

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

November 19, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shamokin Area School District was held Tuesday, November 19, 2024, in the board conference room in the Shamokin Area Middle/High School, with Vice 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 7:30pm and led the assembly in the recitation of The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was also held for Mary Jean Wolf, who was a custodian at Shamokin Area for 31+ years. She passed away October 16, 2024.

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

Others present included Frank W. Garrigan, School Solicitor; Chris J. Venna, Superintendent; Karen Colangelo, Business Manager/Federal Programs Coordinator; Tonya Searls, Recording Secretary; Todd Hockenbroch, Middle/High School Principal; and Sherry Eichelberger, Food Service Director (Nutrition, Inc.).

Mr. Persing announced the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is Reorganization, which is set for December 4, 2024, beginning at 7:00pm in the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center.

Next, Mr. Hockenbroch recognized the students of the month for October. Osiris Sharpe was in attendance. He would like the world to be a better place. He's in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and his favorite subjects are Science and History. He likes video games and reading. Ty Kurtz could not make it, but Mr. Hockenbroch shared he is Sports Card Club President, and a member of football and track. He also wished him a speedy recovery.

During work session agenda, Mr. Hockenbroch announced honor society ceremonies were held, the annual college fair was successful with 35 schools attending, the Veteran's Day program was held and he thanked Director Krieger for being the guest speaker and the bag scanners were installed in the Middle/High School so all bags and bookbags will be x-rayed upon entrance. Also, Dunkin Donuts donated donuts and coffee for the Counselor's and coffee event. He also recognized the band for finishing seventh overall at ACC's, the volleyball team for winning the District title, the football team for winning the Coal Bucket game and their District title, and Noah Kerstetter back to back state meet appearances in Cross Country.

Mr. Venna read a few Elementary announcements in the absence of Mrs. Neary. The Track Trot raised \$1,709.00. Shamokin Rotary sponsored the pizza party to the top raising classrooms. Student Council is holding a canned food drive for the Thanksgiving Holiday and will sponsor a Winter Wonderland Dance for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on December 13th. The new challenges have also begun and there will be a small group station rotation training for Kindergarten through Second Grade.

During citizens' comments, Gwendolynn Purcell, who hosts the foreign exchange student and works for Area Services, shared that she has written a bullying program she would like to present to the schools. Mr. Venna will get her information so the principals can get in contact with her to schedule.

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

Regular Monthly Meeting: October 15, 2024

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Krieger that the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2024 be accepted as presented. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mrs. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Griffiths that the bills for the month of October 2024 be authorized paid as presented. (Gen. Fund, Capital Reserve, Athletic Fund, and Cafeteria Fund).  
On roll call:

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

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

**Middle/High School:**

Students of the Month for October

Osiris Sharpe – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade      Ty Kurtz – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Elementary School:**

Students of the Month for October

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Atticus Bollinger      4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Trinity Reigle  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mollee Lahr      6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Aliyah Bostian

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the National Honor Society:

Seniors: Case Lichty, Gabrielle Orner, Kenadie Rowe

Juniors: Naeliz Cruz, Michael Drumheiser, Abigail Long, Gianna Schulein, Carly Seedor,  
Madison Totten

Sophomores: Emily Goodrich, MaKenna Herb, Kylan James, Braelynn Jones, Brandt Krieger, Brody Magee, Sophia Martinez, Caleb Neiman, Libby Nye, Kamryn Pensyl, Peyton Rapp, Olivia Rebuck, Michael Richardson, Katherine Schaeffer, Colin Steinhart, Ella Stoshack, Leah Wilson, Madison Wyland, Makiya Zaleskie

Congratulations to the varsity football team. Not only did they dominate the rivalry game with Mount Carmel and win the Coal Bucket, but they had an undefeated regular season and are District IV champs!

Congratulations to the girls' volleyball team, who for the first time in school history, are District IV champs!

On roll call:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Mr. Kashner

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Rhodes that the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors be held Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Northumberland County Area Career & Technical Center, preceded by a combined dinner with Mt. Carmel Area, Line Mountain and Northumberland County C&TC Boards and administrators, and that the meeting be properly advertised. On roll call:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Mr. Kashner

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve the Act 1 Resolution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Shamokin Area School District index for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is 6.2%

WHEREAS, the Shamokin Area School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Shamokin Area School District for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Shamokin Area School District (hereinafter “District”) Board of Directors (hereinafter “Board”) the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter “School Code”), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the district’s information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board’s adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board’s adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
  - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the district as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the district’s proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
  - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the district whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
  - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the district’s proposed increase in the rate of the district’s tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve the Band/Orchestra Boosters conduct the following fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

Weaver's Pies  
Fruit Sale

David's Cookies  
Whoopie Pies

Cash Bingo  
Scentsy

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mrs. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Science – Grade 5 Curriculum, as presented. On roll call:

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

It was moved Mr. Shuey, seconded by Mr. Krieger to adopt the following new and revised policies and Administrative Regulations on the 2nd reading, as presented:

103. Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Affecting Students  
103.1 Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities  
104. Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students  
104-AR-2. Reasonable Break Time & Lactation Accommodations  
146.1. Trauma-Informed Approach  
218. Student Discipline  
218.1. Weapons  
218.2. Terroristic Threats  
222. Tobacco and Vaping Products  
222-AR-0. Tobacco and Vaping Products  
222-AR-1. Tobacco and Vaping Product Violation – Parental Notification  
227. Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia  
227-AR-0. Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia  
234. Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students  
234-AR-0. Students Experiencing Pregnancy/Pregnancy-Related Conditions or Parenting  
247. Hazing  
247-AR-0. Hazing  
247-AR-2. Notice to Complainant and/or Parents/Guardians of Complainant  
249. Bullying/Cyberbullying  
249-AR-0. Bullying/Cyberbullying  
249-AR-2. Notice to Complainant and/or Parents/Guardians of Complainant  
252. Dating Violence  
317.2. Educator Misconduct  
323. Tobacco and Vaping  
351. Drugs and Substance Abuse  
801. Public Records  
815.1. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to approve the following student teacher assignments from the following universities:

<b><u>Bloomsburg Univ</u></b>	<b><u>Student Teacher</u></b>	<b><u>Cooperating Teacher</u></b>	<b><u>Building</u></b>
1/28/2025-5/9/2025	Jaime Diedel	Mrs. Shadle	MHS
	Rebecca Docteroff	Mrs. Alonso	MHS
	Edward Gleeson	Mrs. Kehler	MHS
	Ian Walter	Mr. Derr	MHS

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Shuey to approve to deposit a refund received from Northumberland County Career and Technical Center for overpayment in the amount of \$210,775.47 for the 2023-24 school year, into the Capital Reserve, designated for track replacement. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Griffiths to accept the Settlement Agreement and Release to resolve a due process complaint filed by parents of a Special Education student. Settlement directs the District to set aside an escrow account for the student R.C. in the amount of \$10,000.00 for legitimate educational expenses until December 30, 2029; incur the cost of \$3,000 for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) performed by Dr. Steven Kachmar; and also reimburse the parents' attorney's fee in the amount of \$7,500.00, payable to McAndrews, Mehalick, Connolly, Hulse & Ryan, P.C. and must be paid within 30 calendar days of the executed agreement. On roll call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Griffiths,  
Mr. Krieger, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Persing and  
Mrs. Rhodes.  
Voting No: Mr. Shuey  
Absent: Mr. Kashner

It was moved by Mrs. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Krieger to accept the bid from Reliable Glass Construction Inc. to remove and replace the glass at the front entrance of the middle/high school building, at a cost of \$19,253, plus \$3,471 for tempered bronze tint glass, to paid through the BSCA Grant. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the wage increase for the following elected Shamokin City Tax Collector, the Deputy Tax Collector and their part-time employee, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029, in which 1/3 share is payable by the Shamokin Area School District:

Brenda L. Scandle, Tax Collector 2% Increase  
Paul Miller, Deputy Tax Collector 2% Increase  
Gary Haddock, Part-time Employee \$0.50 per hour increase

On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Krieger to approve the Logo Redesign and Word Mark Design completed by Tamkus Art & Design for the Shamokin Area School District at a total cost of \$2,700.00, to be paid from the general fund. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Shuey to accept the bid from Hoover Tractor to purchase a Kioti NS4710 44.9HP Hydrostatic Cab Tractor at a cost of \$26,035.84, to be paid from the general fund. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Krieger to approve the Lease Agreement between Shamokin Area School District and Behavioral Health Associates (BHA), leasing a portion of the Annex building located at 115 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Shamokin at a cost of \$12.00/square foot for a total of \$85,644 annually for a term of five (5) years, beginning on or about May 1, 2025. On roll call:

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

It was moved by Mr. Griffiths, seconded by Mr. Shuey to approve all personnel items in motions 8.01 through 8.18:

- 8.01 Dismiss Brandon F. Pesarchick, Secondary Teacher, from employment due to failure of completing requirements to obtain proper teacher certification, effective November 19, 2024.
- 8.02 Accept retirement from Leonord Socko, Part-Time School Monitor, with regret, effective January 8, 2025.
- 8.03 Accept resignation from Megan Bainbridge, Part-Time Personal Care Assistant, with regret, effective November 15, 2024, retroactively.
- 8.04 Accept resignation from Wesley Tillett, Junior High Wrestling Head Coach, with regret effective immediately.
- 8.05 Approve request from employee #2024-19 for medical leave beginning on January 6, 2025 through April 25, 2025, using sick, personal and uncompensated days in conformance with FMLA and SAEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 8.06 Approve request from employee #2024-20 for medical leave beginning on October 15, 2024 through December 2, 2024, retroactively, using uncompensated days in conformance with FMLA and AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 8.07 Approve request from employee #2024-21 for additional medical leave beginning on October 24, 2024 through December 20, 2024, retroactively, using uncompensated days in conformance with FMLA and AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 8.08 On the recommendation of the personnel committee that Article 4 - Probationary Period in the AFSCME Agreement is waived solely with respect to the Health and Welfare Benefit for Crystal Myers, hired beginning October 29, 2024 and employee shall be enrolled in any Health and Welfare benefit beginning November 1, 2024.
- 8.09 On the recommendation of the elementary principal that Caterina Dobak replace Douglas Kase as Grade Level Coordinator for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade for the 2024-2025 school year with compensation set at \$500.00.
- 8.10 On the recommendation of the Supervisor of Special Education that Olivia Leavens be appointed to the position of part-time Personal Care Assistant, 6.5 hours per day, 180 days per year, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective November 4, 2024, retroactively, pending receipt of current clearances and completed employment paperwork.
- 8.11 On the recommendation of the Supervisor of Special Education Aubrey Kase be appointed to the position of part-time Personal Care Assistant, 180 days per year, 6.5 hours per day, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective November 7, 2024, retroactively, pending receipt of current clearances and completed employment paperwork.



- 8.12 On the recommendation of the Supervisor of Special Education Alyssa Shurgalla be appointed to the position of part-time Personal Care Assistant, 180 days per year, 6.5 hours per day, Grade 1 of the AFSCME Agreement, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective November 7, 2024, retroactively, pending receipt of current clearances and completed employment paperwork.
- 8.13 On the recommendation of the administration that Dianiris Rosario 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 November 20, 2024.
- 8.14 Approve to add the following to the professional substitute list as indicated, pending receipt of clearances if not already on file:

Gerard Kuna – Earth & Space Science 7-12  
Zachary Gerber – Guest Teacher – Retro 11/14/2024  
Joseph Masser – Guest Teacher – Retro 11/18/2024  
Beth Sheriff – Classroom Monitor  
Sherrie Santor – School Nurse

- 8.15 Approve to add the following to the non-instructional substitute list as indicated, pending receipt of clearances if not already on file:

James Wood – Custodian – Retro 10/21/2024  
Tommaso Sperandeo – Personal Care Assistant – Retro 10/22/2024  
Richard Yanishak – Grounds Night Security

- 8.16 On the recommendation of the Athletic Director and Principal that the following be appointed as Junior High Wrestling Coaches for the 2024-2025 school year with compensation set by the salary schedule:

Jason Bogetti – Head Coach - \$1,680  
Robert Whitmer – Assistant Coach - \$1,680  
Josh Lahr – Assistant Coach - \$1,680

- 8.17 Approve to add Brian Madden as a driver for Marvin E. Klinger, Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of current clearances.

- 8.18 Permission to post/advertise for the following available positions:

Elementary Teacher (retro)  
Part-Time School Monitor

On roll call:

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

During Board Member Reports, Mrs. Rhodes thanked Mr. Ammerman and Mr. Anderson for a great job on getting the Veteran's screen up and running.

Mr. Krieger congratulated the inductees of the honor societies and the other student accomplishments.

Mr. Anderson commended the faculty and staff for all the school spirit and decorations he has seen lately throughout the school. He stated that it's been really nice to see.

Mr. Cook thanked the food service director for a great job preparing a dinner, snacks and drinks for the volleyball team when they went to Districts and States.

Mr. Persing announced an executive session was held for personnel issues on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 6:00pm to 7:47pm; and Tuesday, November 19, 2024, from 5:30pm to 6:47 pm prior to the regular monthly board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Persing that the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:52pm.

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

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