

January 15, 2025

At 6:00 p.m. the Board held their Committee Meeting, briefly reviewing agenda items. The Board ended their Committee Meeting and entered Executive Session to discuss personnel. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:57pm to start the Regular Meeting.

The Blacklick Valley School Board met in person in Regular Session at 6:58pm for General Purposes in the Conference Room of the Blacklick Valley Jr. Sr. High School, 555 Birch Street, Nanty Glo, PA 15943 with Angela Villa, Board President, presiding and the following members present:

Michael Gdula, Larry Kupchella, Gregory O'Farrell, Shawn McMullen, Jeffrey Szymusiak, Joe Villa, and Don Thomas.

Members Absent: Elizabeth Kreashko.

Others Present: Mr. William Kanich, Superintendent, Bethany Peracchino, Business Manager/Board Secretary, Ed Alexander, High School Principal, and Tammy Boring, Elementary Principal.

Recognition of Guests- None.

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2024 Regular Meeting.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Jeffrey Szymusiak, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2024.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Larry Kupchella, seconded by Michael Gdula, to approve the following motions:

Motion to approve the payment of the Regular Bills in the amount of \$42,364.92.

Motion to approve the payment of the Cafeteria Bills in the amount of \$20,112.53.

Motion to approve the payment of the January, 2025 Payroll in the estimated amount of \$304,803.54, and the estimated transfer of \$304,803.54 from the General Fund to the Payroll Account.

Motion to approve the payment of the January, 2025 Cafeteria Payroll in the estimated amount of \$14,096.44 and the estimated transfer of \$14,096.44 from the Cafeteria Fund to the General Fund Account.

Motion to approve the Cafeteria Fund Report for the month ending December 31, 2024, showing a balance of \$407,254.55.

Motion to approve the Athletic Fund Report for the month ending December 31, 2024, showing a balance of \$4,972.62.

Motion to approve the 4th Quarter Blacklick Valley Jr. Sr. High School Student Activities Account ending December 31, 2024.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to maintain the current tax collector compensation rates as is for the 2025 calendar year:

\$2.00 per each real estate tax bill collected

\$0.75 per each per capita tax 679 bill collected

\$0.75 per each per capita tax 511 bill collected

\$0.75 per each occupation tax bill collected

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Joe Villa, seconded by Michael Gdula, to increase the tax collector compensation rates for calendar year 2026 as follows:

\$4.00 per each real estate tax bill collected

Per Capita and Occupation rates remain the same

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to approve the quote from CDW-G in the amount of \$11,723.70 for the purchase of replacement Promethean ActivPanels, plus a 5-year service agreement.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to approve the quote from Trane in the amount of \$9,295.00 to replace the failed heating coil above the ceiling in the High School Cafeteria.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to advertise Requests for Proposals for work needed on the High School auditorium ceiling.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to approve the Federal Programs Service Agreement between Blacklick Valley School District and Steps to Achieve, LLC at a rate of \$150/hour not to exceed 15 hours.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to waive the first reading of the following Board Policies:

- a. 901 Public Relations Objectives
- b. 902 Publications Programs
- c. 903 Public Comment in Board Meetings
- d. 904 Public Attendance at School Events
- e. 905 Citizen Advisory Committees
- f. 906 Public Complaint Procedures
- g. 907 School Visitors
- h. 908 Relations with Parents/Guardians
- i. 909 Municipal Government Relations
- j. 910 Community Engagement
- k. 911 News Media Relations
- l. 912 Relations with Educational Institutions
- m. 913 Non School Organizations/Groups/Individuals
- n. 914 Relations with Intermediate Units
- o. 916 Volunteers
- p. 917 Parent/Family Involvement
- q. 918 Title I Parent/Family Engagement

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to retire Board Policy 919 District School Report

Cards.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Don Thomas, to approve the quote from Gerald Sherry & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$4,995.00 for an Electric Food Slicer at the High School Cafeteria.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve the resignation of Sydney Solnosky, effective 12/17/24.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve the resignation of Shaina Pearson, effective 1/10/25.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve rehiring Shaina Pearson, effective 1/15/25, at a rate of \$10/hour.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve the resignation of Steve Hauck as Head Varsity Football coach effective immediately.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Jeffrey Szymusiak, seconded by Larry Kupchella, to approve the hiring of Ed Alexander as Assistant Track Coach at a salary of \$3,281.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Michael Gdula, seconded by Joe Villa, to approve Nicole Crum as a homebound instructor for a High School student at a rate of \$30/hour.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Larry Kupchella, seconded by Joe Villa, to **STRIKE** the motion to remove the Athletic Trainer from Appendix C of the BVEA Contract effective July 1st 2025.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion STRICKEN**

Moved by Larry Kupchella, seconded by Joe Villa, to **STRIKE** the motion to create an Act 93 agreement for the Athletic Trainer position effective July 21st, 2025.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion STRICKEN**

Moved by Shawn McMullen, seconded by Gregory O'Farrell, to approve hiring Paul Hancharick as a full time Custodial/Maintenance employee at a starting salary of \$23,000.00.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

Moved by Larry Kupchella, seconded by Shawn McMullen, to adjourn the meeting.

**Voting on Motion:**

Michael Gdula Voting Affirmatively

Larry Kupchella Voting Affirmatively

Shawn McMullen Voting Affirmatively

Joe Villa Voting Affirmatively

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Gregory O'Farrell Voting Affirmatively

Jeffrey Szymusiak Voting Affirmatively

Don Thomas Voting Affirmatively

Angela Villa Voting Affirmatively

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*Bethany Peracchino*

Bethany Peracchino, Board Secretary