

October 24, 2022

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

MINUTES

October 24, 2022

- 1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the Auditorium 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, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Janet Heilman, Casey Blankenbiller, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Toni Crater, Jennifer Gabryluk, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, Michael Sobczak
- 1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2022, 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 September 26, 2022, for personnel and legal matters, and on October 17, 2022 for personnel and legal matters.
- 2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES
- 2.1 PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll*
No report.
- 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 October 20. She reviewed a few of the highlights including the IU sponsoring a Keeping Kids Safe Symposium held on October 12, which focused on Community Care with over 80 educators and community partners in attendance. The keynote speaker was Mr. Joshua MacNeill, Director of NeuroLogic by Lakeside. Mr. Scott Major, BCIU CIO, and Mr. Charlie Reisinger, CIO Penn Manor School District, provided testimony on October 18 at a joint Senate Public Hearing on behalf of the PA Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) in regard to developing a plan for protecting student data in Pennsylvania. On Monday, October 10 there was a common in-service day for related arts and paraprofessional educators attended by over 300 Berks County educators. The BCIU CFO/COO will be retiring in the spring

and they are in process of hiring two replacements for this position which will be broken down into a separate CFO and COO. There is a COLA meeting on November 8 which will be held virtually.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that they are waiting for bids to come in and they will discuss this at their meeting on October 26. The main issue is in regard to shifting the busing back to the home schools due to the high costs that the BCTC is incurring and they cannot get more than a one-year contract. There will be a vote to move their electrical trades from the East Campus to the West Campus due to an extra lab available at the West Campus. They're going to combine programs with two separate classrooms, that way the students in electrical will get electrical technology, which is more commercial, and control wiring etc., along with electrical construction, which is residential. They're getting into green energy and there is a future solar project in the works.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll reported that they met in September and they continue to have receipts for the EIT exceeding budget projections. This will be finalized in January/February.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that she and Dr. Taschner will be attending the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference which will take place on October 31 and November 1. She attended the Zoom meeting for board leadership members on October 18 which was led by Mr. Andrew Christ, PSBA Senior Director of Education Policy. There are only six scheduled session days remaining in the House and there were some hearings in the house education committee which included the topics of broadcasting interscholastic athletics and student data privacy. State legislative news includes Senate Bill 492 which is to amend the Right-to-Know Law, Senate Bill 1243 which has financial literacy as a graduation requirement, and House Bill 2169 which establishes the Lifeline Scholarship to give parents of any student in grades 1-12 residing within the attendance areas of the lowest-achieving public schools vouchers to pay for tuition in an alternative academic setting.

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

Mr. Dempsey reported that they met on October 19. Their current focus is getting new members on the board, specifically focusing on business owners within the community. Mrs. Courtney Nein, President SVEF, is working on an instructional video in order for potential contributors to learn how to file for the EITC tax exemption. They also discussed getting SVEF information into the district's fall newsletter.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chuck Grebloski, Ontelaunee Township – Books/Parental Rights and Choice
Beth Hoover, Bern Township – Compliance to Policy/Health and Safety Plan Location
Kelly Steinke, Bern Township – Staff Turnover

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
- 5.1.3** Dropout Report

Superintendent's Update

5.2 Dr. Taschner stated that it's been a great October and we celebrated an exciting homecoming weekend a few days ago. She congratulated Bailey Unterkoffler on being named homecoming queen. It was a fantastic night and very exciting to see everyone arrive with their families and celebrate the good that we do at SV. She commended our spirit king, Chad Gangewere, who did a

great job of emceeing the pep rally, and also thanked our students for decorating in the high school hallways. This week also brought the opportunity to induct our latest Pride of SV members and it was a very prestigious group of SV graduates and service awardees. We are so grateful for the time they spent with our students in our classrooms, at the pep rally, and at our football game on October 21. They returned for the induction banquet on October 22, and Dr. Taschner thanked everyone that helped put these wonderful events together. She also thanked everyone who participated in *Trunk or Treat* at the elementary school on October 23 including our teachers, the elementary principal, high school students, parents, the Leesport Fire Company, and Steve Moyer Subaru. It was a wonderful day and great to see all of our students coming together.

Dr. Taschner thanked the middle school for all of their hard work on 8th Grade Outdoor Education. Not only for the amount of time the teachers and high school students spent preparing, but their time teaching students outdoor education which are skills they will use for life. Food service staff prepared meals and community members also volunteered. There is an enormous amount of time that goes into making this happen and she thanked all that were involved and also the Board for their continued support. She congratulated our athletic teams who finished their season, and wished the best of luck to those that are still playing.

5.3 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Miller commended the administrators for the number of observations that have been completed by each of the principals and assistant principals.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 7:50 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

6.1 Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:

6.1.1 Mr. Scott Horning, IT, effective October 4, 2022.

6.1.2 Ms. Lisa Lawson, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective October 14, 2022.

6.1.3 Ms. Adrienne Leshner, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective October 21, 2022.

6.1.4 Mr. Nicholas Pirrocco, Health and Physical Education Teacher at the Middle School, effective on or before November 20, 2022.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to accept the resignations in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 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.):

October 24, 2022

6.2.1 Mrs. Christine Nguyen, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the High School, 6.75 hours per day, at an hourly rate of pay of \$17.24, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Amy Searfoss, effective October 11, 2022.

6.2.2 Mentors for the 2022-23 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full year mentors and \$587.50 for half year mentors:

Ms. Stephanie Burkart for Ms. Fiona DeHart - Half Year
Mrs. Lisa Henry for Ms. Rebecca Johnson - Half Year
Ms. Ginger Thomas for Ms. Abigayle Shin - Half Year
Mrs. Joanna Schlottman for Dr. James Whitaker - Full Year

6.2.3 New van aide utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2022-23 school year:

Amy Reidmiller

6.2.4 Volunteers for the 2022-23 school year:

Jennifer Badame - ES
Christina Bare - ES/HS
Karli Evans - ES
Jacqueline Foster - ES
Elisabet Gustafson - ES
Sabrina Maressa - ES
Rebecca Marmas - ES
Tuyet Parker - ES
Amy Shannon - ES
Jemika Robinson-Sivak - ES
Katharine Stark-Adam - ES
Briana Stevenson - ES
Jamie Terefenko - ES
Alexandra Wiley - ES

6.2.5 Job descriptions for the following positions, as revised:

- Buildings and Grounds/Technology Secretary
- Transportation/Accounts Payable Secretary

6.2.6 Mrs. Kelly Kauffman, Health and Physical Education Teacher at the High School, Bachelor's, Step 2, \$53,163 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Kelly Musket, effective October 25, 2022.

6.2.7 Ms. Ann Lagowy, Business Education Teacher at the High School, MS+42, Step 22, \$99,283 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Adrienne Williamson, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 and 6.2.7, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.8 Substitutes for the 2022-23 school year:

Tiffany Bechtel - Nurse
Amanda Graeff - Elementary Education PK-4

David Horton - Guest Teacher
Bethany Kehs-Rossi - Paraprofessional
Dena Kraus - Elementary K-6
Alexis McCullough - Secretary
Russette Weand - Guest Teacher

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Item 6.2.8, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

- 6.2.9** Mrs. Susan Breidegan, Part-Time, 3 hours per day Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School to Part-Time, 5 hours per day ELL Paraprofessional at the Elementary School and Middle School, effective October 12, 2022.
- 6.2.10** Mrs. Melissa Schmauch, Full-Time ELL Paraprofessional at all buildings to Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective October 12, 2022.
- 6.2.11** Miss Anna Martin, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, MS, Step 8, \$66,468 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Jessica Dowd, effective pending release from current assignment.
- 6.2.12** Winter coaches for the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.2.13** Status change for:

Mrs. Amanda Poland - Operations Secretary
Ms. Stacy Wentzel - Accounts Payable/Transportation Secretary

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the employment in Items 6.2.9 through and including 6.2.13, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3** Approves the abolishment of the Part-Time Child Accounting Secretary position. NOTE: The position is vacant and the job functions have been reassigned.
- 6.4** Approves the agreement with School Operation Services Group Inc. to provide substitute support personnel for food services, custodians, paraprofessionals and clerical, effective October 24, 2022 through June 30, 2024.
- 6.5** Approves the changes in bus routes for buses 1, 5, 10 and 28.
- 6.6** Approves an additional 1% performance-based salary increase to the Superintendent of Schools retroactive to July 1, 2022, in accordance with the contract for employment between the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of School Directors.
- 6.7** Approves of the leave of absence/special sick leave for Mr. Scott Huey, Full-Time Custodian, effective August 8, 2022, through October 3, 2022.
- 6.8** Approves the appointment of the Interim Business Manager as the district's Right-to-Know Officer effective October 26, 2022.

- 6.9 Approves the revision to the schedule of fees for Policy 707: Use of School Facilities, as presented, per Policy 707 providing for annual review and revision to the schedule of fees.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the actions in Items 6.3 through and including 6.9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.10 Approves the agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services (PTS) to provide school-based therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year, at the rates provided.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services (PTS) to provide school-based therapy services for the 2022-2023 school year, at the rates provided.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.11 **Other (Old/New Business)**

Mr. Mertz stated he was asked about graduation dress and stated the students cannot wear their honor tassels, military tassels, BCTC NHS recognition etc. Dr. Taschner explained that there is no board policy for this and she would like to check to see if it's in the high school handbook. Mrs. Rexrode, high school principal, can address this at the next committee meeting.

7.0 **CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY**

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 8:09 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the temporary reorganization of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade social studies curriculum. The change reflects only shifts in time periods and does not change previously Board approved content.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the temporary reorganization of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade social studies curriculum. The change reflects only shifts in time periods and does not change previously Board approved content.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 **Other (Old/New Business)**

Mr. Miller asked Dr. Taschner for a Curriculum and Technology meeting on Monday, November 7 at 5:30 p.m. for a discussion with Mr. Sobczak about the future of technology in the district. Mrs. Lash asked for a current list of requirements to graduate. Dr. Taschner answered that

the graduation policy would be brought forward at the November 7 committee meetings and make any necessary revisions based on that discussion.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 8:36 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

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 September 14, 2022, to October 24, 2022, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$861,025.43
CAFETERIA FUND	\$25,180.31
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$2,575,910.18
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$6,357.51
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,468,473.43

- 8.2 Approves the acceptance of a donation from Dr. Cathy L. Taschner, Superintendent of Schools, in the amount equal to the 1% performance-based salary increase. The donation is to be used for 8th Grade Outdoor Education during the 2023-24 school year.

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from September 14, 2022, to October 24, 2022, as presented; and to approve the acceptance of a donation from Dr. Cathy L. Taschner, Superintendent of Schools, in the amount equal to the 1% performance-based salary increase. The donation is to be used for 8th Grade Outdoor Education during the 2023-24 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3 Approves the BCTC JOC resolution to amend the Articles of Agreement for Establishment and Operation of the Berks Vocational Technical School, effective as of July 1, 2023, to read as follows:

Transportation of pupils from their respective school districts to the Berks Vocational Technical School shall be the obligation of each participating school district. Each participating school district shall bear their own transportation costs.

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the BCTC JOC resolution to amend the Articles of Agreement for Establishment and Operation of the Berks Vocational Technical School, effective as of July 1, 2023, to read as follows:

Transportation of pupils from their respective school districts to the Berks Vocational Technical School shall be the obligation of each participating school district. Each participating school district shall bear their own transportation costs.

Dr. Taschner stated that the Board had asked for a cost analysis including how this would impact the district's budget. We currently have 49 students who attend BCTC East and 60 students who attend BCTC West. The students are bused to BCTC on two separate buses. If we were to take over the BCTC busing, in order to bus our current number of students, we would need to use two

buses. The cost of our daily run for a 48-72 passenger bus is \$346 per day in our approved contract. The annual cost of each bus to run it for 181 student days is \$62,626, and the cost for both buses is \$125,252 (without subsidy reimbursement, which would not be full reimbursement because of the bus loads). The buses are not fully loaded, they are 68% loaded and 83% loaded, nor does it include the fuel surcharge that we have in our contract. The district is responsible for any fuel excess over \$3.00.

There is one caveat in this scenario in that our students currently attend in the afternoon, which is not optimal for our students with respect to afternoon activities including clubs, athletics and tutoring, and is also more problematic for us in assuming the costs of busing. Last year Mrs. Rexrode, high school principal, informally inquired about moving our students to the morning, and it is possible if there is another school that wants to switch. If we were moved to the morning, we would still incur the fuel surcharge costs, but would be able to use our current buses to take students from our high school to both East and West Campuses without increased runs. Our buses typically pick up high school and middle school students in the morning, drop them off, and then pick up the elementary students, drop them off. They come back and do the afternoon run for the middle and high school students, and then do an afternoon run for the elementary. All of our buses do this except there are four buses that don't do the elementary run in the morning. If our students were able to be at BCTC in the morning, we could take two of those four buses and have them take our students to BCTC East and West. We would only incur the cost of the fuel surcharge at that point since we're already running the bus.

BCTC has indicated that they estimate the current 2023-24 budget, which assumes transportation goes to the district, would result in a 7.7%, or \$54,000 reduction in the amount charged to SV for our students that are participating. Assuming that our students stayed on a PM schedule, the district would still be in a deficit of \$71,252, plus fuel surcharges for both buses. If we were able to move all of our students to the morning schedule at the BCTC, the cost, based on fuel surcharges and potential transportation subsidies, could potentially be neutral. BCTC has indicated that assuming transportation bid prices are equal to their 2022-23 bid process, this would yield an increase to SV of 4.35% or \$30,786. They have also indicated that assuming a 15% increase over the 2022-23 transportation bid prices, for the 2023-24 school year, would yield an increase to SV of 10.38% or \$30,786. In addition, the BCTC has indicated that assuming a 30% increase over the 2022-23 transportation bid prices for the 2023-24 school year would yield an increase to SV of 12.74% or \$92,736 (2022-23 actual transportation increases to BCTC were 30.2%). Depending what happens with when our students attend really determines what the impact will be for the district.

Mr. Miller asked how many students would possibly be impacted by moving the electrical program from East to West Campus which would reduce the current enrollment of 49 students. Mr. Mertz answered that currently he does not have that information and that the BCTC is still working on the enrollment numbers. Mr. Miller added that taking a half bus doesn't really help as they charge basically the same. Dr. Taschner stated that if we drop to a 10-35 passenger bus, our charge would be \$331 instead of \$346 which is a minimal amount. Mr. Rossi asked how much the cost would be to lease a bus and hire a driver; Dr. Taschner stated she does not know but will look into this scenario. Mr. Mertz advised against this as the BCTC has their own shops that can work on their buses and it's very expensive if you don't have this option. Mr. Moll added that the BCTC has looked at this and unfortunately the busing companies are only doing one-year contracts and there's no stability. The district is finishing our first year of our contract with the district's transportation provider and the first year we would take over there would be a marginal increase, but we don't have 30% increases in the contract for years three, four and five. In regard to the resolution, eleven out of sixteen districts need to pass this, but for SV we've negotiated a good contract with Eshelman, we have favorable rates, and we also have the West Campus in our district. It may cost the district a little more in the first year, but as they continue these increases which get passed along to the home district, it's going to cost us more in years three, four and five, however, his suggestion to the Board from a cost perspective, if we can move some kids around as long as it doesn't impact their programs and gives them additional opportunities here at SV, he would strongly encourage that the Board pass the resolution. Mr. Bendigo asked if we could

contact our current transportation provider and ask if they would like to offer us anything better for these additional runs to get more utilization out of their equipment and also their employees; Dr. Taschner stated she would follow up on that request. She will meet with Mrs. Rexrode and contact the BCTC to see if there's any flexibility in our scheduling and after that they'll meet with Mr. Eshelman.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4** Approves the CAFCO Participation Agreement for the district's food service bid, being offered through the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and facilitated by IU13 Collaborative Services, effective for fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the CAFCO Participation Agreement for the district's food service bid, being offered through the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and facilitated by IU13 Collaborative Services, effective for fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, 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 6:33 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves Change Order #1-4-103916.0008 for the elementary school HVAC project authorizing Balton Construction, Inc., an upcharge to perform work during 2nd shift hours for the change order to infill HVAC louvers at the elementary school, at a cost of \$15,523.22, per Balton Construction's change order request dated September 14, 2022.

The approval of this change order does not waive or alter the District's right to recover payment, costs, and any related fees related to this or any previous change order.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Dane Miller to approve Change Order #1-4-103916.0008 for the elementary school HVAC project authorizing Balton Construction, Inc., an upcharge to perform work during 2nd shift hours for the change order to infill HVAC louvers at the elementary school, at a cost of \$15,523.22, per Balton Construction's change order request dated September 14, 2022. The approval of this change order does not waive or alter the District's right to recover payment, costs, and any related fees related to this or any previous change order.

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

Nays: Mertz

Motion carried.

- 9.2 Approves the replacement of the high school water heater, in the amount of \$14,500.00, and related expenses for installation, at a cost of \$13,000.00, to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the replacement of the high school water heater, in the amount of \$14,500.00, and related expenses for installation, at a cost of \$13,000.00, to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.3 Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Schuylkill Valley School District, hereby approves the Construction Document Phase for the project known as Schuylkill Valley Middle School Indoor Swimming Pool Renovations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Schuylkill Valley School District, hereby authorizes the Administration and the Architect, EI Associates, to proceed with the release of the project for bidding and receive bids for the project known as Schuylkill Valley Middle School Indoor Swimming Pool Renovations.

Moved by Alfonso Rossi with the caveat that the bid should be structured in a manner that the base bid include only the necessary work to maintain the pool in a useful manner and that any additional changes made to enhance its usefulness would be included as alternate bids. Dane Miller seconded the motion however he has concerns about getting answers to the many questions that were asked on October 17.

Mr. Miller doesn't think they got answers in the bid package a week later and there are a lot of issues that need to be resolved including the railing in the pool gallery and where the diving board will be located. He would like to be assured these items will be addressed in a timely manner before it moves forward. Dr. Taschner asked that a small group of the Board come together, if the Board chooses to pass this resolution, and sit with Mr. Blankenbiller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, to have a meeting in regard to what would come under the alternate category including tempered glass instead of a railing in the gallery. They could discuss the pros and cons and confirm the base bid and all of the alternate bids that the Board would like to see. Mr. Mertz added that he thinks the Board should see all of the documentation before it gets released for bid. They should move forward with the documentation but get it tuned up with the Buildings and Grounds Committee before it's release for bid. Dr. Taschner noted that the Board could also table this item however it could push the timeline back and delay the project and we don't want the pool closed during certain seasons. Mr. Rossi added that we are sending this out for bid to see if the district can afford to proceed with the project.

Mr. Dempsey stated he would like to get a number from EI Associates and on October 17 he had asked for an estimated cost of the project. He doesn't understand why an architectural firm cannot put an estimated number on a project. If we were going out for a bond issue on this project, we would need to know how much money to borrow. We aren't doing this, but if EI comes back to the Board and says this project is going to cost \$10 million, we know we don't have \$10 million that's going to be left over from the previous bond. He would like to see an estimated number and he doesn't know of a project he's ever seen that didn't have some sort of budgeted number going in. Mr. Rossi noted that the bidding environment is a bit different at the moment which is why EI is reluctant to give a number. He doesn't see the difference between having them give us a number that they don't trust versus the district going out and getting an actual number to use for making a decision. He'd rather have the actual number; he doesn't want to get a number they don't trust and then go get an actual number and find out there's a huge disparity. He doesn't see the point in making them go through the motions when we can go get the real number and then decide what to do. Mr. Moll added that just because we get the bid doesn't mean that it has to be accepted. He asked for the Board's consensus if they wanted to vote for it or table the motion. Mr. Rossi stated

that the Buildings and Grounds Committee should look at a restructured bid that lays out the base and alternates as discussed and then finalize the details and bring it back to the Board for a vote. Mr. Rossi would like to table the resolution in Item 9.3 and Mr. Miller agreed.

Mr. Moll tabled the resolution in Item 9.3

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:22 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves ratification of the agreement with The Vanguard School to provide educational services for Student #5110 for the 2022-23 school year, and to recommend ratification of the one-to-one aide support services agreement for Student #5110 for the 2022-23 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve ratification of the agreement with The Vanguard School to provide educational services for Student #5110 for the 2022-23 school year, and to recommend ratification of the one-to-one aide support services agreement for Student #5110 for the 2022-23 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.2** Approves the tent rental agreement with Green Valley Country Club for the Junior/Senior prom on April 28, 2023.

- 10.3** Approves the field trip for the Schuylkill Valley Ski and Snowboard Club trip to Killington Resort and Pico Mountain in Rutland, VT, scheduled for February 23-26, 2023, and approves the agreement with Classic Ski Tours. The cost is approximately \$680 per student, paid for by the student.

- 10.4** Approves the addition of girls wrestling as a Schuylkill Valley approved school sport.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Dane Miller to approve the tent rental agreement with Green Valley Country Club for the Junior/Senior prom on April 28, 2023; and to approve the field trip for the Schuylkill Valley Ski and Snowboard Club trip to Killington Resort and Pico Mountain in Rutland, VT, scheduled for February 23-26, 2023, and approves the agreement with Classic Ski Tours. The cost is approximately \$680 per student, paid for by the student; and to approve the addition of girls wrestling as a Schuylkill Valley approved school sport.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.5 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Moll noted that they did have information on the boards for 1,000 points/100 wins. Dr. Taschner stated that she did receive one mock-up which the Board received in their folders. This is the same company that did the record boards at our middle school pool. We are still waiting for the second mock-up which would be from a different company, but if the Board would like them

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to match from the same company, the mock-up would mirror the board that's at the pool and would have the ability to slide in the names and points. The cost is \$795 for each one and we can choose the size we would like these to be; the larger the size the more cost for each board. They have given the district a turn-around time of six weeks, probably early to mid-January 2023 and Miss Deibler would try to schedule the double header at that same time for the unveiling of the boards. Another idea from Miss Deibler was to take the other record boards that the Board had concerns about and use them at the middle school to put them to good use.

Mrs. Kleffel thanked the administration, committee and the inductees who did a fantastic job with the Pride of Schuylkill Valley activities held on October 21-22, 2022. There were several inductees that traveled from out of state and she thanked everyone that had a part in this two-day event and for all of their hard work in making it a success.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Mertz stated that you can watch district games for a fee and there are a lot of other districts where you tune into the YouTube channel and you can watch them without paying. He asked if this is something that we can do with our current technology. Dr. Taschner answered she believes that we do have the capability through the National Federation of High School Sports and she will follow up on this for the November 7 meeting. You are not permitted to live stream playoff games, but there may be other opportunities. We do have the capability to live stream and we may have to consider adding a position for someone who would be tasked with going to the games and setting this up, but it is a really nice opportunity for parents and family to be able to watch the games.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.


Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors