

April 24, 2023

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

MINUTES

April 24, 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: Robert M. Dempsey, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell

Members Absent: Paul L. Bendigo, Alfonso F. Rossi

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman (absent)

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Janet Heilman, Toni Crater, Jennifer Gabryluk, Dr. Shannon O'Donnell, Michael Sobczak

- 1.3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 27, 2023, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 1.4 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Moll reported that the Board met on April 17, 2023, after the conclusion of the Committee meetings, for personnel and legal matters.

- 1.5 **RECOGNITION**

The Board is pleased to recognize the following individuals for their accomplishments:

Music Program

Andrew Kerper

Aaron Raver

Joshua Searfoss

Gracie Torres

Athletics

Jack Gambler – swimming

- 2.0 **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

- 2.1 **PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll***

Mr. Moll noted that we are coming up on an election cycle, with the primary being held the third week in May. It's important to look at the Board from a local perspective and not try to adopt policies that are coming down from the federal level where they might not be in tune to our local community.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash noted that the Schuylkill Valley representative for the BCIU Board is to be voted on and that person will take their office in the summer. Mrs. Lash is the SV representative and she asked our board members to place their vote if they have not already done so. At their meeting on April 20, they learned about the BCIU Print Services Center which can produce posters, tickets, business cards, self-seal mailers and much more with competitive prices and a quick turn-around time. They received an updated Berks County Legislative Directory. Mrs. Danielle Berger, Kutztown Area School District, was named the recipient of the 2023 Annie Sullivan Award. The BCIU also hosted their tenth annual STEM Design Challenge on March 22. They also received their financial audit report from Herbein & Company which was a clean report.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that their next meeting will be held on April 26. He noted that the BCTC student-built home is one of only two that are still built by CTC's in Pennsylvania.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that they had their quarterly meeting which included discussions on the economy and the collection rate for the earned income tax for Berks County. This remains very strong and they are aggressively going after delinquent employers who have failed to make payments for the EIT. Their next meeting is in June.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reported that there was a PSBA Advocacy Day held on April 18. She noted that Senator Gebhard represents our district and suggested he be invited to a future board meeting.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Robert M. Dempsey

Dr. Taschner reported that their last meeting was on April 19. They are working towards having a silent auction at the Retirement and Service Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, May 18, and are looking for donations for the auction. They are still looking for board members possibly from local businesses in the district. Their mission is to raise funds that will support teachers in their classrooms.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Sherry Faust, Bern Township – ES/MS Student Transportation to HS POP Preview
Grant Miller, Bern Township – POP Production, HS Stage Safety

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 noted that it's been a very busy month and our students have many accomplishments in music, chorus and athletics. She recognized our high school students Angel Castellanos, Leiland Wisniewski, Larsen Hale, Hannah Eyrich, Leila Howe, Miranda Schlouch, Brooke Shellhammer, and Alex Troutman for being published in Twisted Tales, a collection of writing contest winners through Young Writers. The BCIU Secondary Art Exhibit was held on April 16 at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts and the art work will be on display during the high school band and chorus concert on May 9. Winners from SV include Brooke Shellhammer, Gianna Kohl,

Lia Strause, Emma Stauffer, Megan Yobb, Delilah Cole, Rylee Dennis, William Harper, Madisyn Schwartz and Gracyn Stone. Students Rani Patel and Kaylin Loose competed in the FBLA states competition on April 17. Abby Witinski entered our first PA Technology Student Association State Conference on April 19 and competed in four events. She was a finalist in PA-Logo Design and a semi-finalist in Photographic Technology.

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, April 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 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 following resignation due to retirement, effective with the last day of the 2022-23 school term, unless otherwise noted:

Mrs. Robin Oleson, Special Education Teacher at the elementary school.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation due to retirement of Mrs. Robin Oleson, Special Education Teacher at the elementary school, effective with the last day of the 2022-23 school term.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:

6.3.1 Ms. Stephanie Burkart, School Counselor at the high school, effective March 10, 2023.

6.3.2 Mrs. Karin Manwiller, Part-Time Reading Paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective March 31, 2023.

6.3.3 Mrs. Deana Pietrowski, Part-Time Lunchroom Aide at the Elementary school, effective April 10, 2023.

6.3.4 Ms. Dawn Schlenker, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective April 14, 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 Ms. Sallie Gigliotti, Certified Building Substitute at the middle school, at a rate of pay of \$223.69 per day, effective March 15, 2023.

6.4.2 Approves the temporary change of assignment for Mrs. Lauren Matthews, from School Counselor at the elementary school to School Counselor at the high school, effective date to be determined, through the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.

6.4.3 Change of status of Ms. Karen Rios, from Substitute Food Services Worker to Part-Time Food Services Worker, 4 hours per day, effective March 27, 2023.

- 6.4.4** Approves the following co-curricular assignment for the 2022-23 school year:

Deborah Werstler - Ready, Set, Read Program Coordinator / ES - \$1,440

- 6.4.5** Approves the following community aquatics employees through May 30, 2023. Please note, that pool project schedules may dictate schedules. In any such case the Director of Buildings and Grounds will notify the Athletic Director, who will notify Community Aquatics.

Benjamin Bitting - Student Lifeguard - \$8.75/hour
Owen Eisenhofer - Student Instructor - \$8.00/hour
Gabriel Martin - Student Instructor - \$8.00/hour
Leiland Wisnewski - Student Instructor - \$8.00/hour

- 6.4.6** Approves the following substitutes for the 2022-23 school year:

Alison Barnett - Custodian
Jenna Martorana - School Counselor

- 6.4.7** Approves the following volunteers for the 2022-23 school year:

Darryl Boyer - MS
Nyttia Cadena - ES
Joshua Faust - ES
Nathan Good - ES
Joseph Klatt - ES/MS
Timothy McGee - ES
Matthew Schaeffer - ES
Jillian Schappell - ES/HS
Kimberly Smyre - ES
Nicole Kelly - ES/HS

- 6.5** Approves the leave of absence of Mr. Hunter Beane, 4th Grade Teacher at the elementary school, effective April 11, 2023, through the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.

- 6.6** Approves the leave of absence of Mrs. Christine Nguyen, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective March 21, 2023, through March 31, 2023.

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

Mrs. Arianna Bressler, Special Education Teacher at the high school, effective August 21, 2023, through October 31, 2023.

Mr. Ernest Farrier, Custodian at the elementary school, effective approximately August 18, 2023, through September 29, 2023.

Mrs. Mona Waller, Technology Support Specialist, effective March 20, 2023, intermittently through June 30, 2023.

Ms. Stacy Wentzel, Transportation and Accounts Payable Secretary, effective April 11, 2023, through June 2, 2023.

Ms. Shannon Lewis, 5th Grade Teacher at the middle school, effective March 13, 2023, through approximately June 9, 2023.

- 6.8** Approves the PIMS Services Order and Agreement with The PIMS People, LLC, for PIMS processing from October 1, 2023, through approximately December 31, 2023, at a cost of \$9,000.

- 6.9 Approves the revisions to the Act 93 Non-Certified Agreement. The revisions include the addition of the Director of Finance.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 6.4.1 through and including 6.4.7, as presented; and to approve the leave of absence of Mr. Hunter Beane, 4th Grade Teacher at the elementary school, effective April 11, 2023, through the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year; and to approve the leave of absence of Mrs. Christine Nguyen, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective March 21, 2023, through March 31, 2023; and to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves in Item 6.7, as presented; and to approve the PIMS Services Order and Agreement with The PIMS People, LLC, for PIMS processing from October 1, 2023, through approximately December 31, 2023, at a cost of \$9,000; and to approve the revisions to the Act 93 Non-Certified Agreement. The revisions include the addition of the Director of Finance.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.10 Approves the creation and addition of a second full-time Technology Specialist.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the creation and addition of a second full-time Technology Specialist.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 6:50 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves district participation in the Berks County Safety and Security Consortium for the 2023-24 school year, at a cost of \$5,500.00.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve district participation in the Berks County Safety and Security Consortium for the 2023-24 school year, at a cost of \$5,500.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.2 Approves acceptance of the proposed subscription for web content filtering, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve acceptance of the proposed subscription for web content filtering, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Information

- 7.3** Schuylkill Valley School District previously approved and entered into a five year contract for RWAN. This item affirms that we have and submitted the Telecommunications Services Order form for 2023-24 (Contract Year 3). This will be the third year of a five year consortium contract.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 6:52 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 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 March 16, 2023, to April 25, 2023, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,657,093.02
CAFETERIA FUND	\$30,095.45
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$12,448.20
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$6,349.88
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,705,986.55

- 8.2** Approves the adoption of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's policies and procedures under the federal requirements of 34 CFR PART 300. The IU-adopted policies are implemented to fulfill the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and the regulatory requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from March 16, 2023, to April 25, 2023, as presented; and to approve the adoption of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's policies and procedures under the federal requirements of 34 CFR PART 300. The IU-adopted policies are implemented to fulfill the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and the regulatory requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part B.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves/ratifies the amended payment of bills for the *General Fund* in the following amount from March 16, 2023 to April 25, 2023, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$3,969,973.92
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Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve/ratify the amended payment of bills for the *General Fund* in Item 8.3, from March 16, 2023, to April 25, 2023, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the security purchases & agreement as stipulated in the PCCD grant. As a note, security measures and security items are not discussed in the public session.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the security purchases & agreement as stipulated in the PCCD grant. As a note, security measures and security items are not discussed in the public session.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.2** Approves a motion, pursuant to the Public School Code and consistent with the bid documents for the High School HVAC Upgrade Project, to (1) reject all bids after review and due consideration and after determining that a rejection of all bids is in the best interest of the School District and (2) authorize the District's officers, administration, and solicitor to take any and all necessary actions in order to effectuate the intent of this motion and authorize the District's officers, administration, and solicitor to re-bid the project.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Dane Miller to approve a motion, pursuant to the Public School Code and consistent with the bid documents for the High School HVAC Upgrade Project, to (1) reject all bids after review and due consideration and after determining that a rejection of all bids is in the best interest of the School District and (2) authorize the District's officers, administration, and solicitor to take any and all necessary actions in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion and authorize the District's officers, administration, and solicitor to re-bid the project.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell

Nays: Mertz

Motion carried.

9.3 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Mertz noted that we did have a study completed by EI Associates for the district's costs to repair our fields. The preliminary numbers are between \$950,000 to \$1.25 million, subject to change. This will be discussed in the near future to see what we can do and what we can afford.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the addendum to the current contract with Arethusa Designs for sound services for the Schuylkill Valley High School graduation ceremony on June 8, 2023, at a total cost for the ceremony of \$3,200.00.

- 10.2** Approves the following payments to the members of the pit orchestra of Panthers on Parade:

Kory Hilpmann	\$320.00
Dustin Giffin	\$220.00
Marlin Kerchner	\$320.00
Linda Ebersole	\$320.00

- 10.3** Approves the ES, MS and HS Code of Conduct documents for the 2023-2024 school year.

- 10.4** Approves the invoices for set building for Mamma Mia! submitted by Novalee Machemer and Abigail Sisco for payment.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by George Mertz to approve the addendum to the current contract with Arethusa Designs for sound services for the Schuylkill Valley High School graduation ceremony on June 8, 2023, at a total cost for the ceremony of \$3,200.00; and to approve the payments to the members of the pit orchestra of Panthers on Parade, as presented; and to approve the ES, MS and HS Code of Conduct documents for the 2023-2024 school year; and to approve the invoices for set building for Mamma Mia! submitted by Novalee Machemer and Abigail Sisco for payment.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.5** Approves payment to the following individuals who assisted with this year's Panthers on Parade musical:

Costume Designer: Amy Searfoss	\$2,000
Scenic Designer: Jess Harle	\$1,300
Audio/Sound Supervisor: Anthony Deininger	\$500
Marketing: Melissa Manzer	\$500

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the payments to individuals who assisted with this year's Panthers on Parade musical in Item 10.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.6** Approves the contract with Maureen C. Feio, DBA as Scopic Psychoeducational Services, LLC, for School Psychology Services.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the contract with Maureen C. Feio, DBA as Scopic Psychoeducational Services, LLC, for School Psychology Services.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.7** Approves the contract with ProCare Therapy for School Psychology Services.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the contract with ProCare Therapy for School Psychology Services.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.8 Other (Old/New Business)**

Mrs. Kleffel reminded everyone that Pride of Schuylkill Valley nominations will be accepted through May 30, 2023. Mr. Miller stated that there was a bill that went to the House of Representatives to protect Title IX and to protect women and girls in sports. It passed, but on a party-line vote. It may or may not pass the senate, but it certainly will not have enough votes to overcome a promised veto by President Biden. Down the road we're probably looking at legal action by all of the different sports entities. Fortunately, PIAA is the second largest in the country, and if they have the support of our state legislators, will file injunctions saying we need time as the comment period for this was very short.

- 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 and legal matters.


- 13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors