effective November 11, 2025, intermittently through the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.

Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke to acknowledge the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence in Item 6.3, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, 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 Policy 008: Organization Chart for a 2nd Reading.

6.5 Approves Policy 903: Public Comment in Board Meetings for a 2nd Reading.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Lauren Matthews to approve items 6.4 through 6.5, as presented.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, 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 325: Dress and Grooming for a 1st Reading.

6.7 Approves the Procurement (attachment) associated with Policy 626: Federal Fiscal Compliance for a 1st Reading.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve Items 6.6 through 6.7, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.8 Approves the PSBA Board Resolution for Principles for Governance and Leadership, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the PSBA Board Resolution for Principles for Governance and Leadership, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.9 Approves the revisions to the Committee Work Session dates for 2026, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve the revisions to the Committee Work Session dates for 2026, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.10 Approves a Substitute Board Recording Secretary flat rate of pay of \$175.00 per meeting.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve a Substitute Board Recording Secretary flat rate of pay \$175.00 per meeting.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.11 Approves the adoption of the annual SVSD District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to approve the adoption of the annual SVSD District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

Mrs. Steinke expressed concern that scheduling half days on Wednesdays may be challenging for working parents, as it could require taking a full day off work, whereas a Friday half day might allow families to use vacation more efficiently over a long weekend.

Dr. Winters acknowledged the concern and explained that Wednesdays were selected to provide consistent, meaningful collaboration time for teachers throughout the year. He noted that scheduling in-service days adjacent to holidays (Monday or Friday) often results in increased staff absences, which diminished the effectiveness of professional development time.

Mr. Ammarell questioned what kind of deviation the district had on instructional hours for the students themselves.

Dr. Winters stated that it was close.

Yeas: Ammarell, Brown, Lash, Matthews, Moll, Rossi, Steinke, 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 6:50 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

The Board consolidated items 7.1 through 7.3 for Board approval as presented.

- 7.1** Approves a pilot of Everyday Speech for use at the middle school during their Advisory Period.
- 7.2** Approves the Master Telecommunications License Agreement with Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU), as presented. The agreement is for five (5) years of internet and related services for the district.
- 7.3** Approves of middle school and high school survey questions that are part of the BBEC Student Research Career Project that select SVMS and SVHS students to participate on March 3 at BCTC – West Campus.

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve items 7.1 through 7.3 as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.4** Approves professional development with American Reading Company (ARC) in the amount of \$2,400.00 for K-12 English Language Arts.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Lauren Matthews to approve professional development with American Reading Company (ARC) in the amount of \$2,400.00 for K-12 English Language Arts.

Mrs. Rexrode informed the Board that survey feedback from staff indicated a desire for additional professional learning time. She shared that during a recent review of the foundational skills program with representatives from American Reading Company, teachers were surprised by the number of tools and resources available. To ensure staff fully understand and utilize these resources, 90-minute review sessions would be scheduled during the second day of conferences, one for elementary and one for secondary staff. Timing will be coordinated to align with the elementary conference schedule.

Mrs. Steinke asked how much initial training was provided when the resources were purchased and why the vendor did not review the online materials at that time.

Mrs. Rexrode stated that initial training was provided and monthly trainings have continued since implementation; however, those sessions have focused primarily on physical resources rather than a comprehensive review of online tools.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Joseph M. Brown

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 8.1** Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from January 12, 2026, to February 24, 2026, as presented:

GENERAL FUND	\$1,839,531.60
CAFETERIA FUND	\$72,488.12
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$0.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$0.00
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,912,019.72

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve/ratify the payment of bills in the amounts from January 12, 2026, to February 24, 2026, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.2** Approves the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's (BCIU's) annual operating budget for the 2026-27 school year in the amount of \$39,199.52.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by David Moll to approve the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's (BCIU's) annual operating budget for the 2026-27 school year in the amount of \$39,199.52.

Roll Call Vote: Board Vote

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Individual Vote

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

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:11 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1 Approves the quote from Pletcher Fire Protection to repair four (4) duct detectors at the elementary school in the amount of \$5,045.00.**

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve the quote from Pletcher Fire Protection to repair four (4) duct detectors at the elementary school in the amount of \$5,045.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.2 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, BOARD MEETING: Approves the ratification of the agreement with TRANE for the rental and installation of 24 portable heating units for the duration of 56 days to be placed at the elementary school in the amount of \$42,950.00, as presented.**

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve the ratification of the agreement with TRANE for the rental and installation of 24 portable heating units for the duration of 56 days to be placed at the elementary school in the amount of \$42,950.00, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.3 THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, BOARD MEETING: Approves the quote from Landis Bonfitto Mechanical Group, Inc. in the amount of \$2,650.08 to supply and install a replacement cam shaft and LWCO (Low Water Cutoff) on the Middle School boiler.**

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the quote from Landis Bonfitto Mechanical Group, Inc. in the amount of 42,650.08 to supply and install a replacement cam shaft and LWCO (low water cutoff) on the middle school boiler.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.4.1 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)

School Buildings and future student population:

Mr. Rossi informed the Board that he received an inquiry regarding whether new developments in the area could overload district schools. He reviewed recent enrollment data and noted the district currently has a larger population ("bubble") in grades 7 through 10, with the largest class being 177 students in 9th grade. He stated that this group has already progressed through the middle school, which is one of the more crowded buildings. Enrollment in lower grades is smaller, with 5th grade at 157 students and the incoming kindergarten class at 132 students. Elementary class sizes are averaging approximately 140 students or fewer. Based on current enrollment trends, he stated there is no foreseeable concern regarding building capacity related to student population growth.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Kelly J. Steinke

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

10.1 Approves the Settlement Agreement for student #3386.

Board Action: Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Settlement Agreement for student #3386.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Approves the Field Lease Agreement with the SV Girls Softball Association for 30 practices during the 2026 Junior High Softball season at a cost of \$38.00 per practice for a total cost of the field lease of \$1,140.00.

Board Action: Moved by Daniel Weyandt and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the Field Lease Agreement with the SV Girls Softball Association for 30 practices during the 2026 Junior High Softball season at a cost of \$38.00 per practice for a total cost of the field lease of \$1,140.00.

Mr. Hansen informed the board that all games will be on district varsity fields, and the schedule has been worked out to accommodate the new change. He talked to the Schuylkill Valley Softball Association and was informed it would be up to the district to determine whether the field is playable or not for practices requiring Mr. Hansen to come assess fields when weather is not so great to notify buses etcetera.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.3 Approves the Schuylkill Valley High School Boys Lacrosse Team to play a hybrid Varsity and JV Schedule for the 2026 Spring season (the last year of the current PIAA cycle) and then play a JV schedule for the 2027-2028 Spring seasons as aligned with the next PIAA two (2) year cycle.

Board Action: A motion was made by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to approve the Schuylkill Valley High School Boys Lacrosse Team to play a hybrid Varsity and JV schedule for the 2026 Spring Season, the last year of the current P IAA cycle and then play a JV schedule for the 2027 and 2028 Spring seasons as aligned with the next PIAA two-year cycle.

A subsequent motion was made by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to amend the original motion to approve a hybrid Varsity and JV schedule for the 2026 spring season with the next two (2) year cycles to be determined.

Mr. Hansen informed the Board that he met with upperclassmen to discuss options for the upcoming lacrosse season, including JV, Varsity or a hybrid schedule. Students were asked to consult with their parents and provide feedback. One senior indicated he would play regardless of level, while another stated he would not participate if the team were JV only. A hybrid season was explored, which would maintain the existing schedule and include both JV and Varsity games. Most schools contacted were open to either level of competition. This approach would provide approximately eight (8) varsity and eight (8) JV games; however, it would require the team to compete as an independent school, making them ineligible for Berks County League and postseason play. Initial interest in November included 15 upperclassmen and 22 total players. Recent updates indicated five (5) to six (6) seniors may not participate, leaving approximately nine (9) upperclassmen and requiring freshman to play full varsity games, raising safety concerns. Mr. Hansen consulted with the Berks County Commissioner, District III Lacrosse Representative, and the PIAA Chair. PIAA indicated that nine (9) varsity games are required for postseason eligibility, but District III and Berks County League rules would also apply. The Berks County League confirmed that league membership is required for postseason eligibility. Forfeiting games due to safety concerns could negatively impact other schools and the district standing. Mr. Hansen expressed concern about beginning the season and being unable to complete it due to roster limitations. If insufficient numbers remain, PIAA noted that interested players could transfer to another school and petition for postseason eligibility. Attempts to explore cooperative agreements were unsuccessful, as most neighboring schools could not accommodate additional players due to classification or roster constraints.

Mrs. Weyandt felt that playing a hybrid schedule was a compromise between both issues of having a full varsity or only a JV. The concern was the number of injuries and the possibility of not completing the season. Also considering other school districts schedules and possibly not forfeiting to affect them.

Mrs. Steinke gave the number of students who participated in the winter league.

There was discussion from the board on both options and the effects it would have on the seniors and the freshman for their season and whether the decision would affect the number of students playing the season.

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

Nays: Matthews

Motion passed 8-1.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 10.4 Approves the contract with Devereux-Mapleton for student #6304.

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Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Frank Ammarell to approve the contract with Devereux-Mapleton for student #6304.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, BOARD MEETING:

- 10.5** Approves the Arete Professional Group, LLC contract for in-person school psychologist services for the rest of the 2025-26 school year at a cost of \$135.00 an hour for up to 32.5 hours per week.

Board Action: Moved by Kelly Steinke and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Arete Professional Group, LLC contract for in-person school psychologist services for the rest of the 2025-26 school year at a cost of \$135.00 an hour for up to 32.5 hours per week.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.6 OTHER (OLD/NEW BUSINESS)

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Master Gardener:

Mrs. Steinke shared that Penn State Extension offers a Master Gardener program through the Agricultural Center and has expressed interest in partnering with the district. She noted this could be a valuable resource for the elementary school. The program provides free gardening support via phone or email, researching and responding to questions as needed. Representatives are also willing to conduct student presentations. Soil testing is available for \$10.00, and the program offers additional educational resources. She also noted that Penn State Extension is partnering with local libraries to provide free seed banks to the community.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Weyandt announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting for legal and personnel matters.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.


Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors