

May 22, 2023

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

MINUTES

May 22, 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, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi
- Board Member George H. Mertz III was not physically present but participated and voted via speakerphone.
- Secretary: Linda R. Lash
- Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman
- Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Janet Heilman, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill, Toni Crater, Stephanie Deibler, Jennifer Gabryluk, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell, Michael Sobczak, Kristen Wallace
- 1.3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2023, and to approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 15, 2023, as presented.
- Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi**
- Motion passed unanimously.**
- 1.4 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Mr. Moll reported that the Board met on Monday, April 24, 2023, after the conclusion of the Board meeting, for personnel and legal matters, on Monday, May 15, 2023, after the conclusion of the Special Board meeting, for personnel and legal matters, and on Monday, May 22, 2023, prior to the Board meeting, for legal matters.
- 2.0 **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**
- 2.1 **PRESIDENT – David E. Moll**
Mr. Moll reported that the Retiree and Service Award Dinner held on May 18 was a very nice event. The retiree videos will be shared at the June 26 Board meeting.
- 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 May 18 and it included recognition and payment of bills.

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

No report.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll reported that the committee meets quarterly and the earned income tax seems to still be tracking ahead.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – *Linda R. Lash*

Mrs. Lash noted that the Board members should have received their new issue of American School Board Journal. There are a few good articles including one on artificial intelligence and another on teaching shortages.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – *Robert M. Dempsey*

Mr. Dempsey reported that their last meeting was on May 17. They are still working towards getting their 501(c)(3) status reinstated and the paperwork has been filed with the IRS. The foundation raised \$900 at their silent auction at the Retirement and Service Awards Dinner on May 18. They would like to have a presence at National Night Out on August 1, and also at Leesport Community Days. They are still looking for board members from community businesses and are planning a meet and greet with business owners in the community later this summer.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Amy Garber, Centre Township – SV Agriculture Program
Cathy Hansley, Centre Township – SV Agriculture Program
Makenzie Hansley, Centre Township – SV Agriculture Program
Christine Wysocki, Bern Township – Teaching Career at SV
Jane Sigoda, Centre Township – Use of BoardDocs

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 Dr. Taschner reported there were many wonderful events in May that she attended including the high school spring concert, elementary school spring concert, elementary school art show, the first performing arts cabaret, and middle school arts day. These events took hours to prepare for and she commended the staff for their dedication. Dr. Taschner thanked the HR department for putting together an amazing night on May 18 celebrating the accomplishments of our retirees and recognizing employee service to the district. She also noted that SV has two students in the Reading Eagle's Berks Best 2023 which are Cassidy Smith, Best in Visual Arts, and Charlotte Baumgard, Best in Communications. There are many events to come including more concerts, graduation, and senior sunset.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 6.1 Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the resignation due to retirement of Ms. Krista Sayer, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective with the conclusion of the 2022-23 school term.
- 6.2 Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:
 - 6.2.1 Ms. Elia Evans, Part-Time Library Paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective April 14, 2023.
 - 6.2.2 Ms. Megan French, Social Studies Teacher at the high school, effective with the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.3 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.):
 - 6.3.1 Volunteers for the 2022-23 school year:
 - Kelli Collins - ES
 - Kimberly Fronina - ES
 - Andrew Kelly - ES/HS
 - Krista Kolb - ES
 - Doris McGee - ES
 - Timothy McGee - ES
 - Candice Melendez-Ortiz - ES/MS
 - Benjamin Miller - ES
 - Steven Wise - ES/MS/HS
 - 6.3.2 Co-curricular assignments for the 2022-23 school year:
 - Weight Room Supervisor - HS - Jeremy Crills - \$2,200
 - Weight Room Supervisor - HS - Taylor Grim - \$340
 - 6.3.3 Substitute nurse and substitute teacher per diem rates of pay for the 2023-24 school year:
 - Nurse Substitute Base Rate = \$140/day
 - Teacher Substitute Base Rate = \$150/day
 - Teacher Substitute 10+ Cumulative Day Rate = \$160/day
 - Teacher Short Term Substitute Rate (6-44 days) = \$170/day
 - Teacher Retired Substitute Rate = \$185/day
 - Teacher Certified Building Substitute = \$43,553 without single level benefits or reduced amount available with single level benefits
 - 6.3.4 Approves the job description of the position of Teacher.
 - 6.3.5 Approves the job description for the position of Paraprofessional.
 - 6.3.6 Approves the job description for the position of Custodian.
 - 6.3.7 Approves Mrs. Kristen Wallace as treasurer to the Board of School Directors effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the resignation due to retirement of Ms. Krista Sayer, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective with the conclusion of the 2022-23 school

term; and to approve the resignations in Items 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, as presented; and to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.7, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4** Approves the creation of a Federal Programs Supervisor Position. This position will manage Federal Programs, including Title I, II, III, IV, as well as other Federal Grants and Programs.
- 6.5** Approves the leave of absence of Mrs. Christine Nguyen, Full-Time Special Education paraprofessional at the high school, effective April 24, 2023, through May 8, 2023.
- 6.6** Approves the leave of absence of Ms. Krista Sayer, Full-Time Special Education paraprofessional at the high school, effective March 20, 2023, through March 31, 2023.
- 6.7** Acknowledges the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of Mrs. Susan Christman, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, April 19, 2023, through April 30, 2023.
- 6.8** Approves the CapitalBlue Renewal of Program Designs for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product and the Vision Product, for the period of 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024, which reflects no change in the monthly premiums paid by seniors and the District.
- 6.9** Approves the United Concordia Renewal Acceptance Form for the Schuylkill Valley School District dental insurance products, for the period of 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2025, which reflects no change in the monthly premiums paid by the District.
- 6.10** Approves the conference request from Ms. Diane Kaag to attend the 2023 School Nutrition Association of PA Conference from July 31 to August 3, 2023, at Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center, Pocono Mountains, PA, at a cost of \$1,181.00.
- 6.11** Approves of administrative internships at the ES, MS, HS and District level, and authorizes the Superintendent to assign mentors for the internships.
- 6.12** Approves the revisions to Policy 620: Fund Balance, to make it consistent with requirements of the PA School Code.
- 6.13** Approves the MOU with SVEA for Summer School payment for the summer of 2023, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the actions in Item 6.4 through and including 6.13, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, 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 7:11 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the Occupational Advisory Committee for our Agricultural Science program. Approval from the School Board of Directors is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval of the program.
- 7.2 Approves the five-year proposal, July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, from SapphireK12, Inc., at an annual cost of \$46,801.00, as presented.
- 7.3 Approves the proposal from SapphireK12, Inc. to update the district's transcripts to display Industry Recognized Credentials, as required by Act 55 of the Pennsylvania School Code, at a total cost of \$1,000.00, as presented.
- 7.4 Approves the quote from SHI for annual support, maintenance, and software renewal on the district's HPE servers from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, as presented.
- 7.5 Approves the proposal from Finalsite for a five-year term. Year one includes a non-recurring setup cost of \$4,200.00 along with the first term in the amount of \$11,207.00; year two cost of \$11,450.00; year three cost of \$11,692.00; year four cost of \$11,934.00; and year five cost of \$12,176.00, as presented.
- 7.6 Approves the service and part quote from Degler-Whiting, Inc. for the repair of the stadium video board, in the amount of \$955.00, as presented.
- 7.7 Approves the contract(s) for the purchase of digital media equipment and technology supplies items through Berks County Joint Purchasing, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the actions in Items 7.1 through and including 7.7, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, 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 7:25 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 19, 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 April 11, 2023, to May 23, 2023, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,591,832.70
CAFETERIA FUND	\$31,827.24
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$97,996.20
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$33,192.04
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,754,848.18

- 8.2 Approves adopting a resolution authorizing Homestead and Farmstead real estate tax assessment reductions for the upcoming 2023-2024 tax year, as presented.
- 8.3 Approves the 2023-2024 Cafeteria meal Prices:

Breakfast - \$1.75 Elementary School	Lunch - \$3.00 Elementary School
- \$1.75 Middle School	- \$3.10 Middle School
- \$1.75 High School	- \$3.10 High School
- \$.30 Reduced	- \$.40 Reduced

NOTE: The meal prices are not being increased from the 2022-2023 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from April 11, 2023, to May 23, 2023, as presented; and to approve adopting a resolution authorizing Homestead and Farmstead real estate tax assessment reductions for the upcoming 2023-2024 tax year, as presented; and to approve the 2023-2024 Cafeteria Meal Prices, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2023-2024 Budget Discussion

- 8.4 Dr. Taschner stated that key points to the 2023-2024 proposed final budget will be reviewed. They are required to provide a balanced budget with the revenues equaling the expenditures. Mrs. Kristen Wallace, Director of Finance, discussed how revenue sources as a percent of total revenue come from local sources - 74.20%, state sources - 25.03, and federal sources - 0.78%. This revenue in dollars consists of local sources - \$31,948,771, state sources - \$10,776,274, and federal sources - \$335,349. Expenditures by function category are instructional – 59.85%, support services – 27.76%, student activities – 4.06%, debt service fund transfers – 7.35%; and budget reserve fund transfers – 0.98%. Instructional services is made up of salaries, benefits, classroom-based supplies and dues/fees. Expenditures in dollars consists of instructional - \$25,771,866, support services - \$11,952,219, and student activities - \$1,749,985. Other financing uses are debt service/fund transfers - \$3,166,324, and budget reserve fund transfers - \$420,000. In 2022-23, debt service/budgetary reserve was around 1%, and in 2023-2024 1% was reserved for the proposed budget.

Mrs. Wallace stated that in summary, we have a balanced budget for 2023-2024, with a zero tax increase. We reserved 1% for budgetary reserve for any transfers of funds. This was done while maintaining and also expanding on our educational programming. The salary and wages included in this budget do account for any increases for the coaches. Dr. Taschner added that at the June 19 meeting there will be a full presentation on the coaches and the results of their meetings.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:27 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1 Approves the service agreement renewal with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for fire alarm and detection monitoring for the high school, middle school and elementary school in the amount of \$600.00 per building, per year with a term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.
- 9.2 Approves the service agreements at the high school, middle school, elementary school and the maintenance garage with Ehrlich, A Rentokil Steritech Company, for pest management maintenance in the following monthly amounts beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024:

High School - \$120.00
Middle School - \$113.00
Elementary School - \$120.00
Maintenance Garage - \$53.00

- 9.3 Approves the water treatment program agreement from Klenzoid, Inc., beginning July 1, 2023, in the amount of \$4,689.30 per year, billed quarterly at \$1,172.33.
- 9.4 Approves the proposals from Republic Services for waste and recycling removal from the Elementary, Middle and High schools at the following monthly charges beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025:
- Elementary School - \$586.93
Middle School - \$520.42
High School - \$586.93

- 9.5 Approves the sale of 30 Honeywell microcells and related macrocell parts on Municibid. These items were salvaged during the Elementary school HVAC replacement project.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the actions in Item 9.1 through and including 9.5, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, 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 7:37 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1 Approves members of the cheerleading team to attend the 2023 United Cheerleading Association Camp. Participants will pay for their individual registration fee.
- 10.2 Approves members of the Girls Basketball Team to attend 2023 summer camp. All camp fees will be covered by the individuals participating.
- 10.3 Approves the Letter of Agreement and Hold Harmless Agreement establishing camp usage for the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation for 2023 Outdoor Education for 8th Grade.
- 10.4 Approves the contract with School Datebooks for the 2023-24 student handbooks for the middle school.
- 10.5 Approves the purchase of 360 planner student handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year for Grades 3-4 as presented.
- 10.6 Approves the agreement with DUB Photography, LLC, to take photographs during the Commencement Ceremony on June 8, 2023, at a cost of \$500.00.

- 10.7** Approves a six-day trip for French Club members in 2024, to be funded fully by the students.
- 10.8** Approves the affiliation agreement between Reading Hospital and Schuylkill Valley School District, in order for high school seniors to gain valuable knowledge in the healthcare field, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the actions in Items 10.1 through and including 10.8, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.9** Approves the adjudication of Student #2926, as presented to the Board.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the adjudication of Student #2926, as presented to the Board.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.10 Other (Old/New Business)

Mrs. Kleffel noted that several of our athletes are attending states this weekend. The powder puff football game is on May 23 at 7 p.m. in the stadium, and the HS mini-thon will be held on May 26 from 2-11 p.m. Mr. Moll stated that he was part of Pioneer Days for the 5th graders on May 19. Mr. Mertz added that Sara Haag was named Berks County Dairy Princess, and Alexa Davis was named the Berks County Alternate Dairy Princess.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors