

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

MINUTES

January 24, 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, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Michelle Kauffman (not present)

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Dr. Janet Heilman, Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill, Lacey Smey, Jason Williams
- 1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2021, the reorganization/regular meeting of December 6, 2021, the special meeting of December 15, 2021, and the special meeting of January 5, 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 January 10, 2022, for personnel matters, real estate and litigation.
- 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 on Thursday, January 20 via Zoom. The BCIU budget will be forthcoming and there is no increase to the district's share of the budget. This is the sixth year in a row that there has been no increase and we have until the end of April to accept their budget. The BCIU is hiring a new safety officer, Mr. Del Rosario, to replace Mr. Bill Gleason, who has accepted a position at another district. House Bill 412 was recently passed into law as Act 91 of 2021 which allows for substitute teacher flexibility. It expands the number of individuals eligible to substitute in public schools as schools can use eligible college students and recent

graduates of education programs as substitutes. It also allows them to hire someone who is a PSERS retiree as a day-to-day substitute without first offering the day-to-day substitute employment to a non-PSERS retiree by following certain guidelines. They also discussed state broadband development. The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority will consist of an 11-member governing board charged with creating a statewide broadband plan and distributing grant money for broadband expansion projects in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The state is expected to receive at least \$100 million in federal funds. Another topic was the bus driver shortage at the BCIU and that they've hired a different company for some of their special education runs. In addition, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is giving states the option of waiving the portion of the commercial driver's license (CDL) skills test that required applicants to identify the "under the hood" engine components, but Pennsylvania is not lowering their standards for bus drivers. Also, there will be a COLA meeting at the BCIU on February 8.

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

Mr. Moll reported that the BCTC is looking for a replacement for their business manager as Mr. John Reedy will be joining the Schuylkill Valley staff at the end of January. They also discussed having transportation come back to the home districts versus staying at the BCTC, however, if they do this they would have to change their charter.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll stated that the next quarterly meeting will be in March.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash and Mr. Moll attended the PSBA Zoom call on January 11 which was in regard to school board training. Mrs. Lash also attended the monthly meeting on January 18 which was a legislative platform meeting. They discussed member concerns regarding cyber charter schools and the expenses related to these schools. Mrs. Lash noted that the longest serving Pennsylvania School Board member is from Elk Lake School District in Susquehanna County and has served for 60 years.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mr. Dempsey reported that the foundation has made significant progress over the last few months. They have elected the following officers: President – Courtney Nein; Vice President – Jessica Holden; Treasurer – Tom Gwiazdowski; Secretary – Angela Lassandro. Current board members include Lisa Chillot, Christine Wysocki, Lauren Matthews and Jay Melvin (former SV School Board member). It has also established their mission statement: *The Schuylkill Valley Education Foundation exists to fund opportunities and enhance learning experiences for the Schuylkill Valley Education Community so that we can cultivate and prepare successful, well-founded citizens.* They also have a list of pillars for funding: opportunities for innovation; advocate for technology; experiences; scholarship; and a general listing for those who wish to designate a specific item to the foundation. Currently they have received their 501(c)(3) confirmation from the IRS and are in the process of establishing a bank account at VIST bank so they can start accepting donations. There are also plans for a mixer at the Hitching Post in May to invite people in the community to kick-off the initiative. They are also going to be working on filling other board slots for private sector representation. Their next meeting will be held on February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Bridget Reichert, Centre Township – Masking
Kelly Steinke, Bern Township – Masking
Charles Grebloski, Ontelaunee Township – Masking
Cyndi Dimovitz, Centre Township – Masking
Cheryl Moody, Ontelaunee Township – Masking
John Newton, Ontelaunee Township – Masking
Daniel Yobb, Ontelaunee Township – Masking

4.0 BOARD

Student Discipline

4.1 The Board is requested to consider and recommend a waiver of expulsion for Student #5243.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve a waiver of expulsion for Student #5243.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Student Discipline

4.2 The Board is requested to consider and recommend a waiver of expulsion for Student #5287.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve a waiver of expulsion for Student #5287.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Approves the continued implementation of the Health and Safety Plan and enacts the mask mandatory or mask optional version of the plan effective January 25, 2022 through February 28, 2022.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the continued implementation of the Health and Safety Plan and enacts the mask mandatory or mask optional version of the plan effective January 25, 2022 through February 28, 2022.

Mr. Mertz stated he's been listening to this discussion for two years. He hears all of the comments and sees all of the emails and he tries to respond to everyone. He was corrected last meeting in regard to mandates. PDE issues mandates for school districts yearly and schools are all about mandates. If you're against mandates, then he guesses you'd be against everything in the district. He also hears that the Board does not represent the voters. They hear this during public comment at meetings and also via emails. The Board represents all of the voters and no one person's vote is more important than the other. They take the criticisms, the emails and what is said to the Board and they try to form their own opinions. He was also chastised for using his own experience, but that's what life is about, personal experience, and it does factor into things. He's been watching what's happening in Berks County as that's what matters to him. The Board does take everything into account and everyone may not agree with their opinion, but there are always two sides to a story.

Mr. Miller stated that at the January 5 meeting, Mr. O'Donnell made an excellent statement and he reiterated what was said. Mr. O'Donnell had stated that we've been wearing masks for a while. No matter what, there are up-ticks and down-ticks, nothing has changed. It gets worse with masks and it gets better with masks, but we always come back to masks. We're not talking about more cleanliness issues or social distancing, all we're focused on is the mask. No one is going to move farther away from each other, nothing's going to change. We've discussed this and voted during an up-tick and it's gotten progressively worse, yes, but we've been wearing masks the whole time. If we're going to wear masks we have to do it right or not at all. We're having this discussion when we didn't even let it play out yet (mask optional). He asked what the disciplinary policy would be for those not wearing masks, and how many students would be expelled if we put this into a disciplinary action. Mr. Miller stated that he appreciates everyone attending the meeting. He has the data for all of the school districts by zip code, and we are still one of the lowest for COVID. He noted that over the weekend, the news media reported how countries in Europe are now saying they might have gotten it all wrong. We need to get away from the masks and "treat it like the flu

and measles.” People are having second thoughts about did we get this wrong; should we have done something different. As he stated many months ago, there are two sides to this, not just one, and there are valid arguments on both sides.

Mrs. Lash noted that she also read the article Mr. Miller referenced. At the present time it was stated that those countries as yet have not made plans to change anything that they’re doing, except for Austria which at a 75% vaccination rate, this is too low for them and they’re demanding that their citizens be vaccinated. Spain and Portugal are already between 80-90% vaccinated, so their case load is going down rapidly. However, it was stated that they have no plans at the present time on changing anything. Also, there was a large advertisement in the paper from Tower Health to the community and she believes they would want to keep the population safe because they’re becoming overwhelmed if you believe the ER’s and nurses, and she has no reason to doubt them. The ad talked about when you should be tested for COVID, what are the testing options, how to access care when you have symptoms, and how to stay safe. In regard to staying safe it said the best way to protect yourself against COVID is to get vaccinated. Vaccination is free, most people are eligible, and vaccination is available in the community. It also says to wear a mask, especially indoors or in public as this helps to limit transmission, and quarantine if you believe you’ve been exposed and get tested at the appropriate time. Mrs. Lash felt that Tower Health would not have gone to the expense of advertising for several days in a row if they thought what they were putting out was untrue or unreliable information.

Mr. Bendigo clarified that what the Board was voting on in the Health and Safety Plan applies to inside the school buildings. Masks are still required by the authorities for transportation on buses, so what we’re voting on applies only to school buildings. Mr. Rossi added that his big concern is if we drop the mask requirement, we’re going to lose the school at some point and then we’ll be in a virtual environment. He asked if we’re prepared for being in a virtual environment, because that’s not the best environment for kids. They’re better off in the school buildings which we’ve been all year, but if we lose the school due to COVID, what are we going to do? Dr. Taschner stated that if we would be in a position where we would not have enough teachers to teach, we would absolutely have to move to a virtual platform. Right now, the district has a Google platform and that would allow teachers to post their work asynchronously and there would be an option for a Zoom platform. We’d have to move back into the environment that the district was in prior to her arrival which was synchronous and asynchronous learning. Mr. Rossi asked how quickly that would happen and Dr. Taschner stated that every student has a laptop and every teacher has a laptop. Based on the district survey, there are thirty-two families that would need internet access. We do have hotspots that we’ve collected for those families and we would distribute those in order to be able to pivot quickly.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas - Mask Optional: Miller, O'Donnell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Mertz

Yeas - Mask Mandatory: Moll, Rossi, Dempsey, Lash

Motion carried 5-4 for mask optional.

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’ Report
- 5.1.3 Dropout Report

Superintendent’s Update

5.2 Dr. Taschner thanked everyone and noted that she’s been able to meet with more people since the last meeting. She appreciates the kindness of everyone that has reached out and been so

welcoming. It's a very special school district that we have and she feels very honored to be here. She had the opportunity to see the musical which many of you also attended. It was wonderful and our students are very talented. She thanked the faculty advisor, Mrs. Makosch, for her work and leadership in pulling the musical together. They also had the opportunity to honor our newest inductees into the Pride of Schuylkill Valley on January 14-15. It was a wonderful series of events and we were all so proud of the achievements of our alumni and inductees. Their stories and what they've done as a result of a Schuylkill Valley School District education, or as a result of their work with our students, was nothing short of inspiring. Equally inspiring was this common theme: everyone that was there, regardless of what they've done after Schuylkill Valley, came back to this one common theme which was gratitude for the faculty and staff who believed in them as students. They talked so highly about teachers and faculty who challenged them and made such an unbelievable difference in their lives. Dr. Taschner also attended the Redware events at the middle school which were very successful and the students produced some pretty amazing designs. She also commended our athletes who have continued to represent the district so well in basketball, wrestling and cheerleading.

Dr. Taschner also noted that January is board appreciation month. She thanked the Board members for their service to the district. They spend many hours each month reading board materials, attending events, participating in training, and listening and talking to constituents. Our board members are not paid, but serve as volunteers and provide guidance and oversight. Regardless of what comes before them or no matter which way they vote, there is one thing that every single one of them have in common which is that they care very deeply about our students. Dr. Taschner presented a video from the students to the Board thanking them for their time and service to the district.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 14, 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 Ms. Marsha Dornes, Part-Time Classroom Paraprofessional at the High School, effective December 22, 2021.

6.1.2 Miss Brittany Hamm, Custodian, effective December 15, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to accept the resignations in Items 6.1.1 and 6.1.2, 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.):

6.2.1 Mrs. Megan Fox, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, MS, Step 7, \$63,724 (prorated for actual days worked), effective pending release from current assignment.

- 6.2.2 The transfer of Ms. Denise Hymes and Ms. Susan Breidegan, Part-Time Classroom Paraprofessionals, 3 hours per day, at the High School to Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessionals, 3 hours per day, at the Elementary School, effective September 27, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment 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.

- 6.2.3 Volunteers for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.2.4 Ms. Kirsten Noll, Long-Term Substitute 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$50,803 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Julie Cherry, effective November 30, 2021, through approximately February 28, 2022.

- 6.2.5 Dr. Melissa Brewer, Director of Pupil Services, at an annual salary of \$134,600 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Kate Costenbader, effective pending release from current assignment.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 6.2.3 through and including 6.2.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3 Approves the following requests for unpaid days:

- 6.3.1 Ms. Elizabeth Bender, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, for five consecutive unpaid days February 28, 2022 - March 4, 2022.

- 6.3.2 Ms. Deborah Hughes, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, for twelve consecutive unpaid days, January 12, 2022 – February 2, 2022.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the requests for unpaid days in Items 6.3.1 and 6.3.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4 Approves the following requests for a leave of absence:

- 6.4.1 Mr. James Campbell, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the High School, effective November 8, 2021, through approximately February 6, 2022.

- 6.4.2 Mrs. Tiffany Smith, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, effective December 9, 2021, through December 23, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the requests for a leave of absence in Items 6.4.1 and 6.4.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5 Approves the agreement with Substitute Teacher Service (STS) to provide services of temporary employees serving as substitute principals to fill absences among the regular faculty, from January 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
- 6.6 Approves the Memorandum of Understanding with Wilkes University School of Education Certification Programs, to jointly prepare and support new school leaders or instructors.
- 6.7 Approves the recommendation to change the rate of pay for substitute custodians from \$11.84/hour to \$14.00/hour effective January 25, 2022.
- 6.8 Approves the sabbatical leave for Ms. Stacy DeMott, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, effective for the second semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by George Mertz to approve the agreement with Substitute Teacher Service (STS) to provide services of temporary employees serving as substitute principals to fill absences among the regular faculty, from January 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022; and to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Wilkes University School of Education Certification Programs, to jointly prepare and support new school leaders or instructors; and to approve the recommendation to change the rate of pay for substitute custodians from \$11.84/hour to \$14.00/hour effective January 25, 2022; and to approve the sabbatical leave for Ms. Stacy DeMott, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, effective for the second semester of the 2021-22 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.9 Approves the appointment of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the school district solicitor for the 2022 calendar year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the appointment of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the school district solicitor for the 2022 calendar year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their proposal.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 14, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Schuylkill Valley School District and Berks County Head Start relating to coordinating and providing effective services for children and families served, effective January 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
- 7.2 Approves ratification of the agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit for IDEA-Part B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, for a total amount of \$358,243.21, to be passed through the Berks County Intermediate Unit.
- 7.3 Approves the Virtual Author Visit Agreement with Victoria J. Coe for three (3) 30-minute virtual sessions and a special presentation on March 2, 2022, at a cost of \$1,200.00.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Schuylkill Valley School District and Berks County Head Start relating to coordinating and providing effective services for children and families served, effective January 24, 2022 through June 30, 2022; and to approve ratification of the agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit for IDEA-Part B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, for a total amount of \$358,243.21, to be passed through the Berks County Intermediate Unit; and to approve the Virtual Author Visit Agreement with Victoria J. Coe for three (3) 30-minute virtual sessions and a special presentation on March 2, 2022, at a cost of \$1,200.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.4 Approves the therapy services agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services Inc. (PTS) to provide contracted therapists to the district at the rates provided, effective January 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
- 7.5 Approves the agreement with Humanus Corporation to provide contracted coverage to the Special Education Department at the rates provided, effective January 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the therapy services agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services Inc. (PTS) to provide contracted therapists to the district at the rates provided, effective January 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022; and to approve the agreement with Humanus Corporation to provide contracted coverage to the Special Education Department at the rates provided, effective January 25, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

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 7:29 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 14, 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 November 1, 2021, to January 25, 2022, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,384,848.29
CAFETERIA FUND	\$100,326.88
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	\$15,393.64
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$77,035.67
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,577,604.48

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from November 1, 2021, to January 25, 2022, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.2 Approves accepting the donation from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$605.00, to be used for the purchase of a Vernier Gas Pressure Sensor, Flow Rate Sensor, Thermal Camera, Static Charge Sensor, and Sound Sensor, for the high school physics classes.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve accepting the donation from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$605.00, to be used for the purchase of a Vernier Gas Pressure Sensor, Flow Rate Sensor, Thermal Camera, Static Charge Sensor, and Sound Sensor, for the high school physics classes.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid July 2021 real estate taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2021, and from collecting unpaid interim bills dated January 1, 2021, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are 180 bills totaling \$451,521.28 (last year there were 190 totaling \$615,328.46).

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid July 2021 real estate taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2021, and from collecting unpaid interim bills dated January 1, 2021, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are 180 bills totaling \$451,521.28 (last year there were 190 totaling \$615,328.46).

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 7:55 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 14, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1 Approves the proposal from NRG Controls North, Inc. to provide labor and material to install one (1) stand-alone Schneider Electric HVAC Controller in the high school choral room, at a cost of \$3,828.00.
- 9.2 Approves the agreement amendment from EI Associates to include an infrared moisture survey and TRACE core sample analysis of the elementary school roof, at a cost of \$4,090.00.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the proposal from NRG Controls North, Inc. to provide labor and material to install one (1) stand-alone Schneider Electric HVAC Controller in the high school choral room, at a cost of \$3,828.00; and to approve the agreement amendment from EI Associates to include an infrared moisture survey and TRACE core sample analysis of the elementary school roof, at a cost of \$4,090.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.3 Approves the agreement amendment from EI Associates to include professional services to provide construction administration for the HVAC replacement work at the high school and elementary school, selecting Scope of Work – Option 1, not to exceed \$60,000.

Dr. Taschner stated that EI Associates provided a breakdown in costs for Option 1 versus Option 2. Option 1 has additional meetings and supervision at an estimated cost of \$60,000-\$70,000 and Option 2 is an estimated cost of \$20,000-\$30,000. Mr. Mertz stated he is not happy with the \$10,000 difference in each option and thought it could be narrowed down lower than the \$10,000 difference. Mr. Miller noted that the Board could add “not to exceed” in the motion which could be added in this case and Mr. Mertz agreed. Mr. Bendigo noted that if it goes over \$60,000 it would need to come back to the Board.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Dane Miller to approve the agreement amendment from EI Associates to include professional services to provide construction administration for the HVAC replacement work at the high school and elementary school, selecting Scope of Work – Option 1, not to exceed \$60,000.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.4 Approves the authorization of additional services from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy for the HVAC upgrade at the high school and elementary school, at a cost of \$40,500.00.

Dr. Taschner noted that the Board had asked that it be specifically stated under Construction Observation Visits that any additional visits beyond those listed in the scope of the project, which was 13 with an additional 5, would require prior approval. This language has been added to the authorization of additional services.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve authorization of additional services from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy for the HVAC upgrade at the high school and elementary school, at a cost of \$40,500.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 8:18 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the LeRoy K. Seip Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 14, 2022.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the licensing agreement from Concord Theatricals required for the 2022 spring musical, at a cost of \$3,220.67.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the licensing agreement from Concord Theatricals required for the 2022 spring musical, at a cost of \$3,220.67.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.1 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Miller stated that the Pride of Schuylkill Valley events held on January 14-15 were well attended by the Board and Administration. He thanked Mrs. Kleffel, Miss Deibler, Mrs. Cammauf and noted it was a good team effort, a beautiful ceremony and was well done by all.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Bendigo asked the board members to think about whether or not it would be beneficial for the district to go back to electing three board members from each region instead of the system that we've tried over the past two election cycles. The current system of one school board member from each region and the rest at-large confuses the public and people that want to run for school board. In the next month or two he'll try to bring this up for the appropriate committee for discussion. Mrs. Lash noted that she attended the high school play, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, on Friday evening. There was a lot of work put into the production and it was much appreciated by the community. She congratulated Mrs. Makosch, the students and stage crew for a great job. Mr. Moll stated that he attended the redware program at the middle school on January 19-21 and thanked the middle school staff for having the program this year.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors