

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

MINUTES

April 6, 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, 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, Michael Sobczak,

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

1.3 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session on March 23, 2026, following the Board Meeting for personnel, legal and safety matters, and on March 26, 2026, prior to the Budget Workshop Information Session, for personnel and student matters.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

SVSD Proposed Fieldhouse:

Presented by: Dr. Patrick Winters, Acting Superintendent

Dr. Winters provided an overview of the Fieldhouse Project, including the building floor plan, site plan, and renderings prepared by the Schrader Group. He reviewed three (3) project options:

- **Option 1: Multi-Purpose Building and Turf Building**
Includes a three (3) lane track, weight room, trainer's room, concession stand, team rooms, storage, and a separate turf building.
- **Option 2: Multi-Purpose Building Only**
Includes a three (3) lane track, weight room, trainer's room, concession stand, team rooms, and storage, without the turf building.
- **Option 3: No Project**

Dr. Winters noted that prior to bidding, the total estimated project cost, including financing, was approximately \$24,877,416.00. He reviewed Phase II bid results:

General Construction: Lowest bidder was ECI Construction, LLC at \$10,797,000.00.

- Base bid with Alternates #2A, #2B, and #4: \$10,910,900.00
- Base bid with Alternates #3A, #3B, and #4: \$11,004,600.00
- Alternate #1 (removal of turf building): deduct \$2,705,000.00

Mechanical Construction: Lowest bidder was Leibold Inc. at \$1,305,000.00.

- Alternate #1 (remove turf building): deduct \$257,000.00

Plumbing Construction: Lowest bidder was Leibold Inc. at \$860,000.00

- Turf building removal adjustment: deduct \$36,400.00

Electrical Construction: Lowest bidder was Hirneisen Electric, Inc. at \$1,765,000.00.

- Turf building removal adjustment: deduct \$240,000.00

A cost comparison prepared by Fidevia indicated a total projected project cost of \$18,626,952.00. Dr. Winters noted that bids came in significantly lower than originally anticipated.

He reviewed financing options:

- Use \$6,000,000.00 in district funds and finance approximately \$12.5 million
- Use \$3,000,000.00 in district funds and finance approximately \$15.5 million
- Finance the full project cost of approximately \$18.6 million with no district funds applied.

He noted that each option would extend the district's debt schedule but remains within the parameters of the previously approved resolution.

Mr. Rossi provided background on the Fieldhouse Project, noting that discussions date back over a decade. He shared that after joining the Board in 2017, shortly following completion of the stadium, there had been interest in constructing a fieldhouse at that time. He stated that ongoing space constraints for both student and youth athletics have continued to drive the need for additional facilities. The proposed project aims to expand indoor space for athletics and provide additional turf field access, which would help alleviate scheduling conflicts and reduce demand on the existing stadium turf and surrounding areas. He noted that project costs were not fully known until design, geotechnical, and site planning work were completed. Final bids came in approximately \$5 million lower than initial projections. He stated that the Board must now determine whether the district can support the associated debt service based on current financial conditions. He also noted that multiple meetings have been held regarding the project.

Mr. Brown expressed concerns regarding financing options, debt service and the district's current financial position.

Mrs. Luke confirmed with Acting Superintendent Dr. Winters that the April 6 Special Meeting and agenda were properly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Act requirements.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Bruce Harbauch, SV Football Coach – Football/Sports
Bryan O'Donnell, Ontelaunee Township – Sports
Alison McKechnie, SV Track Coach - Track
Roxanne McMurtry, Centre Township – Fieldhouse clarifying

4.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

- 4.1** The Board is requested to consider and approve the Letter of Intent, to hold for the purchase of 300 Chromebooks, from Riverside Technologies, Inc. as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve the Letter of Intent to hold for the purchase of 300 Chromebooks, from Riverside Technologies, Inc. as presented.

Mr. Sobczak informed the Board that Riverside Technology has supplied Chromebooks for second and fifth grade students over the past two (2) years. He noted that the curriculum and Technology Committee discussed continuing with this device model due to consistent pricing and performance. He reported that, despite a recent device shortage, the district was able to secure access to needed units after another customer canceled part of their order. The agenda item represents a letter of intent for Riverside Technology to reserve 300 Chromebooks for the district, pending final budget approval.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

5.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- 5.1** The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of Option A, the approval of the SVSD Fieldhouse Project, inclusive of both the multi-purpose building and the indoor turf building, subject to the contingencies and right of rescission, which will be addressed in Voting Item 5.2.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve Option A, the approval of the SVSD Fieldhouse Project, inclusive of both the multi-purpose building and the indoor turf building, subject to the contingencies and right of rescission, which will be addressed in Voting Item 5.2, as presented.

Mrs. Matthews inquired whether additional funds would be allocated to capital reserves and how and when those reserves would be replenished.

Mrs. Weyandt stated that capital reserve funds would need to be utilized for district needs regardless of this project and noted that the bond under consideration is designated specifically for the Fieldhouse Project. She added that if district funds are not used for this project, it would not impact those reserves in this context.

Mrs. Luke clarified that the Board previously approved a parameters resolution, which establishes a maximum borrowing limit but does not obligate the district to proceed. She noted that the district is not currently committed to a bond and would only move forward if the project was approved.

Mrs. Weyandt emphasized that the Board does not intend to move forward with the project at the expense of curriculum and instruction, noting that academic improvements remain a priority. She added that there is also value in supporting student involvement in athletics, music, and community activities.

Mr. Ammarell stated that current facility usage and space limitations are not sustainable and noted that the proposed facility could support multiple uses, including marching band, tournaments, and graduation.

Mr. Moll shared that input was received from coaches and community members and noted that the design includes features, such as large garage doors, that could allow the facility to serve as a community shelter or adaptable event space if needed.

Mrs. Lash stated that the condition of locker rooms has been an ongoing concern and previously deferred in anticipation of a fieldhouse. She expressed that updated facilities would better support both Schuylkill Valley students and visiting teams and give the district a sense of pride in the facilities.

Mrs. Steinke added that there is a clear need for additional space for student athletes and noted the potential for the facility to provide broader benefits to the community.

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

Nays: Brown

Motion passed 8 – 1.

- 5.2** The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval one of the following:

- A. Approval of the Phase II General Construction low bid of eciConstruction LLC in the amount of \$11,004,600.00 and inclusive of the base bid with Alternates 3A, 3B, and 4. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor by the School District if within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.
- B. Approval of the Phase II General Construction low bid of eciConstructioni LLC in the amount of \$10,910,900.00 and inclusive of the Base Bid with Alternates 2A, 2B, and 4. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approval and/or permits required for the project. Said ward is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor by the School District within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.
- C. Approval of the Phase II General Construction low bid of eciConstruction LLC in the amount of \$10,797,000.00 and inclusive of the Base Bid only. The ward of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor by the School District within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve Option A, Phase II General Construction low bid of eciConstruction, LLC in the amount of \$11,004,600.00 and inclusive of the base bid with Alternates 3A, 3B, and 4. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor by the School District if within one hundred and twenty (12) days of the date bids were opened.

Dr. Winters informed the Board that the Berks County Conservation District permit was approved. Wilkinson Design Group had sent the necessary digital documents and would be dropping off the hard copies to district administration.

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

Nays: Brown

Motion passed 8 – 1.

- 5.3** The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of the Phase II Mechanical Construction low bid of Leibold Inc. in the amount of \$1,305,000.00. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor by the School District if within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve Phase II Mechanical Construction low bid of Leibold Inc. in the amount to

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

Motion passed 8 – 1.

- 5.4** The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of the Phase II Plumbing Construction low bid of Leibold Inc. in the amount of \$860,000.00. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor by the School District within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve of the Phase II Plumbing Construction low bid of Leibold Inc. in the amount of \$860,000.00. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor by the School District within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

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

Nays: Brown

Motion passed 8 – 1.

- 5.5** The Board is requested to consider and recommend approval of the Phase II Electrical Construction low bid of Hirneisen Electric Inc. in the amount of \$1,765,000.00. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance, and signed Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor by the School District if within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

Board Action: Moved by Frank Ammarell and seconded by Daniel Weyandt to approve the Phase II Electrical Construction low bid of Hirneisen Electric Inc. in the amount of \$1,765,000.00. The award of this contract is expressly made contingent upon receipt of all governmental approvals and/or permits required for the project. Said award is further made contingent upon the receipt of the appropriate performance and payment bonds, certificates of insurance and signed Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and the Contractor, all in compliance with the bidding and contract documents. The Board reserves the right to rescind this award, without liability to the awarded Contractors, prior to the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor by the School District if within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date bids were opened.

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

Motion passed 8 – 1.

- 5.6** The Board is requested to consider and approve a Payment and Performance Bonds Addendum to the quote from TRANE U.S., for the eleven (11) Unit Ventilator Hot-Water/Refrigerant Coil Replacements at the Elementary School in the amount of \$1,800.00.

Board Action: Moved by Joe Brown and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve a Payment and Performance Bonds Addendum to the quote from TRANE U.S., for the eleven (11) Unit Ventilator Hot-Water/Refrigerant Coil Replacements at the Elementary School in the amount of \$1,800.00.

Dr. Winters informed the board that this item was an addendum to the quote that the board approved in March for the TRANE work at the elementary school. At the recommendation of the solicitor because it's repairs but could be construed as construction work as well. There was a need to have an addendum for payment and performance bonds and there is an added cost on TRANE's end for that in the amount of \$1,800.00. The approval is an addendum to include those bonds at the recommendation of council.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Lash congratulated student Owen Eisenhoffer who attended Nationals Swimming last week. He won a gold medal in 200 Free, gold in 400 Free, silver with his relay team, 400 Medley, relay and silver in the 800 Medley relay. She noted that in Schuylkill Valley history, this is the first national championship winner.

Mrs. Steinke congratulated Lilah Gilmore for breaking the school record in the long jump with a jump of eighteen (18) feet seven (7) inches. Third longest in Berks County history.

Mrs. Matthews stated there will be an upcoming bake sale to benefit the Xavier Mateo Memorial Fund at the stadium on Friday April 17th. She encouraged everyone to attend and noted that proceeds will support a scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior this year.

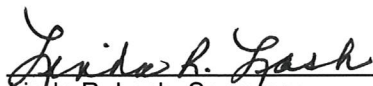
7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by David Moll and seconded by Kelly Steinke, 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 7:58 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors