

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

MINUTES

April 26, 2021

- 1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, G. Dane Miller, in the LGI Room/Auditorium of the Schuylkill Valley Middle 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, Alfonso F. Rossi (via Zoom)

Members Absent: Kevin Raudenbush

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Michelle Kauffman (not present)

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Michael T. Mitchell, Jr., Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill (via Zoom), Dr. Janet Heilman, Candice Kehres, Phillip Kissinger, Courtney Maguire, Changming Wang

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 22, 2021, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Miller reported that the Board met in executive session following the March 22, 2021 Board meeting, for legal information; on April 19, 2021, prior to the Committee meetings, for personnel; and on April 26, 2021, prior to the Board meeting, for personnel and a contractual item.

1.5 RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Future Business Leaders of America members for their regional and state achievements. Mrs. Patti Lacey, FBLA advisor, reviewed the members' accomplishments:

Max Beras-Goico – Regional 1st place Personal Finance

Luke Braucher, Regional Joey Loose, & Nate Schaeffer - 1st place Management Information Systems - Team Event

Lindsey Giacobello – Regional 1st place Accounting I

Michael Herman – Regional 1st place Marketing and State 3rd place, qualifying him for nationals this summer

Kaylin Loose – Regional 1st place Computer Problem Solving

Brenden Bernhart – Regional 4th place Political Science

Also recognized were the athletes and coaches of the SVSD 2021 District Championship Girls' Swim team who brought home their 5th consecutive district championship and finished 3rd at states. Ashlyn Giles, track and field, was recognized for owning the Berks shot put and discus records and capturing the Bruce Dallas Invitational championship. She will compete nationally in June 2021. The Board thanked the students and the coaches/advisors for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their success.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – G. Dane Miller

No report.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that they met on April 15. The BCIU has named Miss Sabrina Werley, Governor Mifflin Learning Support Teacher, as the 2021 Annie Sullivan Award recipient. Mr. Dempsey provided an update from the COLA meeting held on April 8. He noted that their last two meetings were focused around cyber charter reform and special education funding. They have established a program to educate the public and our legislators on these two issues and what the cost is to individual school districts and, in turn, to the individual taxpayer. The Keystone Center for Charter Change has been established by Mr. Larry Feinberg, Haverford School District board member. They have a daily newsletter to inform school board members and the general public in regard to cyber charter reform and they also have a website. He noted that there is a COLA newsletter that is a great source of information and asked that it be posted on the district's website to help the public better understand these topics.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that their next meeting will be held on April 28.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

No report.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reported that she has been attending PSBA's Tuesday workshops. Over the last few meetings they have discussed the Keystone Center for Charter Change, school police officers, charter schools, and social media in regard to the board of school directors. Also discussed was PSSA testing and standardized testing. The only place in the United States that the testing is being waived is Washington, D.C. There is legislation that is moving slowly in regard to providing limited liability for schools from frivolous or opportunistic lawsuits alleging exposure to the COVID-19 virus, and the district would be grandfathered into this. We will need to wait and see if anything transpires in regard to this legislation. In addition, the federal government will be sending the states more guidelines on how to use the ESSER funds.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the Board.

4.0 BOARD

Resolution

- 4.1** BE IT RESOLVED, that John E. Muir, Esquire, Brian F. Boland, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, the Solicitors of the Schuylkill Valley School District, are hereby authorized to settle the real estate tax assessment appeal filed by Textile Chemical Company, Inc., Docket No. 19-18996, regarding the property located at 81 West Huller Lane,

Ontelaunee Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Parcel I.D. No. 68540019503401, as follows:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>
07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021	\$7,510,650	\$4,665,000
07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022	\$7,516,050	\$4,222,500

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that John E. Muir, Esquire, is authorized to execute the attached Stipulation on behalf of Schuylkill Valley School District.

DULY RESOLVED, this 26th Day of April, 2021, by the Board of School Directors of Schuylkill Valley School district in lawful session duly assembled.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the resolution in Item 4.1, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, 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' Report
- 5.1.3 Dropout Report

Schuylkill Valley Summer Learning Academy Discussion

- 5.2 Mrs. Courtney Maguire, Elementary School Principal, stated that she researched the TIPS (Teachers in the Parks) summer program that is run at Schuylkill Valley. TIPS is a great program but it doesn't really address the district's curriculum. With the needs of the students this year, she and Dr. Heilman discussed what they could do to help SV students and give them what they need. They came up with a four-day per week program which would allow two days for math and science, and two days for reading, language arts and some social studies. She has ten teachers that have already volunteered their time over the summer which shows their dedication. By running our own program, we would be able to accommodate 50-60 students which is a significant number. She and Dr. Heilman discussed using the ESSER grant for the program as this would allow the students to attend at no cost. We would have our teachers providing a program that helps our students to move forward to the following year. She has asked that the teachers benchmark and assess the students when they come into the program and then assess them again at the end of the program to see growth. They can then provide this information to the parents to show their child's growth over the summer and also pass this information on to their teacher for the following year. For this year the program would be for elementary students who are moving a grade level which is incoming 1st graders through 4th graders. This program could also grow and be provided to incoming kindergarten students who were not able to attend a preschool. The program would be held at the elementary school from June 28 through August 5. The teachers' hours would be 8:30-11:30 a.m. with the students attending from 9-11 a.m. Mrs. Lash asked about transportation for the students. Mrs. Maguire stated that the TIPS students were transported by their parents and this was not an issue. Mr. Miller asked if transportation could be looked at in regard to two busses being available as he would like everyone to have the opportunity to attend and Mrs. Maguire agreed.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:37 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

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 due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2020-21 school term unless otherwise noted:

6.1.1 Ms. Katie Heffner, English Teacher at the High School.

6.1.2 Mr. Chuck Mohn, Technology Education Teacher at the Middle School.

6.1.3 Mrs. Missy Kelchner, Assistant Principal at the High School, effective June 30, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the resignations due to retirement in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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

6.2.1 Mr. Peter Laspopoulos, Part-Time Food Services Worker at the Elementary School, effective April 8, 2021.

6.2.2 Dr. Sarah Yoder, Principal at the High School, effective April 30, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the resignations in Items 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, 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 Community aquatics staff for the 2020-21 school year.

6.3.2 Substitutes for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the employment in Items 6.3.1 and 6.3.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3.3** Job description for the position of School Police Officer.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the job description for the position of School Police Officer, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3.4** Volunteer for the 2020-21 school year.

- 6.3.5** Mr. Phillip Kissinger, German and History Teacher at the High School, to Temporary Principal at the High School, effective May 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, to be paid a stipend of \$3,150.

- 6.3.6** Mr. Tod Witman, Technology Integration Coach at the High School and Middle School, to Temporary Dean of Students at the High School, effective May 1, 2021, through June 9, 2021, to be paid a stipend of \$1,350.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the employment in Items 6.3.4 through and including 6.3.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4** Approves the following Non-Union Support Staff Recommendations:

- 6.4.1** Salary ranges for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.4.2** Salary increase for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.4.3** Benefit recommendations for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.4.4** Supplemental wages for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.4.5** Substitute wages for the 2021-22 school year.

- 6.4.6** Community aquatics wages for the 2021-22 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Non-Union Support Staff Recommendations in Items 6.4.1 through and including 6.4.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5** Approves the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2021 - 6/30/2022, which reflects no change in monthly premiums paid by seniors, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2021 - 6/30/2022, which reflects no change in monthly premiums paid by seniors, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.6 Approves the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District and the Schuylkill Valley Education Association relating to an increase in the unit value for extra-curricular coaching and extra-curricular advising for the 2021-22 school year only.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District and the Schuylkill Valley Education Association relating to an increase in the unit value for extra-curricular coaching and extra-curricular advising for the 2021-22 school year only.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.7 Approves the childrearing leave of absence for the 2020-21 school year for Mrs. Jessica Dowd, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, effective May 3, 2021, through the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the childrearing leave of absence for the 2020-21 school year in Item 6.7, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Kevin Raudenbush

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the Dual Enrollment Agreement with Reading Area Community College for the 2021-22 academic year at a dual enrollment tuition rate of \$99.00 per credit, and further, authorizes the Board President and Superintendent to execute the agreement.
- 7.2 Approves the legal services consultation agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams LLP, for the 2021-22 school year, at a cost of \$10,000, to be used for special education matters, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement.

- 7.3 Approves the Ed Tech Pool Counsel Joint Consortium 2021-22 Letter of Intent Agreement to share consulting services, provided by the law firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz, & Williams, LLP regarding technology-related legal issues in education, at a shared cost of \$615.00 annually, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.
- 7.4 Approves ratification of the tuition agreement with Hogan Learning Academy LLC to provide Student #4068 education services from April 6, 2021 through June 4, 2021, at the rate of \$420 per day, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement.
- 7.5 Approves the Bulk Services Agreement from ePlus Technology, Inc. for professional services, to provide support in the implementation of the Trane HVAC network and server integration and other projects as needed, at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00, to be paid from the Technology Reserve Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the proposal.
- 7.6 Approves the funding for the purchase of technology for the Schuylkill Valley Cyber Academy, at a cost not to exceed \$80,000.00, to be paid from the Technology Reserve Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the purchases, due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19 with longer lead time needed to acquire technology.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by George Mertz to approve the actions in Items 7.1 through and including 7.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.7 Approves the transfer from the General Fund, in the amount of \$140,000.00, to the Technology Reserve Fund, for reimbursement of expenditures for Chromebooks and Chromebook cases which was approved on February 22, 2021. (Expenditures are being paid from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant received).

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the transfer from the General Fund to the Technology Reserve Fund in Item 7.7, as presented

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.8 Approves the Schuylkill Valley Summer Learning Academy to be held from June 28, 2021 through August 5, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the Schuylkill Valley Summer Learning Academy to be held from June 28, 2021 through August 5, 2021.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – David E. Moll

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 8.1** Approves/ratifies the payment of bills in the following amounts from March 11, 2021, to April 27, 2021, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,422,172.91
CAFETERIA FUND	\$34,678.96
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	\$14,900.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$91,810.00
TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND	\$199,752.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,763,313.87

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from March 11, 2021, to April 27, 2021, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.2** Approves the Computer Service Rates for 2021-2022 with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for the district's fund accounting, payroll, and personnel software, and further, authorizes the Business Manager to execute the agreement.

Note: The rate increased \$0.08 for three modules due to ongoing software upgrades. The overall cost will be based on the number of students at the end of the school year and is estimated to cost \$22,780 (current year cost was \$22,325).

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approves the Computer Service Rates for 2021-2022 with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for the district's fund accounting, payroll, and personnel software, and further, authorizes the Business Manager to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves the following property for repository tax sale by the County of Berks and further, authorizes the Business Manager to sign the required documents:

Property ID: 92-4491-19-50-2215; Repository bid amount \$500 (delinquent taxes owed to the district that will not be collected \$8,271.65).

Note: This property was previously exposed to both the Upset Tax Sale and Judicial (Free and Clear) Sale and received no bids. When a property is sold from Repository Sale, it is sold free and clear of all taxes and municipal claims. If the bid amount is high enough to disburse delinquent tax monies, it is done on a pro-rate basis.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the repository tax sale in Item 8.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4** Approves the perpetual agreement with the Berks County Intermediate Unit for tax services, and further, authorizes the Business Manager to execute the agreement. Note: This will eliminate BCIU having to re-execute an agreement every two years.

Mr. Miller noted that this item would be tabled until a revised agreement was received from the BCIU. Mr. Moll moved to table 8.4 and this was seconded by Mr. Bendigo.

- 8.5** Approves the resolution to allow Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr., Superintendent, use of electronic signature for the purpose of PDE eGrants.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by David Moll to approve the resolution to allow Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr., Superintendent, use of electronic signature for the purpose of PDE eGrants.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.6** Approves accepting a grant from the PA School Safety and Security Grant Program, in the amount of \$61,204.00, awarded to the district by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve accepting a grant from the PA School Safety and Security Grant Program, in the amount of \$61,204.00, awarded to the district by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.7** Approves accepting the ESSER I grant in the amount of \$230,192.00.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve accepting the ESSER I grant in the amount of \$230,192.00.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 8:04 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

9.1 Approves the proposal from Turf, Track & Court LLC for G-max testing for the high school turf field, at a cost of \$750.00 per year for a three-year testing package with one test per year, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

9.2 Approves the proposal from Turf, Track & Court LLC for field conditioning services for the high school turf field, for a three-year service package with one conditioning per year, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

• Year 1	\$2,540
• Year 2	\$2,590
• Year 3	<u>\$2,645</u>
TOTAL	\$7,775

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve the proposals in Item 9.1 and 9.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.3 Approves a three-year agreement with Pletcher Fire Protection, LLC for testing, inspection and maintenance on the protection systems at the elementary school, middle school and high school, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the agreement.

• Fire Alarm Testing and Inspection Services	\$4,420
• Fire Sprinkler Testing and Inspection Services	\$2,400
• Kitchen Hood Inspections	\$ 900
• Fire Extinguisher Inspection	\$ 4 per unit
• Backflow Preventer Testing	\$ 100 per unit

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by David Moll to approve the three-year agreement in Item 9.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.4 Approves the proposal from Trane for Phase II of the HVAC upgrade at the high school and elementary school, at a cost of \$3,555,468.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Mr. Dempsey stated that he does not have a good comfort level for the way this particular contract was handled and he is going to be voting "no" on this for that reason. When the statement was made at the April 19 B&G Committee meeting that "we decided" (not the Board) that TRANE and the other two contractors would divide the work, he does not know if that is something that they have the responsibility or authority to do. Also, there are aspects of this that he does not believe are being bid, specifically the ceiling removal and replacement as TRANE has someone that they use. It's an aspect that wasn't bid and he doesn't have a comfort level with this. He agrees 100% that this is a needed project, but he does not agree with the process. Mr. Rossi stated that his understanding was that there were two subcontractors involved that bid the same work on each of the buildings. One was the low for that aspect of the work in one building and one was slightly lower for that work in the other building. When the scheduling was reviewed, his understanding is that each of these contractors couldn't meet the district's required schedule for the entire project. If each of the contractors was awarded the portion of the project for which they were the low bid, then together they could meet the schedule that the district wanted. He understands if Mr. Dempsey is not comfortable with this and he would like to get

him to a point that his comfort level is okay to vote yes on the motion. It is a big dollar amount and the Board should be united in how they're doing this.

Mr. Mertz stated that his understanding is that the district received two bids for each project and we took the low bidder for each building, and Mr. Blankenbiller stated this was correct. Mr. Blankenbiller explained that when we combined the two projects under one contractor, WARKO was the lowest. After speaking with WARKO, their concern was timeframe. We then reached out to Burkhart Mechanical as they were the low bidder on the high school, but they were higher on the elementary school, and vice versa with WARKO. When you combine the two, WARKO was the lowest bidder if we combined them as a whole. When we split them, it actually made the price come down \$5,000-\$10,000. Due to scheduling and the amount of workload they have, the conversation with TRANE and the contractors was, for everyone's best interest, to split it up to ensure deadlines were met and the project could be completed on time. Mr. Bendigo asked if we were on firm legal grounds if we split up the work after it was bid under a contract where they were bidding on doing both buildings at one time. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that TRANE had the contractors bid these as individual jobs. Both contractors submitted proposals for the high school and elementary school. When looking at it this way and discussing it with TRANE, they discussed combining it under WARKO, because WARKO's total sum was under Burkhart Mechanical's total sum. This was decided after many conversations with the contractors and everyone involved. Mr. Bendigo asked if it was bid as being split up, how could we combine them when one of the other contractors had a lower price on one of the buildings. Mr. Moll noted that if you go back to the original premise that had two projects and you're taking the low bid, we should not have entertained the notion of combining them as this made it confusing for the Board. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that is the way they have it. Mr. Moll stated that if you're taking the low bid off each project, and each project was bid separately, the confusion came about due to looking at the two bids combined. They were definitely bid separately and they should be awarded separately in his opinion. If we do that we're going with the low bidder and we're going to save money which is important for the district.

Mr. Miller stated that the Buildings and Grounds Committee needs to be apprised when these things transpire. He asked if the elementary school was considered a GESA (Guaranteed Energy Savings Act) project. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that we were looking at a GESA model for that, however the energy savings was not there for a true GESA project. Under OMNIA partners, you can use any model that you want and this is a benefit, as you can do a true best value process which enables the district to have contractors submit proposals and have those conversations with the contractors and make sure we're getting the right price. Mr. Dempsey added that this is a significant contract and he does not know if our solicitor has reviewed the contract. He cannot get a comfort level with the process that was done on developing and negotiating this contract.

Mr. Mertz noted that TRANE is the general contractor and they can choose whoever they want to do the jobs. We contracted TRANE to get the best bids and that's what they did. They were trying to get one contractor to do both buildings, but since they were bid separately as two separate projects, they picked the two low bidders instead of just one. Mr. Miller stated these are all valid points. He has asked Mr. Mitchell to have all of the documentation for these purchases in his office in order to review them with Mr. Blankenbiller should any questions or concerns arise. Mr. Mitchell asked if the Board would like to table this item until the district solicitor has a chance to review it. Mr. Moll noted that it could be approved with the contingency of pending review by the district solicitor. If our solicitor would have not issues with the contract, this could set us back 30 days if it is not voted on with this contingency. Mr. Blankenbiller added that we followed the same process with Phase I as we did with this phase. We have not varied from that process in any way other than splitting the project because we had two buildings. This contract was already sent to OMNIA Partners by TRANE and has met all of their criteria, which is why he was able to give the final total for the motion to the Board for this meeting. Mr. Moll asked for clarification of the motion and would it be voted on as written, with no contingencies for review. Mr. Rossi stated that he would like to add the contingency that Brian Boland, district

solicitor, review the contract. Mr. Mertz noted that this would need to be done quickly as it is very difficult to get projects completed in the current environment. Mr. Miller confirmed that the Board would like to revise the motion to add "pending review by Brian Boland." Mr. Mitchell stated that he would forward the contract to Mr. Boland for review.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by George Mertz to approve the proposal in Item 9.4, pending review by Brian Boland, district solicitor.

Yeas: Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Rossi

Nays: Dempsey

Motion carried.

- 9.5** Approves the service maintenance proposal from Reading Elevator Service, for the elevators located in the elementary, middle and high schools, at a cost of \$477.00 per quarter, effective July 1, 2021, for a period of three years, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the service maintenance proposal in Item 9.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.6** Approves the service maintenance proposal from Reading Elevator Service, for the Wheel-A-Vator Chairlift located in the middle school, at a cost of \$123.00 annually, effective July 1, 2021, for a period of three years, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by David Moll to approve the service maintenance proposal in Item 9.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.7** Approves the proposal from Arethusa Designs to provide the district with a temporary PA system for the June commencement ceremonies for a period of three years, June 2021 through June 2023, at the fee schedule provided, and further, authorizes the building principal to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the proposal in Item 9.7, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.8** Approves the proposal from D'Huy Engineering, Inc., for the design of an access road between the high school and elementary school, at a cost of \$23,500.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Improvement Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the proposal in Item 9.8, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.9 Approves the proposal from Pittsburgh Stage, Inc., for the high school annual theatrical equipment inspection with preventative maintenance, at a cost of \$4,314.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the proposal in Item 9.9, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 8:32 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1 Approves a trial basis for two new high school clubs, Book Club and the Panther Manufacturing Club.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve a trial basis for two new high school clubs, Book Club and the Panther Manufacturing Club.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 10.2 Approves EI Associates for the design only of a field house, not to exceed \$20,000.

Mr. Mitchell noted that he and Mr. Blankenbiller will be meeting with Peter Ortiz, EI Associates, on Wednesday, April 28 to discuss our design options including using existing space and a stand-alone building. Mr. Blankenbiller added that after discussions with Mr. Ortiz, they plan to look at the list that was provided and then he will meet with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Ortiz as to what the list means. Mr. Ortiz will look at 4-5 possible options based on those lists and come up with some preliminary designs and costs. This information will be provided to the Board for review and to narrow down the options until a final decision is made. Mrs. Lash noted that we could add "not to exceed" in the motion and Mr. Miller concurred saying that we could add "not to exceed \$20,000" to the motion, and the Board agreed.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve EI Associates for the design only of a field house, not to exceed \$20,000.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER


12.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors