

# **SHAMOKIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 15, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shamokin Area School District was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in the board conference room in the Shamokin Area Middle/High School, with President Mr. Brian Persing presiding. The meeting was open to the public, as well as broadcast live over YouTube. Mr. Persing called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and led the assembly in the recitation of The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Brian G. Persing, Vice President William H. Krieger III, Secretary Erik S. Anderson, Treasurer Edward M. Griffiths, Stephen J. Cook, Jeffrey L. Kashner, Bernadette Miller, Tammy Rhodes and Charles H. Shuey.

Others present included Frank W. Garrigan, School Solicitor; Chris J. Venna, Superintendent; Tonya Searls, Recording Secretary; Todd Hockenbroch, Middle/High School Principal; Jennifer Neary, Elementary Principal, and Sherry Eichelberger, Food Service Director (Nutrition, Inc.).

Mr. Persing announced the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is set for May 15, 2025, beginning at 7:30pm in the Board Conference Room.

Mr. Hockenbroch introduced the students of the month, Byron Dworchak and Mayan Hoey. Byron, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, has been on the distinguished honor roll since 5<sup>th</sup> grade, is a member of Modern Band and enjoys playing video games. Mayan does not participate in extracurricular activities, but Mr. Hockenbroch shared that his teacher nominated him because they were impressed with what he did in their classroom.

During the work session agenda, Mr. Hockenbroch shared that the musical and 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition trip were successful, PSSA testing is upcoming, and all graduating seniors should check with their Guidance Counselor to ensure they have fulfilled their graduation requirements. Mrs. Neary, Elementary Principal, shared that elementary PSSA testing will all be online this year, the elementary musical/Science Fair/art show is April 25-26, the winners of the talent show that was held, upcoming field trips and Kindergarten Graduation.

During citizens' comments, Johnathan Olshefski, asked for permission for the Shamokin Teener Baseball League to utilize our baseball field. Mr. Venna shared with him to speak with Mr. Clark and get the facility use request paperwork submitted.

It was moved by Mr. Shuey, seconded by Mr. Anderson that the following minutes of the Board of Directors be approved as presented:

## **Regular Monthly Meeting – March 18, 2025**

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Shuey that the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2025 be accepted as presented. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Shuey that the bills for the month of March 2025 be authorized paid as presented. (General Fund, Capital Reserve, Athletic Fund and Cafeteria Fund). On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Krieger to acknowledge the following student and staff accomplishments:

**Middle/High School Students of the Months for March**

Byron Dworchak- 8th                      Mayan Hoey- 9th

**Elementary School Students of the Month for March**

Tegan Danilowicz – 3rd Grade  
Adalynn Whary – 4th Grade  
Addlee Wagner – 5th Grade  
Evan Nolter – 6th Grade

Congratulations to all cast members, stage crew and staff for an excellent production of this year's school musical "Chicago: Teen Edition".

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the implementation of a Shamokin Area School District girls' varsity wrestling program and participation in PIAA sanctioned contests. Costs associated with starting the program consist of hiring a head coach, purchasing singlets, stipend for officials at home meets, and possible tournament entry fees. This cost is estimated to be \$5700-\$6000. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Kashner that the 2025-26 MHS Student Handbook be approved as presented. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Kashner to approve the revision to Job Description 503 School Police Officer – Chief as presented. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Kashner to approve the following contracts/agreements:

- Renew employee dental insurance with Delta Dental for one-year, effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, for the composite monthly rates as follows:

<u>Group Number 01147 (Professional)</u>	<u>Group Number 10088 (Non-Instructional)</u>
\$60.85	\$50.53
- Authorize the superintendent to sign the Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds by School Districts from Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16 which is a requirement for the IDEA grant application for fiscal year 2025-26.
- Agreement with TeleVine Therapy to provide Shamokin Area with Speech/Language PRN in-person services, as needed, effective August 1, 2025 through June 2026, at a cost of \$95/hour for Speech-Language Pathologist and \$90/hour for Speech-Language Therapists.
- First Amendment to the Retirement Plan Compliance Administration Services Agreement from October 1, 2013, with TSA Consulting Group now U.S. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc.

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Krieger to accept the quote from NRG Controls North, Inc. for the emergency replacement of the Fire Alarm Panel at the Middle/High School building in the amount of \$35,000.00. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve request for exemption from Real Estate Tax for disabled veteran John D. Yost, 1612 W. Sterling St., Coal Township, effective March 7, 2025, retroactively. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mrs. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve/disapprove the following as listed:

- Approve the following requests for exemption from Act 511 and Section 679 Taxes submitted by Statewide Tax Recovery:

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
Sarah M. Kistner (Poe), 225 S. Franklin St., Shamokin	2025	\$55.00	Duplicate
Makmal Yehezkel, 514 E. Spurzheim St., Shamokin	2021-2024	\$176.00	Nonresident
Geraldo Gonzalez, 121 S. Pearl St., Shamokin	2024	\$11.00	Duplicate
Colleen Gonzalez, 121 S. Pearl St., Shamokin	2024	\$11.00	Duplicate

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Kashner, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve the following assessment set for property parcel# 009-01-001-268 and reduce the real estate bills accordingly, effective immediately:

\$153,360 for tax year 2021	\$156,800 for tax year 2022
\$143,960 for tax year 2023	\$151,376 for tax year 2024
\$151,376 for tax year 2025	

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

Added from the floor:

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Shuey to authorize the purchase of a 2016 police vehicle from Ralpho Township at a cost of \$4500 plus transfer costs. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey.  
Voting No: None

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve all personnel items in motions 8.01 through 8.12 as listed:

- 8.01 Accept resignation from James Dressler, secondary physical education teacher, with regret, effective June 5, 2025.
- 8.02 Accept resignation from Kristie Startzel, Behavior Support Specialist, with regret, effective June 5, 2025.
- 8.03 Accept resignation from Vickie Finney, bus monitor, effective April 10, 2025.
- 8.04 Terminate Mikayla Seedor, part-time Personal Care Assistant, effective December 20, 2024, retroactively, in conformance with Article 4 – Probation Period, Section 2 of the AFSCME Agreement due to job abandonment.
- 8.05 Approve request #2025-6 from employee for intermittent medical leave beginning March 12, 2025, and continuing through December 31, 2025, retroactively, using sick, personal and/or uncompensated days in conformance with FMLA and the AFSCME Agreement.
- 8.06 Approve request from Nelson Rodriguez to attend the PMEA All-State Conference at Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, on April 10-11, 2025, retroactively, at an estimated cost of \$195.00.
- 8.07 On the recommendation of the Supervisor of Special Education that Stacie L. Dees be appointed to the position of part-time personal care assistant, 6½ hours per day, 180 days per year, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective March 24, 2025, pending receipt of current clearances and completed employment paperwork.
- 8.08 On the recommendation of the Supervisor of Special Education that Mia R. Wagner be appointed to the position of part-time teacher aide, 6½ hours per day, 180 days per year, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective March 24, 2025, pending receipt of current clearances and completed employment paperwork.
- 8.09 On the recommendation of the administration that Mia Wagner be appointed to the position of part-time Bus Monitor, 180 days per year, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$25.00/run, effective March 24, 2025.
- 8.10 Approve to add the following to the Professional Substitute list for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year:

Connor Elio  
Abigail Nye – Guest Teacher

- 8.11 Approve to add Shane McGrath as a bus driver for Marvin E. Klinger, Inc. for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
- 8.12 Permission to advertise/post for the following available positions:

Emotional Support Teachers (retro)  
Licensed Behavioral Specialists (retro)  
Indian Summer Camp Instructors (retro)  
Extended School Year (ESY) Program

On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths,  
Mr. Kashner, Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller,  
Mr. Persing, Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Shuey

Voting No: None

During Board Member Reports, Mr. Anderson commented how great the musical was this year and the level of talent we have in the school district. He also gave kudos to Mr. & Mrs. Styer for their hard work.

Mr. Kashner happily commented that hearing the talent show results, it sounds like there's more talent coming up from the elementary to build on our music program in the future.

Last, Mr. Krieger thanked Mr. Olshefski for his involvement with the youth baseball program and hopes the facility will be available for them to use.

Mr. Persing announced an executive session was held for personnel issues on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 6:00pm to 8:45pm and Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm prior to the regular monthly board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Kashner, seconded by Mr. Shuey that the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:51pm.

RECORDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya M. Searls, Recording Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erik S. Anderson, Board Secretary