

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

MINUTES

July 25, 2022

- 1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi  
  
Members Absent: George H. Mertz III  
  
Secretary: Linda R. Lash  
  
Treasurer: John L. Reedy  
  
Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman  
  
Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, John Reedy, Jenny Rexrode
- 1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27, 2022, as presented.**  
  
**Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi**  
  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
- 1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
Mr. Moll reported that the Board met in executive session on July 18, 2022, following the Committee meetings, for personnel matters, and on July 25, 2022, prior to the Board meeting, 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 next meeting will be held in August.
- 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 their quarterly meeting was held at the end of June. The cash flow for EIT that's coming in is significantly higher and they are working to get the breakout by district sometime the week of July 25. This will be sent out to the school districts and municipalities. For the first half of 2022, the EIT received was \$82 million compared to \$71-72 million for 2021, which is a significant increase. He will have another report at the August meeting.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that Zoom meetings for board leadership members will resume in August. Pennsylvania passed their state budget and SVSD received an increase in the monies received from the state. Senator Judy Schwank has been named a champion of public education. PSBA recently presented her with its Champion of Public Education Award, which recognizes lawmakers for their outstanding support of traditional public schools, which is well-deserved by Senator Schwank. Mrs. Lash received notification from the Keystone Center for Charter Change stating that over a six-year period, four out of fourteen cyber charter schools had graduation rates over 70% which is concerning. The state-wide average for all charter schools, school districts and CTC's was 89%, and Schuylkill Valley's graduation rate is 97%.

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

Mr. Dempsey reported that their last meeting was held on July 20. The foundation has established their website, schuylkillvalleyeducationfoundation/home, and a link is on the district website. Their email address is svsdedfoundation@gmail.com. Coming up next month is their first kickoff event to get information out to the community. It will be held at the Hitching Post on August 18 from 5-7 p.m. Mr. Dempsey introduced a YouTube video featuring Mrs. Courtney Nein, SVEF president, explaining the foundation and its purpose. This was the first year that the foundation was able to provide scholarships to two SV students through the generous contribution of a community member.

**3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

No one addressed the Board.

**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

\*will resume in September

Superintendent's Update

**5.2** Dr. Taschner invited Mrs. Lisa Chillot to the speak about the great things happening with PYEA. Mrs. Chillot is the advisor for PYEA (Pennsylvania Youth Education Association). They are a high school service organization whose main focus is on youth and helping youth at all different levels. Some of their activities include assisting the elementary PTO with babysitting, Someone Special dances, and holiday events including the Salvation Army Angel Tree, with their main focus being the mini-thon. PYEA officers Reagan Rittenhouse and Zoe Merkel were present to discuss PYEA. Miss Rittenhouse was in charge of the events committee for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to helping with elementary events, the club hosts their own events to raise money for the Four Diamonds cancer treatment center in Hershey, PA. They had many successful events in 2021-22, including events for SV students battling cancer, and were able to raise over \$14,000. Mrs. Chillot noted that over the past six years that they've been holding mini-thon, they've been able to raise

over \$47,000. This is not only an outreach program that helps people across the state, but also helps people in our district and she thanked the Board for their continued support.

Dr. Taschner reported that the administrative team has been meeting and preparing an action-packed series of events for our staff as they return to school. Principals are deep in scheduling and also organizing their buildings for the return of our staff and students. She also noted that the custodians have been here each day and are always in good spirits, and they continue to work in an effort to make sure things look great for students and staff. The roof project at the elementary school is moving along and we're starting to clean the hallways and classrooms, and putting ceiling tiles in place. In regard to the Comprehensive Planning Team, we are sending out dates in the coming week and it's not too late to get your name on the list of participants by contacting Mrs. Sue Christman in the Administration Building. Dr. Taschner also noted that many of our new administrators and staff were in attendance at this meeting and she looks forward to their many contributions to the district and our students.

## **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, July 18, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022.

### ***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:**

**6.1.1** Mr. Phillip Kissinger, German and Social Studies Teacher at the Middle and High School, effective September 30, 2022.

#### **6.2 Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:**

**6.2.1** Mrs. Jennifer Boyer, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, effective June 10, 2022.

**6.2.2** Ms. Danielle Sabulsky, Digital Content and Marketing Specialist, effective July 22, 2022.

**6.2.3** Mrs. Judith Strausser, Data Management Secretary, effective July 11, 2022.

**6.2.4** Miss Jade Gery, Kindergarten Teacher at the Elementary School, effective pending release from current assignment.

**6.2.5** Ms. Jessica Cassano, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective June 8, 2022.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Robert Dempsey to accept, with best wishes for the future, the retirement in Item 6.1.1, and the resignations in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.5, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **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** Mr. Adam Bandel, Custodian, at an hourly rate of pay of \$14.00, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Francis Davitt, effective July 18, 2022.
- 6.3.2** Miss Christina Diltz, 5th Grade Teacher at the Middle School, Bachelor's, Step 3, \$54,272, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Jane Sigoda, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.3.3** Ms. Rebecca Johnson, School Psychologist, MS+42, Step 9, \$78,226, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Tara Hoban, effective August 1, 2022.
- 6.3.4** Ms. Abigayle Shin, Spanish Teacher at the Middle School, MS+18, Step 17, \$83,004, to fill the newly created position, effective pending release from current assignment.
- 6.3.5** Employee transfers effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year:

Mrs. Rose Eisenhofer, Food Services Supervisor at the Elementary School to Food Services Supervisor at the High School.

Mr. Phillip Kissinger, Social Studies and German Teacher at the High School to German Teacher at the High School and Middle School.

Mrs. Kim Makosch, Music Teacher at the Middle School to Music Teacher at the High School.

Mrs. Jennifer Mateo, Food Services Supervisor at the Middle School to Food Services Supervisor at the Elementary School.

Mr. Scott Piergrossi, Music Teacher at the High School to Music Teacher at the Middle School.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.5, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.3.6** Summer school teachers at the high school from July 5 through July 28, 2022:

James Fisher – Social Studies

Zane Bachert – Special Education

Christopher Dean – English

Melissa Cherkasky – Math/Science

NOTE: Mr. Bachert is working different dates to accommodate his small group of students.

- 6.3.7** Job Descriptions for the following positions:
- Accounts Payable & Transportation Secretary
  - Accountant
  - Payroll & Taxes Secretary

- 6.3.8** Jonathan Werley - Assistant Boys Soccer Coach - Summer Volunteer

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the employment in Items 6.3.6 through and including 6.3.8, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.3.9** Fall coaches for the 2022-23 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 6.3.9, as presented.**

Mr. Miller stated that it's not that he doesn't support the coaches and their salaries, he actually wants them to get paid more, but he can't support the current motion. He knows it's being remedied for the contract next year. What he would like to see are those parameters applied to this year. For example, if a head coach feels they need extra coaches for any particular reason, right now the only recourse is that the coaches on the staff have to share their salaries to pay those people. He thinks we can afford to pay them what they're supposed to get for their assistant salaries. If those positions are needed we should fund them and that's why he's going to vote against this motion.

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

**Nays: Bendigo, Miller, Rossi**

**Motion carried.**

- 6.4** Approves the employment of the following additional staff for the 2022-23 school year: (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** Dr. Shannon O'Donnell, Principal at the Elementary School, at an annual salary of \$110,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Courtney Maguire, effective pending release from current assignment.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the employment in Item 6.4.1, as presented.**

**Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Miller, Moll, Rossi**

**Abstain: O'Donnell**

**Motion carried.**

- 6.4.2** Ms. Jennifer Gabryluk, Assistant Principal at the Middle School, at an annual salary of \$89,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Candice Kehres, effective pending release from current assignment.
- 6.4.3** Mrs. Toni Crater, Assistant Principal at the High School, at an annual salary of \$94,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Lacey Smey, effective pending release from current assignment.
- 6.4.4** Ms. Jennifer Blessing, 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, transferring from Special Education Teacher at the Elementary School, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Danielle Neuin, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.4.5** Mr. Daniel Savage, 4th Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, Master's, Step 1, \$57,205, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Daniel Shuman, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.4.6** Ms. Taylor Serafin, Kindergarten Teacher at the Elementary School, Bachelor's, Step 4, \$54,827, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Colleen Hodnik, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.4.7** Ms. Jodi Alderfer, German Teacher at the High School, MS+30, Step 23, \$98,098, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Phillip Kissinger, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the employment in Items 6.4.2 through and including 6.4.7, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.4.8** \_\_\_\_\_, Chemistry Teacher at the High School, Bachelor's, \_\_\_\_\_, \$\_\_\_\_\_, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Joanna Miller, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to table Item 6.4.8, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.4.9** Mr. James Fisher, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, Master's, Step 2, \$58,799, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Jeffrey Evans, effective with the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- 6.4.10** Ms. Kristen Wallace, Accountant, at an annual salary of \$75,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Michelle Kauffman, effective date to be determined.
- 6.4.11** Mr. Brad Burrows, Athletic Trainer, at an annual salary of \$75,500, (prorated for actual days worked), effective date to be determined.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the employment in Items 6.4.9 through and including 6.4.11, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.5** Approves the Affiliation Agreement between the Schuylkill Valley School District and the PA Department of Health for the food service rotation internship for Ms. Kathleen Hiltwine Jenkins, from November 7, 2022 to January 13, 2023, as part of her dietetic internship. She will be dividing her time between the Schuylkill Valley School District and a VA facility.
- 6.6** Approves the salary and benefits for non-certified administrative Act 93 employees, for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025.
- 6.7** Approves the non-certified employee compensation plan, for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025.
- 6.8** Approves the confidential employee agreement for Employee #1583.
- 6.9** Approves the second reading and final adoption of new Policy 915: Booster Clubs, as presented.
- 6.10** Approves the purchase of back to school items for district staff.
- 6.11** Approves the Capital Blue Cross Vision 12/10 Plus proposal for the Schuylkill Valley School District for the period of 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 for eligible employees, which reflects the following monthly premiums:



Single	\$5.07
Employee & Spouse	\$10.15
Parent & Child	\$8.52
Parent & Children	\$8.52
Family	\$13.60

**Board Action:** Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Affiliation Agreement between the Schuylkill Valley School District and the PA Department of Health for the food service rotation internship for Ms. Kathleen Hiltwine Jenkins, from November 7, 2022 to January 13, 2023, as part of her dietetic internship. She will be dividing her time between the Schuylkill Valley School District and a VA facility; and to approve the salary and benefits for non-certified administrative Act 93 employees, for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025; and to approve the non-certified employee compensation plan, for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025; and to approve the confidential employee agreement for Employee #1583; and to approve the second reading and final adoption of new Policy 915: Booster Clubs, as presented; and to approve the purchase of back to school items for district staff; and to approve the Capital Blue Cross Vision 12/10 Plus proposal for the Schuylkill Valley School District for the period of 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 for eligible employees, as presented.

**Yeas:** Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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 6:56 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

#### **Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 7.1 Approves the agreement with Diligent Corporation for the purchase of an annual subscription for BoardDocs Pro, effective July 25, 2022, in the amount of \$10,500.00.
- 7.2 Approves the maintenance agreement with CENet Solutions, Inc., for the district's phone equipment maintenance, support, and software assurance from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023, at a cost of \$8,531.40.
- 7.3 Approves the Emergency Instructional Time Template for the 2022-23 school year, per Section 520.1 of the School Code which provides flexibility to meet minimum instructional time requirements in the event of an emergency that prevents a school entity from providing for the attendance of all pupils or usual hours of classes at the school entity.
- 7.4 Approves the proposal from Sapphire Software, for implementation of Azure Active Directory with Sapphire user accounts, at a cost of \$500.
- 7.5 Approves entering into a 60-month lease agreement with Fraser Advanced Information Systems for eight (8) district photocopiers at a monthly cost of \$2,463 (covers maintenance, lease, and print management for eight (8) machines).
- 7.6 Approves the purchase of Souday System resources and teacher training to support Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading intervention for qualifying and special education students, at a cost of \$26,167.50.

Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the agreement with Diligent Corporation for the purchase of an annual subscription for BoardDocs Pro, effective July 25, 2022, in the amount of \$10,500.00; and to approve the maintenance agreement with CENet Solutions, Inc., for the district's phone equipment maintenance, support, and software assurance from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023, at a cost of \$8,531.40; and to approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template for the 2022-23 school year, per Section 520.1 of the School Code which provides flexibility to meet minimum instructional time requirements in the event of an emergency that prevents a school entity from providing for the attendance of all pupils or usual hours of classes at the school entity; and to approve the proposal from Sapphire Software, for implementation of Azure Active Directory with Sapphire user accounts, at a cost of \$500; and to approve entering into a 60-month lease agreement with Fraser Advanced Information Systems for eight (8) district photocopiers at a monthly cost of \$2,463 (covers maintenance, lease, and print management for eight (8) machines); and to approve the purchase of Sonday System resources and teacher training to support Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading intervention for qualifying and special education students, at a cost of \$26,167.50.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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 7:05 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 15, 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 June 13, 2022, to July 26, 2022, as presented.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$1,506,920.47</b>
<b>CAFETERIA FUND</b>	<b>\$21,907.66</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND</b>	<b>\$499,025.24</b>
<b>MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND</b>	<b>\$7,234.31</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,035,987.68</b>

- 8.2 Approves the following meal prices for the 2022-23 school year:

Breakfast: \$1.75 for all buildings, \$2.50 for adults  
 Lunch: \$3.00 for Elementary, \$3.10 for Middle School, \$3.10 for High School,  
 \$4.20 for Adults

- 8.3 Approves the June 2022 budget transfers in the amount of \$1,089,502.

- 8.4 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid interim tax bills dated January 15, 2022, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are forty-five (45) bills totaling \$39,430.97.

- 8.5 Approves the salary increase chart, as presented.



- 8.6 Approves the contract with J. Martin & Associates, LLC, as presented.

Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from June 13, 2022, to July 26, 2022, as presented; and to approve the meal prices for the 2022-23 school year in Item 8.2, as presented; and to approve the June 2022 budget transfers in the amount of \$1,089,502; and to approve exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid interim tax bills dated January 15, 2022, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are forty-five (45) bills totaling \$39,430.97; and to approve the salary increase chart, as presented; and to approve the contract with J. Martin & Associates, LLC, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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 7:32 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

#### **Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 9.1 Approves ratification of the proposal from Klenzoid, Inc., for continuing water treatment services at the elementary, middle and high schools, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, at a cost of \$4,263.00.
- 9.2 Approves the purchase of replacement timbers and 200-300 yards of certified playground mulch to cover the elementary playground area, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the mulch, contractor and timbers.
- 9.3 Approves proposal from Bertolet Construction, LLC, for construction services to repair the catch basin/pipe at the elementary school, at a cost of \$7,500.00.
- 9.4 Approves Change Order #001 for the elementary school roof project authorizing an \$88,400 deduction for Myco Mechanical, Inc., and authorizing R. L. Sensenig Co. to complete the work on the roof curb installation, per the change order request dated July 21, 2022.

**Board Action:** Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve ratification of the proposal from Klenzoid, Inc., for continuing water treatment services at the elementary, middle and high schools, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, at a cost of \$4,263.00; and to approve the purchase of replacement timbers and 200-300 yards of certified playground mulch to cover the elementary playground area, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the mulch, contractor and timbers; and to approve the proposal from Bertolet Construction, LLC, for construction services to repair the catch basin/pipe at the elementary school, at a cost of \$7,500.00; and to approve Change Order #001 for the elementary school roof project authorizing an \$88,400 deduction for Myco Mechanical, Inc., and authorizing R. L. Sensenig Co. to complete the work on the roof curb installation, per the change order request dated July 21, 2022.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.5 Approves Change Order #2-1-103916.0008 in the amount of \$57,318.95. The contractor has indicated that the change order is for the purchase of temporary cooling units.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the Change Order #2-1-103916.0008 in the amount of \$57,318.95. The contractor has indicated that the change order is for the purchase of temporary cooling units.**

Dr. Taschner stated that she invited Mr. Jim Martin, Director of Production, EI Associates, to speak about the change order and some of the circumstances that surround it. Mr. Martin noted that Mr. Marlin Foura, field representative, was also in attendance and that EI Associates are the architect of record. They are doing the field observation for the work that's being done on the elementary school and high school. This is for the HVAC work as well as the roof work, which are two different contracts. You have a group of professionals, Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, who are involved with the HVAC work. EI is doing the observation of the work and they are confirming that the work is being done in a manner consistent with the contract documents and are to notify the district of any deviations from the documents. They don't have any control over or change any of the means, methods or techniques that the contractors are using as well as the schedule. These are subject to the contractors' documents and what they're contracted to do and provide. They have currently been at the site bi-weekly starting in April 2022. They've been at the pre-construction meeting on April 19, and had project meetings on May 19, May 31, June 26, July 12, and there is a meeting scheduled for July 26. They are currently doing daily observation two days per week and they will be doing three days per week starting in August. They have taken a number of photographs and made field observation notes back to the weeks of June 22, June 28, July 1, July 7, and July 15. A number of those have been uploaded to their FTP site and they are available for viewing, and they are documenting the things that are going on.

Mr. Martin stated that the question that's being looked at is the need for temporary cooling units. Going through the documents that SSM has prepared, there is a caveat for temporary cooling. Unfortunately, no one from SSM is available to get into the details of this information, and he's not very well-versed on the exact nomenclature on what we need as far as the tonnage and how many, but they are understanding that the school district does want to have the ability to cool the spaces. With the temperature differentials until the middle of September, it's probably going to need some additional cooling in those spaces. Right now, there is a proposed change to accommodate approximately 40 temporary cooling units, and there is a line item in the form of proposal that they did have a rental fee in there for a 1-ton unit and a 5-ton unit on a weekly rental basis. He doesn't know if the documents had anything in them that specifically identify the duration or what would predicate having those units being needed. With the discussions that have taken place with the contractors, engineers and facilities department, they came up with a plan to be able to provide for air conditioning within those classrooms for this certain period of time which accounts for the \$57,318.95 change order.

Mr. Rossi asked what the original substantial completion date for the contract was and Mr. Martin said he was not sure, but possibly August 15. Mr. Rossi asked what was driving the need for temporary cooling if the substantial completion date is August 15, which is prior to students arriving at school. Mr. Martin stated that he would have to go back to see the contract. He knows there was an alternate bid that extended that to 180 days for substantial completion with 210 for final completion after the notice to proceed, but he does not know the date of the notice to proceed. Mr. Rossi asked if they accepted the alternate option and Mr. Martin confirmed that they did. The school district awarded that additional \$8,000 to reduce the substantial completion time to 180 days with 210 for final completion. Mr. Rossi noted that they chose the alternate to reduce the time of substantial completion which would definitely put the district in a position where we would not need an alternate solution to cool the building. Now we're being told we need to spend \$57,000 to cool the building because now the contract is going to extend into the school year. Mr. Martin stated that he's not sure if that was a supply chain or what that was and he doesn't have the dates.



Mr. Rossi asked about written correspondence that we have from the contractor stating that their business relationship with Trane indicated that supply chain was not an issue for them, even though we raised the question. Mr. Martin stated he understood and unfortunately, without someone from SSM to help with this, he doesn't have all of this information available. Mr. Rossi noted that it looks like the Board needs more information before they can consider this item and Mr. Martin agreed. Mr. Bendigo added that EI is on-site two times per week and it's going to be three times per week starting in August to monitor the work that is being done and Mr. Martin stated this was correct. Mr. Bendigo stated that at the same time Mr. Martin does not know what the requirements are under the contract of when they're supposed to be getting this completed. Mr. Martin stated that he is not the one on-site, but he did not look into the contract dates and was not prepared for that question. Mr. Bendigo asked if Mr. Martin could get this information to the Board on exactly what their requirements are under the contract including what obligation the district has, if we have an obligation, and if not, if it's their obligation and Mr. Martin stated that he would. Mr. Bendigo would like some additional information based on Mr. Martin's experience with these projects, what his interpretation is on who is responsible for this. Mr. Martin noted that during the July 26 scheduled meeting this will be a topic of discussion and they will get this information confirmed. Mr. Rossi added that he would like to mention that it's going to be very important that we adhere to the general conditions of the contract. He did not see a citation of the general conditions as to where they felt that the change had occurred that would enable them to ask for a contract adjustment. Since it seems like the change mostly revolves around a timing issue, he doesn't recall that the change order request had any additional time in the contract. It was hard to get past the additional dollar amount but he doesn't believe he saw a request for a change in timing either, and according to the contract they need to request both if they're going to, and Mr. Martin stated that was correct. Dr. Taschner thanked Mr. Martin for attending the meeting and that they would discuss this matter further at the July 26 meeting.

Mr. Moll noted that based on the discussion in regard in Item 9.5, would Mr. Bendigo and Mr. Rossi, who made the motion and seconded the motion, agree to rescind their approval, and they agreed.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to table Item 9.5, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.6 Approves the electric commodity hedging agreement, in consultation with Direct Energy, for the purchase of the electric commodity portion of the district's electric bill.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the electric commodity hedging agreement, in consultation with Direct Energy, for the purchase of the electric commodity portion of the district's electric bill.**

Dr. Taschner noted that we were fortunate enough when we first locked-in to be at three cents. Obviously as things have been changing, our contract ends at the end of July and we need to again have the authority from the Board to lock-in at a rate so that we don't end up on the daily rate. It will be whatever the rate is and Mr. Blankenbiller will take care of this on July 26.

**Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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 8:03 on Monday, July 18, 2022, in the Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 10.1** Approves the overnight athletic trips for the 2022-23 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the overnight athletic trips for the 2022-23 school year, with the exception of the Williamsport Tournament and the Bethlehem Catholic Tournament, and to look for alternatives to these two tournaments.**

Mr. Miller stated that he asked for this to be a separate vote due to two particular trips, both involving wrestling which isn't until the winter season. One trip is to Williamsport and he has concerns about the expense it takes to run a bus to Williamsport for an overnight trip. The other trip is to Bethlehem. He thinks both of these trips can easily be replaced and he would like the Board to look at this especially in light of current expenses. We just talked about paying our coaches more and here's where we could save a lot of money on these trips and we could direct it toward the coaches pay. This is why he's going to vote no on Item 10.1. Mr. Rossi asked if there were similar local tournaments that would serve this purpose. Mr. Miller stated that Governor Mifflin runs an outstanding holiday tournament. Mr. Moll asked if Mr. Miller would like to amend the motion to exclude the Williamsport and Bethlehem trips and Mr. Miller stated he'd be happy to do that. Mr. Moll stated that these tournaments could always be brought up at a later date. The motion would eliminate the two high school wrestling trips to Williamsport on December 2-3 and to Bethlehem on December 27-28. Mr. Rossi added that it should be to reschedule alternatives that offer the same opportunities as these may be scouting events for our seniors. Mr. Bendigo asked if it was crucial that this be approved in July or can it be revisited by the Athletic Department.

Dr. Taschner asked Miss Deibler to speak to this topic. Miss Deibler stated that the Williamsport Tournament is probably one of the top tournaments in the state. Some of our wrestlers will struggle a little bit with that, but it shows the kids where they need to be if they want to qualify for districts and states. It does give them an opportunity to see teams from outside our area. We do not take a bus to this tournament, but certainly transportation everywhere is something that we look at. They go in two vans and in the past, it's been a nice experience as they stay at the little league complex. They could look at other opportunities if that's what the Board wishes. The Bethlehem tournament last year was less than an hour's drive and we used vans. Last year they ran it as a one-day tournament so the students went up in the morning and came home at night. When Miss Deibler prepared the list, she listed everything that had been done in the past so that the Board had a comprehensive list. Mr. Miller added that this is not a topic that just came up, this is something that we've been talking about and it's something that he's discussed with the head coach as well. Williamsport is a brutal tournament and most of our kids will be knocked out in the first day. We're talking about an extremely long trip and when we're looking at that, yes, a few student athletes may benefit from that level of competition however that is totally outside of District III. This is why he feels that it's a trip that is unnecessary. He thinks you have a little more to stand on as far as supporting the Bethlehem tournament, even though he thinks the Governor Mifflin tournament is far superior to the Bethlehem tournament. He thinks it's prudent for us to take a look at options, and we may be under contract and we would have to ask in order to be released from them. Mr. Moll asked Miss Deibler if we pulled those two trips out in July, would that give enough time to do some research and come back in August and either keep us in these tournaments or come up with alternatives. Miss Deibler stated that she would advocate to continue with the Bethlehem Catholic tournament because it's not that far and the students will see other Berks County teams at the individual tournament and the team tournament. They are in District 11 so they're included within our region when the kids advance post-districts to regionals, so they'll get a heads-up on some teams depending on who shows up. They can certainly look for a new opening tournament with

Williamsport but she would advocate to keep Bethlehem Catholic. Dr. Taschner asked Miss Deibler if the Board tables this item and approves it in August, will there still be enough time to have the teams registered and Miss Deibler stated they would be okay with that. Some of the trips listed are post-season trips contingent on student athletes/teams qualifying. Mr. Moll stated that the list would exclude the two wrestling trips in December until we look for alternative tournaments. Mr. Rossi reiterated that as we look at other tournaments that might be a little more local, we do want to consider scouting exposure that some of our top athletes might have, but we should look at the costs. Dr. Taschner stated this would come back to the Board at the August meeting after they do a little bit of work.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.2** Approves the proposal from New Solutions K12 for a complete audit of the district's systems, processes and services that support students with disabilities and students experiencing learning loss, in the amount of \$120,000 (includes transportation and travel).
- 10.3** Approves the contract for athletic training and school physician services, as presented.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the proposal from New Solutions K12 for a complete audit of the district's systems, processes and services that support students with disabilities and students experiencing learning loss, in the amount of \$120,000 (includes transportation and travel); and to approve the contract for athletic training and school physician services, as presented.**

Dr. Taschner thanked St. Luke's and Penn State, both of whom have reached out to be a part of this consideration for the athletic training and school physician services. We are going with Penn State's offer and we appreciate the good business we've had with their physicians and what we've been able to do. We also appreciate very much St. Luke's continuing to reach out and be a partner with the school district in many other ways. She thanked both and stated that they will be recommending Penn State.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.4 Other (Old/New Business)**  
Mrs. Kleffel noted that Hayley Reichardt, SV graduate, won a gold medal in women's weightlifting at the 2022 Pan Am Games. Mr. Miller added that Jake Horst, SV graduate, competes on July 26.
- 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 Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

July 25, 2022

  
Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors