

June 26, 2023

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

MINUTES

June 26, 2023

- 1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School.**

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul L. Bendigo, Robert M. Dempsey, Linda R. Lash, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi

Members Absent: Nicoleen M. Kleffel, G. Dane Miller

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill, Toni Crater, Jennifer Gabryluk, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell, Michael Sobczak, Kristen Wallace

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 22, 2023, and to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 19, 2023, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moll reported that the Board met on Monday, June 19, 2023, after the conclusion of the Special Board meeting, for personnel matters, negotiations and school safety matters.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll addressed several topics from the community including security of the school district's facilities, infrastructure, students, staff and visitors. The district has had several reviews with law enforcement authorities and we continue to have reviews of our security plans. The public will start to see some of these enhancements in the coming weeks and months. He also discussed the class size for grade three and noted that it's still too soon to determine the final class size as summer enrollments and departures continue to occur. Trends for grades K-4 beginning with 2017-18 through 2022-23 school years were reviewed as class size is based on enrollment. In the 2022-23 school year there were 750 students in K-4 with 35 teachers. The number of K-4 students projected for the 2023-24 school year is 673 with 32 teachers.

In regard to the topic of teachers leaving the district, Mr. Moll noted this is a confidential matter and there are various personal reasons that an individual would decide to leave the district including an opportunity for advancement or taking advantage of working closer to home. In addition, Pennsylvania had 6,500 people leave education this past year and at the same time only 3,500

teachers were certified in Pennsylvania, leaving a deficit of 3,000 and in the process, giving teachers more job opportunities. Also, the Board must be fiscally responsible and costs and tax increases must be kept in line. At this time about 25% of district households have students currently enrolled at SV, which leaves 75% that do not, and this population may be on a fixed income. The district still has numerous applicants for positions including a recent opening which garnered over 70 applications.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that their last meeting was held on June 15. They received the BCIU annual report which was very comprehensive. They seated board representatives for new terms including Mrs. Lash for a three-year term as the SV representative; she was also re-elected as treasurer of the BCIU Board. Mr. Scott Major, BCIU Chief Information Officer, was honored with the *Leader for Literacy Award* at the 55th Anniversary Breakfast of the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks. The council commended him for his support in creating a technology plan to enhance their strategic efforts. Mrs. Lash noted there is a good chance that the PA state budget will not be passed until July.

2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – George H. Mertz III

Mr. Mertz reported that the student-built house was sold for \$60,000 over the asking price and they stand to gain approximately \$200,000 in profit from the sale. This year the BCTC had their highest retirement/resignation rate at fourteen with an additional two forthcoming. Mr. Mertz shared BCTC student-produced videos including the story of a health occupations student, a *Heros of BCTC* video, and an overview of *Fighter's Heaven* in Deer Lake, PA, where boxing champion Muhammad Ali lived and trained. The *Fighter's Heaven* video won first place in a video/media contest.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that the committee will meet on June 29. At this time, the earned income tax seems to still be tracking ahead for our district.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reported that PA state budget negotiations are conflicted as the June 30 deadline nears and disagreements continue over education policy and overall spending. Also, school choice proponents have been waiting decades for a tax-funded voucher program to come to fruition in Pennsylvania and are now growing increasingly hopeful that it might come to pass as part of the 2023-24 state budget. Mrs. Lash reminded the board that the annual PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference will take place October 15-17, 2023, at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos, and encouraged board members to attend.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Robert M. Dempsey

Mr. Dempsey reported that the status of the foundation's 501(c)(3) has not been resolved.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Louis Shucker, Bern Township – Reading Instruction
Lisa Jacobson, Bern Township – District Turnover
Kristin Waldrop, Ontelaunee Township – District Turnover
Emily Calaman, Centre Township – District Turnover
Abby Maulick, Centre Township – ES Class Sizes, District Turnover
Erianne Fox, Bern Township – District Turnover
Roxanne McMurtry, Centre Township – Fiscal Responsibility

4.0 BOARD

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

Other (Old/New Business)

5.2 In regard to the proposed youth shelter in Bern Township, on June 26, Dr. Taschner met with individuals from the county including Larry Medaglia, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, a representative from CYS (Children and Youth Services), and the individual who would run the shelter. They reported that in the first year they're planning to have 20 beds, although they are licensed for 50 beds. At this time they are waiting for state funding and hoping that the funding will come through either from appropriations of a certain dollar figure, and if not, it would be funded through grant funding or a combination of both. The students in the youth shelter will be comprised of two groups, the first being students from foster care who have been challenging to place due to aggressive behaviors or other issues and cannot be placed in any foster home. Their goal is to take a combination of ten students from the county and ten students from out of the county and there are already students from other counties waiting for placement in this facility. The second group of students in the shelter would be from the juvenile probation system. This is not a locked facility but the students may be wearing monitors and must return every day.

Schuylkill Valley School District would be responsible for educating the students including general education students and students with disabilities and it is possible that the students could be placed in our high school. The decision would be made by a best-interest determination team comprised of the sending district, CYS and SVSD. In the past before ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) in 2015, students who were placed could be educated exclusively in the youth shelter, however this changed several years ago. If the budget gets passed and the county receives the appropriation, it will probably take them 20-30 days to staff the facility to the appropriate level at which time the district would have to be prepared to provide education. This would be for students ages 11-21 and if the students are at SV, we would need to look at what services would be required. If the students were at SV and at the youth shelter, we would need to have people that were highly qualified in each content area to be able to teach the students at the facility, along with an additional special education teacher.

Mr. Rossi asked if the students would be protected from SV's standard disciplinary actions because of their status from the facility. Dr. Taschner stated that students would be disciplined in the same manner as our students and would have to follow the rules of our school. Students with disabilities are subject to discipline as described in the rules of IDEA. Mr. Mertz asked how it works if the student goes to an expulsion hearing and is expelled. Dr. Taschner answered that there are times when a student could be placed in an out-of-school placement and the district would need to pay this expense, but could be reimbursed by the sending district. Part of this is a discussion by the IEP team or it could be through an adjudication at the Board level. Mr. Rossi asked what additional funding the district would receive from the county and Dr. Taschner stated there would be no additional funding to the district. Mr. Rossi asked who would pay for this and Dr. Taschner stated that there would be some opportunity for recouping some of the funds through districts that would pay a certain amount of tuition, however we will probably not break even. Someone will need to be responsible for all of the billing as SV will need to bill the various districts that have children here. They're hoping these will be 30-day placements, but it could be longer and billing would be calculated by day, based on the services they receive. This will need to be accomplished along with additional teaching staff and supports that are needed or required in the students' IEP's.

Dr. Taschner noted that Commissioner Leinbach had briefly attended the meeting on June 26 and asked the attendees to create a system that obligates so that the district would not be losing funds, however she doesn't know how that occurs. There are additional questions as there is a provision for when students are in a locked facility and adjudicated to that facility which is a different situation than what we're discussing, which is a student, through a consent decree, agrees to go and is not required to stay, but if they don't come back there can be a penalty.

Mr. Bendigo stated his concern is in regard to the county setting this up and not notifying the residents and taxpayers of the district about the facility. He recommended using the facility to house homeless veterans which would be a much better use of the facility than what they're trying to put on the residents of the district. He would like to see the Board discuss this, take a position on it and send a letter to our county commissioners as well as our state representatives. He is against the facility and the way the county went about putting this in place without notifying residents of the district. Mrs. Lash asked if there was another example of this being used in the state and Dr. Taschner replied that to her knowledge there is not anything that has this same make-up of two different programs, but there may be people waiting to follow. Mr. Moll asked what our recourse would be and do we try to go to our representatives or governor to ask them to withhold the grants as they're waiting for the funding. Mr. Bendigo asked what they would want to do as a board. They could send a letter to the county commissioners and our representatives and Mr. Mertz and Mr. Rossi agreed. Dr. Taschner explained that if the project receives appropriations, the county would know this when the governor approves the state budget. If not, there is a grant stream they're also trying to use, so they won't know whether this has come through until the grant is approved. Once this happens, then it would take the county 20-30 days to staff the shelter. Mr. Dempsey suggested a representative from the county commissioners' office give a presentation to the SV Board in July. Mr. Moll noted that we could make the request but it might be too late, but we could get a letter drafted. Mr. Moll took a survey of the board and the consensus was to have the commissioners attend an SV board meeting. Dr. Taschner added that there is a lot involved in this process and we won't have an answer to this until after July 4. We could hold a special meeting and invite the commissioners, but if they do move forward with the shelter, we're going to have to educate the children. She will have a very short window of 1-2 weeks to have the team prepare for bussing, and several different options that the district would need to provide and it could result in additional training for teachers who may be a part of this.

Mr. Moll opened the floor for comments by the individuals who attended the meeting. District residents shared their concerns with the Board including the students being brought into the district's buildings, judgment of students in shelters, and staffing concerns to meet the needs of these students. Mr. Moll reiterated that the Board would like to have a meeting with at least one to two county commissioners which would allow for a hearing of visitors.

Dr. Taschner continued her report to the Board. She met with Chief Keiser, NBRPD, and Chief Forry, Bern Township, to discuss security. They were very supportive of the district and committed. She expects to bring the social studies curriculum to the Board at the July meeting so there is an opportunity to inspect it and then vote on the curriculum. The documents would then be given to all of the social studies teachers in the district. The process for curriculum writing has been for teachers to inspect the standards, review best practices and then write the documents to what they think is going to be best for students to learn in the context of the classroom. The language arts curriculum has been discussed with K-3 staff and this group has reviewed what they plan to do next year while the committee continues its work in 2023-24.

Dr. Taschner commended the principals and assistant principals on summer school programming and thanked the teachers who are a part of this program. ESY is running and she thanked the administration for supporting our teachers and for helping students prepare for next year. We are also in the process of scheduling. High school schedules are pretty much in place and the elementary and middle school are currently working through their schedules. She thanked the custodial staff for their work as the district gets ready for the new school year in addition to the pool renovation project and HVAC upgrades. Dr. Taschner shared the personalized videos for this year's retirees which will be provided to them as a keepsake in a mini-video format.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

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The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 6.1** Approves the appointment of Mrs. Linda Lash, current PSBA liaison, as the PSBA delegate assembly participant representing the school district on November 4, 2023.
- 6.2** Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the following resignations due to retirement:
 - 6.2.1** Mr. Christopher Dean, English Teacher at the high school, effective June 8, 2023.
 - 6.2.2** Mrs. Kerry Jensen, Secretary to the Assistant Principal at the elementary school, effective June 28, 2023.
 - 6.2.3** Mr. Daniel Mullin, Custodian, effective May 19, 2023.
- 6.3** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:
 - 6.3.1** Mrs. Paige Figueroa, English Teacher at the high school, effective June 8, 2023.
 - 6.3.2** Ms. Patricia Schlappich, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective May 10, 2023.
 - 6.3.3** Mrs. Amy Shuman, 4th Grade Teacher at the elementary school, effective June 8, 2023.
 - 6.3.4** Mrs. Megan Wolfinger, 3rd Grade Teacher at the elementary school, effective June 8, 2023.
- 6.4** 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.):
 - 6.4.1** Mrs. Heather Gring, Special Education Teacher (building to be determined), Master's, Step 2, \$60,299, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Zane Bachert, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.4.2** Miss Olivia Martz, Special Education Teacher (building to be determined), Bachelor's, Step 1, \$53,553, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Lori Shuart, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.4.3** Substitutes for the 2022-23 school year:

Debra Isenberg - Custodian
Barbara Kuhns - Food Services Worker
Abigail Searfoss - Elementary PK-4
 - 6.4.4** Volunteers for the 2022-23 school year:

Zachary Adam - ES
Holly Becker - ES
Vinessa Ferraro - ES
Andrew Nye - ES
Jonathan O'Brien - ES
Kristie Ortiz - ES

Rebecca Reinhard - ES
Paul Rhein - ES
Sarah Schaeffer - ES
Lindsay Sites - ES
Kaitlyn Weidel - ES
Rebecca Winson – ES

- 6.4.5 Job description for the position of Custodial Supervisor.
- 6.4.6 Job description for the position of Food Services Supervisor.
- 6.4.7 Job description for the position of Food Services Worker.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the appointment of Mrs. Linda Lash, current PSBA liaison, as the PSBA delegate assembly participant representing the school district on November 4, 2023; and to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignations due to retirement in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.3, as presented; and to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignations in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.4, as presented; and to approve the employment in Items 6.4.1 through and including 6.4.7, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4.8 The following days to be worked by the school counselors at each building for the summer of 2023:

Elementary School – 6 days per counselor
Middle School – 8 days per counselor
High School – 12 days per counselor

- 6.4.9 Extended school year (ESY) staff, with teachers to be paid the professional hourly rate of \$27, per the SVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement, paraprofessional and substitute paraprofessionals to be paid at their regular hourly rate:

Kaitlin Becker-Humphrey - Teacher
Deb Bittner - Paraprofessional
Joanne Cummings - Paraprofessional
Danielle Green - Teacher
Sheryl Henry - Paraprofessional
Corie Kehr - Paraprofessional
Anna Martin - Teacher
Olivia Martz - Teacher
Franchon Minor - Paraprofessional
Victoria Molio'o Bejarano - Paraprofessional
Christine Nguyen - Paraprofessional
Beth O'Neill - Teacher
Bryan Poepperling - Teacher
Sue Raynes - Teacher
Linda Seaman - Paraprofessional
Abigail Searfoss – Paraprofessional
Sharon Witman - Paraprofessional

- 6.4.10 Summer school staff, with teachers to be paid the hourly rate of \$50, per the Memorandum of Understanding with the Schuylkill Valley Education Association:

Jodi Alderfer - HS
Paige Figueroa - HS
Shannon Furst - MS
Christopher Gallo - MS
Logan Grauer - ES
Debra Isenberg - ES
Jonathan Jenkins - MS
Mary Ellen Kummerer - ES
Tara LeClair - ES
Melanie LeRoy - ES
Julie Leshock-Emerson - ES
Charlotte Lupia - ES
Katharine Koch - ES
Christina Miller - MS
Anna Neuhard - MS
Brittany Pyle - ES
Melissa Rapposelli - ES
Matthew Reed - HS
Cassidy Reel - ES
Carla Reimert - ES
Caitlin Robinson - ES
Abbey Sassaman - HS
Ronald Sausser - MS
Taylor Serafin - ES
Ronda Seymour - MS
Courtney Smith - ES
Micah Storms - ES
Jennifer Wise - MS
Keith Worrell - HS

- 6.4.11** The following days to be worked by the school nurses and health assistant at each building for the Summer of 2023:

Elementary School - up to 10 days
Middle School - up to 10 days
High School - up to 10 days

All days worked and the schedule for days worked must be pre-approved by the Building Principal and days must receive final approval from the Director of Pupil Services.

- 6.5** Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves:

Mrs. Kimberly Loose, Secretary to the Principal at the middle school, June 13, 2023 through approximately August 8, 2023.

Mr. Walter Seifrit, Custodian, April 11, 2023, through May 12, 2023.

Mr. Scott Huey, Custodian, effective July 6, 2023, through approximately August 17, 2023.

- 6.6** Approves the agreement with Frontline Education for its Screening Assessments product, at a total cost of \$5,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 6.7** Approves renewal of the agreement with National School Applications Network, Inc., for the PA REAP teacher application system for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at a total cost to the district of \$1,099.00.

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- 6.8 Approves renewal of the agreement with General Healthcare Resources, Inc., to provide substitute nurses at the hourly rates of \$48.00 for an LPN and \$58.00 for an RN.
- 6.9 Approves the Confidential Release and Settlement Agreement for employee #1583, as presented.
- 6.10 Approves that the HSP has not changed and was reviewed, and further acknowledges that the Biden Administration announced the end of both the National and Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11, 2023, and further acknowledges that this motion is made to satisfy the requirements of ESSER funding use.
- 6.11 Approves the revisions to Policy 103: Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students, and Policy 104: Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff, to reflect the following:
1. Title IX Coordinator & Compliance: Ms. Robin Brightbill, Director of Human Resources
 2. Title IX Deputy Coordinator: Athletic Director
 3. Investigators: Principals, Assistant Principals
 4. Decision Maker: Director of Pupil Services
 5. Second Level Decision Maker (Appeals): Superintendent
- 6.12 Approves the revisions to Policy 137: Home Education Programs.
- 6.13 Approves the revisions to Policy 137.1: Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students.
- 6.14 Approves new Policy 137.2: Participation in Co-curricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students.
- 6.15 Approves new Policy 137.3: Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students.
- 6.16 Approves the revisions to Policy 229: Student Fundraising.
- 6.17 Approves the revisions to Policy 702.1: Crowdfunding.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the professional days beyond contract in Item 6.4.8 to be worked by the school counselors at each building for the summer of 2023, as presented; and to approve the extended school year (ESY) staff in Item 6.4.9, as presented; and to approve the summer school staff in Item 6.4.10, as presented; and to approve the professional days beyond contract to be worked by the school nurses and health assistant in Item 6.4.11, as presented; and to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves in Item 6.5, as presented; and to approve the agreement with Frontline Education in Item 6.6, as presented; and to approve the renewal of the agreement with National School Applications Network, Inc., in Item 6.7, as presented; and to approve the renewal of the agreement with General Healthcare Resources, Inc., in Item 6.8, as presented; and to approve the Confidential Release and Settlement Agreement for employee #1583, as presented; and to approve that the HSP has not changed and was reviewed, and further acknowledges that the Biden Administration announced the end of both the National and Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11, 2023, and further acknowledges that this motion is made to satisfy the requirements of ESSER funding use; and to approve the revisions to the policies in Items 6.11 through and including 6.13, as presented; and to approve the new policies in Items 6.14 and 6.15, as presented; and to approve the revisions to the policies in Items 6.16 and 6.17, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY***Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller***

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:08 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 7.1** Approves the Affiliation Agreement with Kutztown University of Pennsylvania for the placement of student teachers, effective for five years from the date of execution.
- 7.2** Approves high school textbooks for disposal, as presented.
- 7.3** Approves the wood shop Machinery Maintenance Agreement with Shop Specialties, Inc., for the 2023-24 school year, in the amount of \$1,800.00, as presented.
- 7.4** Approves the Flexible Instructional Day Program for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.5** Approves the Memorandum of Understanding with Berks County Head Start for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.6** Approves the Memorandum of Understanding with Albright College for a dual enrollment program for the 2023-24 school year.
- 7.7** Approves the articulation agreement between Schuylkill Valley School District and Delaware Valley University in order for students to earn credits that can be applied to their degree requirements.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the actions in Items 7.1 through and including 7.7, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo***

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:12 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

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 May 12, 2023, to June 27, 2023, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,492,112.67
CAFETERIA FUND	\$56,004.05
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$63,723.35
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$71,697.16

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$3,980.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,687,517.23

- 8.2** Approves Business Office Personnel to process bills for payment up to and including June 30, 2023; the list of bills will be presented for ratification at the regular Board meeting in July 2023.
- 8.3** Approves the following depositories for the 2023-2024 school year:
- Tompkins/VIST Bank
 - PA School District Liquid Asset Fund
 - PA School District Liquid Asset Max Fund
 - ACNB Bank
 - Fulton Bank
 - TD Bank
- 8.4** Approves the liability insurance package from CM Regent for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$105,871; and approves the worker's compensation policy from CM Regent (Eastern Alliance) for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$73,832 (previously held by Key Risk).
- 8.5** Approves the Sports Insurance Proposal from Axis Insurance for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$8,891.
- 8.6** Approves the FY23 March-June budgetary transfers, as presented.
- 8.7** Approves accepting the following donations for the 2023 Retiree and Service Awards dinner:
- Fox Rothschild LLP - \$500
 - EI Associates, Inc. - \$1,500
 - Ronald Wenrich, Jr. - \$200
 - AD Moyer- Lumber for Retiree Chairs
- 8.8** Approves participation in the Berks IU consortium bid for energy and natural gas purchases and provides the Business Office the authority to lock pricing at such time as is in the best financial interest of the District, as a part of the consortium.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the actions in Items 8.1 through and including 8.8, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:20 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the service agreement with Pletcher Fire Protection, LLC for annual and semi-annual testing, inspection and maintenance on fire alarms, sprinklers, extinguishers, kitchen hoods and backflow systems in all buildings, beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

- 9.2 Approves Change Order #3-4-103916.0008 from MYCO Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$138,500.00, in accordance with the written Settlement Agreement between the parties to fully and finally resolve Proposed Change Order #1, submitted by MYCO Mechanical, Inc., for roofing work performed on the Project.
- 9.3 Approves the quote from Suburban Testing Labs for weekly analytical laboratory testing of the Middle School swimming pool, in an annual amount of \$3,740.00.
- 9.4 Approves the award of bids as presented by SSM, for the HS HVAC project to the identified contractors, subject to the submission of all required contract documents and review/approval of the same by the solicitor.
- 9.5 Approves additional services for the re-bid of the HS HVAC project.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the actions in Items 9.1 through and including 9.5, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:44 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1 Approves the production contract with Music Theatre International (MTI) for the 2024 Panthers on Parade Musical.
- 10.2 Approves the Special Education, Student Services and Early Intervention Services Agreement with the BCIU for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 10.3 Approves the agreement for Services with River Rock Academy LLC for the delivery of alternative education services for disruptive youth (AEDY) for the 2023-24 school year.
- 10.4 Approves the contract with River Rock Academy for two (2) secondary slots for the 2023-24 school year.
- 10.5 Approves the agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services for services delivered for the 2023-24 school year.
- 10.6 Approves the agreement with Soliant for BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) services delivered for the 2023-24 school year.
- 10.7 Approves the agreement with Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc. for therapy services delivered for the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years.
- 10.8 Approves the agreement with The Stepping Stones Group for therapy services delivered for the 2023-24 school year.

- 10.9** Approves Before and Aftercare Programming at the Elementary School through the YMCA for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Dempsey asked for discussion in regard to the YMCA programming in Item 10.9. He noted that only 30 people responded to the survey out of about 750. He asked the viability of the program with this small number of responses. Mr. Ken Borkey, YMCA of Reading & Berks, Chief Operations Officer, stated that out of 30 responses, 29 were interested in the program. Even though the number of responses was small, they feel confident that there is viability to have a program in the district and it would be well-attended. Mr. Bendigo asked if there was a break-even point and Mr. Borkey stated they would need about 12-15 students to cover their staffing costs. Mr. Bendigo asked about the length of the agreement and Mr. Borkey stated that this would be up to the district. Mr. Bendigo asked if the enrollment would drop below 12 students, would the YMCA keep running the program to finish out the school year and Mr. Borkey answered that they would not pull out in the middle of the school year and that this information would need to be in the terms of the contract. From an expense standpoint, the YMCA has an investment in supplies and they start the process on day one to build the facility and staffing to get to a star four level. There is a lot of work that the YMCA needs to do to be licensed by the state and this will get the process started. They would like to start the program for the 2023-24 school year however they cannot start the hiring process until they are licensed by the PA Department of Human Services. They can assist families in filing for additional funding from the state and the YMCA's open door scholarships

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the actions in Items 10.1 through and including 10.9, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.10** Approves the Memorandum of Understanding for Law Enforcement Authority with Northern Berks Regional Police Department.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Law Enforcement Authority with Northern Berks Regional Police Department.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moll announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting for personnel matters.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Lash, Mertz, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

June 26, 2023



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors