

March 28, 2022

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

**MINUTES**

**March 28, 2022**

- 1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room 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  
  
Treasurer: John L. Reedy  
  
Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman  
  
Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Janet Heilman, Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Stephanie Deibler, Candice Kehres, John Reedy, Lacey Smey, Jason Williams
- 1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 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 in executive session on February 28, 2022, for real estate and personnel matters, and on March 21, 2022, for real estate matters.
- 1.5 RECOGNITION**  
The Board was pleased to honor our winter athletes and commended them on their many accomplishments for the season. Attending the meeting were members from the girls basketball team, girls bowling team, cheerleading team and girls swimming team. Our girls basketball team were the Division III champions and also qualified for the BCIAA and District III play-offs. The girls bowling team were Division III champions and also qualified for the BCIAA tournament, with two individuals qualifying for the regional tournament. The high school cheerleading team were the division runners-up in the county, a District III PIAA qualifier and PIAA semi-finalist. Also, in the Reach the Beach National Championship they were division champions and were also awarded overall school high score. The girls swimming team were the Division III champions for the sixth straight year, had multiple Division III individual and relay champions, and for the first time in school history they finished as the PIAA state champions as a team. We also had the 200-relay finish as state champions. Congratulations to all of our winter athletes!
- 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 Dr. Hackman's evaluation is due at this time. There was a cyber security presentation at the meeting on March 17 in regard to cyber attacks which are a \$6 trillion business. The Annie Sullivan award has 14 nominees this year and the ceremony will take place at the BCIU on April 6. The BCIU hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual STEM Design Challenge which took place on March 11. Schuylkill Valley had a middle school entry, *Some Assembly Required*, which tied for fan favorite along with Twin Valley. They also had a presentation on teacher shortages which are pretty much across the state and country. This issue developed almost a decade ago and was exacerbated by the pandemic. The most needed teachers are special education, substitutes, secondary math, science, speech therapists, and school psychologists. Their next meeting is on April 21 which is also the BCIU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Press Event.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that their last meeting was on March 23. They were awarded several grants that they had applied for including \$131,000 to be used for welding and precision machining, and another for \$50,000 to be used in Recreational and Power Equipment Technology, Auto Collision, and Homeland Security. They also received an ESSER grant of \$1,087,156 which will be used to purchase and install new chillers for the east and west campuses. They had three BCTC juniors that went to states and placed third in the SkillsUSA Welding Fabrication State competition including SV juniors Clayton Kunkleman and Andrew Teprovič. Also, on Friday, March 25, Dr. Taschner and some of our Board members toured the BCTC West campus.

**2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll**

Mr. Moll stated that their quarterly meeting will be held on March 31.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that at their Zoom meeting held on March 15, Mr. Callahan mentioned there are a lot of school choice legislation bills being formed and this is something we'll need to consider when school choice bills come through. Also, the state game commission pays a PILT for land they own in school districts, counties and townships. The school lunch waiver is set to expire on June 30 and there is an attempt to extend it. Mrs. Lash has seen quite a few things come through about extending it for another year, however she doesn't know how far this will go. In addition, they discussed how to motivate students to become education majors. PA Advocacy Day will be held at the state Capitol in Harrisburg on April 25.

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

Mr. Dempsey reported that they are focusing on getting information out to the public via Facebook and also an SVEF website, with a plan to have their website linked to the district's website. They continue to work on the paperwork for the EITC which are the tax exemption forms that would go to businesses so that the foundation could solicit money from them. Their next meeting is on April 20. Mr. Dempsey has asked Courtney Nein, SVEF President, if she would attend a future Board meeting to provide more information.

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

Daniel Yobb, Ontelaunee Township – Mask Mandates / CNN in Classrooms  
Heather Yobb, Ontelaunee Township – Learning Management System  
Greg Drake, Centre Township – Google Drive vs. OneDrive  
Kelly Steinke, Bern Township – Learning Management System  
Emily Calaman, Centre Township – Google Suite Removal  
Howard Emerson, Bern Township – FID Days / Google Drive vs. OneDrive

**4.0 BOARD**

Student Discipline

4.1 The Board is requested to consider and approve the release and waiver of expulsion hearing before the Board of School Directors for Student #2696.

4.2 The Board is requested to consider and approve the release and waiver of expulsion hearing before the Board of School Directors for Student #5292.

4.3 The Board is requested to consider and approve the release and waiver of hearing agreement for Student #4218.

**Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the release and waiver of expulsion hearing before the Board of School Directors for Student #2696; and to approve the release and waiver of expulsion hearing before the Board of School Directors for Student #5292; and to approve the release and waiver of hearing agreement for Student #4218.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Settlement Agreement and Release

4.4 The Board is requested to consider and approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #5030, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #5030, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**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 thanked everyone that attended the meeting and for taking time to be there to show their concern about what is happening in the school district. She also encouraged everyone to come out and support our students by attending the Panthers-On-Parade presentation of *The SpongeBob Musical* on April 1 and April 2.

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

Dr. Taschner thanked everyone that had reached out to Mr. Billman and Dr. Heilman regarding the Learning Management System. She asked Mr. Billman and Dr. Heilman to address some of the concerns that people have heard and also to answer any questions that the Board might have.

Mr. Billman stated that some concerns have come up as we're proposing making the transition to Schoology and they'd like to address those concerns. As we look at going from Google Classroom to a learning management system using Schoology, we've gone through change before and it does take time. The IT department has supported our teachers, students and families during the transition to a 1:1 program, as well as throughout the pandemic. He wanted to address why we are moving from Google Drive to OneDrive which is for security, maintaining and supporting multiple platforms, and duplication. We are currently using OneDrive which we migrated to a few years ago, and teachers and staff all have access to OneDrive. It keeps information secure by limiting the ability to share sensitive student information which is an issue using Google Drive. Using OneDrive will provide one central location for access to student information. At this time, we have Google Drive and OneDrive, all staff are using Microsoft for their email, and most document management is through Microsoft. Teachers are using Google Drive to make content available to students which causes duplication of efforts as teachers have to move content from one place to the other. Therefore, since OneDrive can address these concerns, the district will be moving to using OneDrive. While we're transitioning, the district will continue to allow access to Google Drive until such time as everyone is comfortable in using Schoology. As we make the transition, they will provide parallel access to both Google Drive and OneDrive and both platforms will continue to be supported as we go through this process.

Mr. Billman explained the difference between Google Drive and Google Classroom. Google Drive is where teachers are saving their work, and Google Classroom is where students access teacher-made content that is created in Google Drive. Teacher-made content using Schoology will be stored by teachers and accessed by students. Therefore, both teachers and students will be working in Schoology rather than Google Drive. The Schoology integration allows teachers and students to be able to access their content within the Schoology Learning Management System. Dr. Heilman stated that the district will not be shutting down the Google Drive on June 30. District administration will work with the teachers and offer them an opportunity to use Google Drive in parallel with OneDrive until such time that the teachers are comfortable with the changes that have been made, and also offer them support during this time. Mr. Billman addressed why the district is moving to Schoology and away from Google Classroom. Schoology is a learning management system and teachers are able to create content within Schoology, access course content on one landing page and create and grade on-line assessments. When assessments are created in Schoology, they can then be auto-graded and the grades will automatically go into the Schoology gradebook, which then communicates and syncs to our Sapphire gradebook where students' reports cards and high school transcripts are stored. This is all done automatically for teachers and is a time-saving measure. In the current Google environment, those quizzes that are made in Google Forms have to be imported or manually moved by the teacher each time they grade a Google Form. Teachers are able to set up assessments in Schoology that are auto-graded and can be shared among the groups of teachers. In the selection of Schoology, one of the most important things was that it will synchronize with the Sapphire gradebook which teachers have been using for some time at Schuylkill Valley.

Dr. Heilman noted that one of the concerns from the past week was that the communication of the learning management system could be better. In response to that, they will be adding some additional teachers to their virtual learning planning committee. They will also be creating a sharepoint for our teachers where they are able to ask questions and which will be on-going. In addition, there will be bi-weekly updates to the teaching staff so they are aware of the changes moving forward.

Mr. Mertz asked if teachers would be able to transfer documents from Google or would they need to be redone. Mr. Billman stated that with the transfer from Google Drive to OneDrive you can migrate the responses that students provide which would have the questions. One of the things that he's been tasked with is how can we streamline this process, take that information and provide it to teachers so that they will be able to create the assessments in Schoology with as much ease as possible so that they don't need to go through the process of recreating every existing quiz and form. Google does not provide a direct way to migrate that and there's not a

compatibility between what Google provides to Microsoft. They are trying to work through this by reverse engineering that so we can take the data from teachers and add it to Schoology and make it as seamless as possible. One of the ways they are addressing this is by providing continued access to Google Drive and supporting both platforms as we make the transition to Schoology. Dr. Taschner added that teachers are using Google Forms, however because Google Classroom was not a learning management system, Google Forms gave teachers the ability to put the question in and have it graded automatically. The Google Form cannot be migrated directly into Microsoft's version of forms. We wouldn't want to do this anyway as you'd want to have a way for that question and answer to be put directly into Schoology so that it could be auto-graded and dropped into the gradebook. Teachers have numerous quizzes that are auto-graded, and taking the time to put that into the learning management system will not happen overnight. It's a programming issue and you'd need a programmer to reverse engineer the form so you could take it and put it into a document that could be imported into Schoology. They could also link the Google Form (if Google Drive stays open) in Schoology. Mr. Moll asked if the issue is really going to OneDrive versus Google Drive and that was confirmed. Mr. Billman reiterated that we would look to hire a programmer to take the content from the Google Form and have it imported into Schoology. Mr. Moll asked if this programming expertise exists and are other people using it, or it is something we're hoping to get. Mr. Rossi added that it seems like we should figure that step out first.

Mrs. Lash noted that from the presentation given on March 21, she thought this would be an easy transition and that the material that the teacher has now will be the same on the learning management system. There was never any mention of having to hire someone to do the step to make that happen. She asked if the goal was that everyone be on the new format for the 2022-23 school year and also, does Mr. Billman have enough time in the day for him and his team to transition all of the information over for the teachers. She also asked if we are concentrating on getting this information to our teachers that have virtual learning or is everyone going to be on the same timeframe. Mr. Billman answered that in regard to the transition from Google Drive to OneDrive, there's not a specific date set. It's based on where our teachers are and that they're able to have the content they need in Schoology to be able to do what they need to do each and every day. We have successfully beta-tested the transfer of Google Documents, Google Slides, and Google Sheets from Google Drive to Microsoft One Drive to ensure that the transfer (migration) can be done timely. This included the testing response sheets generated from Google Forms to ensure access to those documents. Mr. Rossi asked if when they tested that and transferred them, did they look the same or did they function the same. Mr. Billman answered that they looked and functioned the same. Schoology has the OneDrive Assignment App where teachers will provide the students an assignment, they will upload a Word document, and within Schoology, they can assign the document to students. The students will then complete that assignment and submit it within Schoology. They do not have to leave and go out to their OneDrive. This allows teachers and students to have one place to access their assignments. Mr. Billman added that the migration of the data can be scheduled to run on weekends or overnight and they can be scheduled in advance. Also, all students whether in-person or virtual will be utilizing the Schoology learning management system and the platform across all grade levels will be uniform and provide consistency for teachers, students and families. Mrs. Lash noted that teachers having virtual learners would need to have their materials in Schoology for the beginning of the school year.

Mrs. Kleffel asked about changing a grade and how that would be handled in the system. She also noted that she's glad to hear we're going to have a support group to work through this with our teachers, but what are we going to do for our students as this will be new for them to learn as well. Mr. Billman stated that as teachers make changes to grades, there is a "sync with Sapphire" button in Schoology which pushes the updated grade to Sapphire immediately and is then available to the student. It will also do automatic nightly grade syncs from Schoology to Sapphire. Part of the process in looking at Schoology was reaching out to other schools that have already made the transition and collecting information in regard to student and parent access to Schoology. Schoology has great resources available and we will be communicating to families how Schoology works, how their child will be able to access Schoology, and also how the parent

will access Schoology. In addition, Mr. Billman's staff will be trained to provide support and resources to support students and families as well as teachers. Mr. Miller agreed with Mr. Rossi that the steps need to be in place and the communication needs to be much quicker to everyone else as those steps are put in place. He would hope that if we don't have that reverse engineering solution then we have the option of Google Drive still being available. Mr. Billman confirmed that was correct. Mr. Rossi noted that we have the reverse engineering problem on the teachers' side and on the IT side we have a security issue, and asked which one is easier to solve. Dr. Taschner stated that Mr. Billman may need some time to answer that question. Mr. Bendigo stated that his main concern is the transition plan, how long it will last and including benchmarks. When we implemented the 1:1 program, it was done by grade. He asked if it was anticipated that this would be completed district-wide at one time or is there any way where it can be done in steps so that Mr. Billman and his staff are not over-taxed with the amount of work. Mr. Billman answered that the migration process would be in the coming weeks. There is no data loss and nothing is removed from the Google Drive, it just copies the data. This is all happening while the Google Drive is available to teachers. It will allow them to see their content from Google Drive and to work through those things before we get into the next school year. Mr. Bendigo asked what training time is required for the teachers. Dr. Heilman stated there will be several trainings that will happen this year. Schoology has training components, there will be train-the-trainer to allow for in-house trainers, and there is also help desk support. Mr. Bendigo asked if it's easier to train the teachers in the virtual academy first and work out any bugs there before we try to place it on the entire district. Dr. Heilman stated that she believes with what we have in place we can train the teachers at the same time. Mr. Dempsey added that it seems that the solution is to maintain both the OneDrive and Google Drive unless there are some major drawbacks or concerns with doing that, and since the cost is around \$5,000 to maintain the Google Drive. He believes it's premature, based on what he's heard, that enough people haven't had input into making this decision for him to make a decision on adopting this. He thinks we need to take a step back, think about what we're doing and talk about it some more. Mr. Billman stated that in regard to Schoology and the integration with Sapphire, the proposal for this does not include anything about Google Drive to One Drive. This is a discussion item and not part of what is proposed to be approved at this meeting. Schoology is a well-utilized learning management system in many areas of K-12 education, and there are many districts that use Schoology and Sapphire. It is important to stay on the timeline and work on the implementation for the 2022-23 school year as it takes at least twelve weeks. This involves getting all of the back end set up and this is the work that he'll be doing. Discussions around Google Drive to OneDrive can be ongoing, but the implementation of Schoology and the integration with Sapphire needs to stay on track to be successful.

Mr. Moll stated that we need to look at how we roll this out and get more input from the teachers. The biggest concern seems to be what happens to everything on Google Drive. If it was originally communicated that we have a year to get everything done, from hearing all this we don't have a year to get it done, we'll get it done when we get it done. We have to look at all the pieces and it does impact on our virtual academy and we need to get all those things figured out with a plan. If we want to continue with Schoology, it doesn't mean we're getting rid of anything else, but it allows us to proceed with that step. Dr. Taschner will have the committee expanded appropriately and also have a monthly Board update.

## **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, March 21, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 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 resignations due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2021-22 school term unless otherwise noted:

6.1.1 Mr. Matthew Cullen, Technology Education Teacher at the High School.

6.1.2 Mr. Jeffrey Evans, Social Studies Teacher at the High School.

6.1.3 Mrs. Colleen Hodnik, Kindergarten Teacher at the Elementary School.

6.1.4 Ms. Marilyn Houghton, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the High School.

6.1.5 Ms. LisBeth Schreiber, Special Education Teacher at the High School.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to accept with best wishes for the future, the resignations due to retirement in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.5, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

6.2.1 Miss Tara Hoban, School Psychologist at the High School and Middle School, effective on or before April 28, 2022.

6.2.2 Ms. Rachel Chaveas, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective March 29, 2022.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to accept the resignations in Items 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, as presented.**

**Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, 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 Ms. Aimee Prosser, Part-Time Food Services Worker, 4 hours a day at an hourly rate of \$11.00, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Caitlin Dieffenbach, effective March 14, 2022.

6.3.2 Mrs. Melissa Schmauch, Full-Time ELL Paraprofessional at all buildings, at an hourly rate of \$12.39, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Juliana Fernandes Andrade, effective March 14, 2022.

6.3.3 Additional bus driver utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2021-22 school year:  
- Ms. Sharon Ritchie

6.3.4 Substitute for the 2021-22 school year:  
- Ms. Debra Hettinger, Paraprofessional

6.3.5 Jordan Hottenstein, D.D.S., school dentist at an annual fee of \$80 for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.3.6 Dr. Angela Zawisza, school physician at an hourly rate of \$130 for the 2021-22 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.6, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.3.7 Panthers-On-Parade salaries for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.3.8 Additional Spring coaches for the 2021-22 school year:  
- Baseball Junior High Assistant Coach - Mr. Alex Link - \$550  
- Baseball High School Assistant Coach - J. Taylor Campbell - Volunteer

- 6.3.9 Ms. Pamela Washington, Kindergarten, Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Elementary School, Master's, Step 1, \$55,955 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Meghan O'Donnell, effective date to be determined, through the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.3.10 Community aquatics staff for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.3.11 Ms. Wendy Lane, homebound instructor for Student #4930, at the professional hourly rate of \$27.00 per the SVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement, for five hours per week for five weeks. Instruction is scheduled for March 21, 2022 through April 29, 2022.

- 6.3.12 Ms. Patricia Kramer, English Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the High School, Master's, Step 1, \$55,955 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Paige Figueroa, effective date to be determined, through the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.3.13 Mrs. Lindsay Benulis, School Psychologist, MS+6, Step 5, \$62,488 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Lisa Krockner, effective pending release from current assignment. Note: Pending verification of salary placement and offer.

- 6.3.14 Salary correction for Mrs. Sallie Gigliotti, Special Education Long-Term Substitute at the Middle School, from Bachelor's, Step 1, \$50,803, to Master's, Step 1, \$55,955, for two assignments totaling 106 cumulative days worked, amount owed is \$2,904.85.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 6.3.7 through and including 6.3.14, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.3.15 Mrs. Alicia Zettlemoyer, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, 6 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$13.94, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Christine Wentzel, effective April 4, 2022.

- 6.3.16 Additional bus aide utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2021-22 school year:  
- Nurudeen Adeojo

- 6.3.17 Volunteer for the 2021-22 school year:  
- Amber Blatt



**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the employment in Items 6.3.15 through and including 6.3.17, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.4 Approves the leave of absence for Ms. Jessica Cassano, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective March 14, 2022, through March 29, 2022.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Approves the revised organizational charts, as presented.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the leave of absence for Ms. Jessica Cassano, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective March 14, 2022, through March 29, 2022; 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; and to approve the revised organizational charts, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.7 Approves the contract for Independent Educational Evaluation Services for Student #4264, as presented, per Policy 113.
- 6.8 Approves the leave of absence for Mrs. Corie Kehr, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective March 8, 2022, through April 1, 2022.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the contract for Independent Educational Evaluation Services for Student #4264, as presented, per Policy 113; and to approve the leave of absence for Mrs. Corie Kehr, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective March 8, 2022, through April 1, 2022.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## 7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

### *Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller*

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 6:47 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

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

- 7.1 Approves the agreement with PowerSchool Group LLC, for the Schoology Learning Management System effective March 29, 2022 through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$11,054.79 for implementation, and an annual cost of \$12,250.00, with an annual uplift not to exceed five percent (5%).

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the agreement with PowerSchool Group LLC, for the Schoology Learning Management System effective March 29, 2022 through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$11,054.79 for implementation, and an annual cost of \$12,250.00, with an annual uplift not to exceed five percent (5%).**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.2 Approves the agreement with Sapphire Software for the Schoology Integration, at a cost of \$150.00 for data setup and automation, and an annual cost of \$1,025.00.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the agreement with Sapphire Software for the Schoology Integration, at a cost of \$150.00 for data setup and automation, and an annual cost of \$1,025.00.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.3 Approves the Telecommunications Services Order Form for 2022-23 with the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU), effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for high-speed broadband network service and internet services as part of the Berks County Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN), at a projected cost of \$2,522.95 per month.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the Telecommunications Services Order Form for 2022-23 with the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU), effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for high-speed broadband network service and internet services as part of the Berks County Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN), at a projected cost of \$2,522.95 per month.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.4 Approves the two-year agreement for contracting of services with the BCIU, to provide basic and special education to students incarcerated in the Berks County Jail System, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the two-year agreement for contracting of services with the BCIU, to provide basic and special education to students incarcerated in the Berks County Jail System, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.**

**Roll Call Vote**

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

**Nays: Rossi, Bendigo, Mertz, O'Donnell**

**Motion carried.**

- 7.5 Approves the legal services consultation agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams LLP, for the 2022-23 school year, at a cost of \$10,000.00, to be used for special education matters.

- 7.6 Approves the service provider contract with Malvern Academy from March 2022 through June 2022, at the per diem rate of \$200.
- 7.7 Approves the Scholastic Author Appearance Confirmation with Amy Sarig King for an in-person appearance at the middle school to conduct two presentations (grades 5/6 and 7/8) on April 7, 2022. The appearance is being hosted by the middle school student council and will be paid through the middle school student activity funds.

**Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the legal consultation agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams LLP, for the 2022-23 school year, at a cost of \$10,000.00, to be used for special education matters; and to approve the service provider contract with Malvern Academy from March 2022 through June 2022, at the per diem rate of \$200; and to approve the Scholastic Author Appearance Confirmation with Amy Sarig King for an in-person appearance at the middle school to conduct two presentations (grades 5/6 and 7/8) on April 7, 2022. The appearance is being hosted by the middle school student council and will be paid through the middle school student activity funds.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.8 Approves the request from Dr. Elizabeth Schucker to conduct a research study at the middle school, as presented.

**Mr. Moll requested that Item 7.8 be tabled.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE**

***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo***

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:51 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 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 February 1, 2022, to March 29, 2022, as presented.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$1,370,019.04</b>
<b>CAFETERIA FUND</b>	<b>\$55,924.80</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>	<b>\$7,431.19</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND</b>	<b>\$1,168.32</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,434,543.35</b>

- 8.2 Approves the Tax Collection Agreements for the district tax collectors effective January 1, 2022, as follows:

Jami Jamison	Bern Township
Darlene Savage	Centerport Borough

Beth Showalter	Centre Township
Mary Jane Lauser	Leesport Borough
Sharon Sweigert	Ontelaunee Township

- 8.3 Approves the Berks Career and Technology Center budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$20,312,217; Schuylkill Valley's member share is \$707,360 and \$110,534 for special needs.
- 8.4 Approves the February 2022 budget transfers in the amount of \$105,478.
- 8.5 Approves accepting a grant from the Reading Symphony Orchestra and the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, in the amount of \$500.00, to replenish existing Board approved curricular resources, classroom resources and educational materials for the Holocaust unit at the middle school.
- 8.6 Approves accepting a donation from the SVHS Class of 1970, in the amount of \$625.00.
- 8.7 Approves approve accepting a donation from the Souper Bowl Fundraiser/Conner A. Kleffel Memorial Foundation, in the amount of \$1,000.00, for the Conner Kleffel Scholarship fund.

**Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from February 1, 2022, to March 29, 2022, as presented; and to approve the tax collection agreements in Item 8.2, as presented; and to approve the Berks Career and Technology Center budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$20,312,217; Schuylkill Valley's member share is \$707,360 and \$110,534 for special needs; and to approve the February 2022 budget transfers in the amount of \$105,478; and to approve accepting a grant from the Reading Symphony Orchestra and the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, in the amount of \$500.00, to replenish existing Board approved curricular resources, classroom resources and educational materials for the Holocaust unit at the middle school; and to approve accepting a donation from the SVHS Class of 1970, in the amount of \$625.00; and to approve accepting a donation from the Souper Bowl Fundraiser/ Conner A. Kleffel Memorial Foundation, in the amount of \$1,000.00, for the Conner Kleffel Scholarship fund.**

**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 8:21 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

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

- 9.1 Approves the Schuylkill Valley campus to be used for 2022 National Night Out on August 2, 2022, as requested by the Northern Berks Regional Police Department, and to waive the facility usage fees, pending receipt of the online Use of School Facilities information.
- 9.2 Approves the district's Ontelaunee Township Discharge Permit 25-2022 to be notarized for completion of the permit process.

- 9.3 Approves stopping design work and re-evaluate the entire scope of the pool project to include a review by the district's approved architect of record, and provide appropriate notice to Integrated Aquatics that the district intends to terminate the proposal and services in the proposal.
- 9.4 Approves terminating the access road project and to provide notification of termination of project to contractors, as needed.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the Schuylkill Valley campus to be used for 2022 National Night Out on August 2, 2022, as requested by the Northern Berks Regional Police Department, and to waive the facility usage fees, pending receipt of the online Use of School Facilities information; and to approve the district's Ontelaunee Township Discharge Permit 25-2022 to be notarized for completion of the permit process; and to approve stopping design work and re-evaluate the entire scope of the pool project to include a review by the district's approved architect of record, and provide appropriate notice to Integrated Aquatics that the district intends to terminate the proposal and services in the proposal; and to approve terminating the access road project and to provide notification of termination of project to contractors, as needed.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Reedy and Mr. Blankenbiller provided an update on the HVAC project bid. Mr. Reedy stated they had a bid opening on March 24 for the high school and elementary school HVAC project. Three areas were bid which are general, electrical and HVAC. They are recommending the alternate bid which would have substantial completion for the project in 180 days after the notice to proceed, with final completion at 210 days. If everything moves through as quickly as planned, we're looking at September 15 for a substantially complete date. The alternate bid is an additional \$8,000 across all three contracts. If there is any work after August 25, the contractors will work second shift to minimize disruption at the elementary school. The bid winners include Balton Construction for general construction - \$1,667,679; Shanna A. Smith, Inc. for electrical - \$384,446; and Myco Mechanical, Inc. for HVAC - \$4,077,000, for a total project cost of \$6,129,125. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that TRANE has worked with Myco Mechanical on various jobs. He explained the areas of the buildings that will be impacted by this project. The high school is having air handlers removed and rooftop units replaced including the auditorium, library, cafeteria, kitchen, shipping/receiving, auxiliary gym and weight room. There will be 14 units going on the roof to cover those areas at the high school. The elementary school has 8 rooftop units going in with one covering the LGI, two for the gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, and a console ceiling unit system for the ES main office and the nurse's suite. The elementary school has about 80 pieces of equipment being modified, changed or replaced. There will be 1,200 control points that need to be wired in as part of the project. Mr. Moll added that to move on this project we will have a special board meeting on Wednesday, March 30. Mr. Bendigo asked if there was a penalty for the contractors not meeting the 180 days and Dr. Taschner confirmed that there was a penalty. Mr. Bendigo asked if this completes all of the HVAC projects in all of the buildings. Mr. Blankenbiller answered that next summer we would have the high school classroom units and all the ancillary equipment that are primarily heat only. This will complete what we had anticipated from the bond issue.

**10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel***

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 8:36 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022.

**Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration**

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

- 10.1 Approves the name change and scope of the Extracurricular Activities Committee to include Student Services. The proposed new Committee name is "Student Services and Activities Committee."
- 10.2 Approves donation of a bench adjacent to the high school softball field in memory of Sharon Rittenhouse. NOTE: There is an anonymous donor who will pay any district costs.
- 10.3 Approves the Panthers-On-Parade Cast Field Trip to New York City on May 18, 2022, to attend a Broadway musical and tour the Museum of Modern Art.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the name change and scope of the Extracurricular Activities Committee to include Student Services. The proposed new Committee name is *Student Services and Activities Committee*; and to approve the donation of a bench adjacent to the high school softball field in memory of Sharon Rittenhouse. NOTE: There is an anonymous donor who will pay any district costs; and to approve the Panthers-On-Parade Cast Field Trip to New York City on May 18, 2022, to attend a Broadway musical and tour the Museum of Modern Art.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Mertz asked if the reading of the Board agenda, unless there's an addendum, could be abbreviated at Board meetings, as these items are reviewed in detail at committee meetings.

**12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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


**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by George Mertz, 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 9:38 p.m.

  
Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors