

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

MINUTES

March 22, 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 (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Robert M. Dempsey, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, George H. Mertz III (via Zoom), G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll (via Zoom), Kevin Raudenbush (via Zoom), Alfonso F. Rossi (via Zoom)

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), Candice Kehres, Changming Wang, Jason Williams, Sarah Yoder (via Zoom)

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by George Mertz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2021, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Miller announced that the Board would meet immediately following the Board meeting for legal information.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – G. Dane Miller

Mr. Miller noted that he had provided cards to the Board members that were present for the goal exercise that will take place at the Spring Board Retreat on Saturday, March 27. He asked the members to think about some of the Board and/or district goals that they would like to see attained in the next year, three years and five years. Also, he and Mrs. Lash participated in the PSBA American Rescue Plan Workshop.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that she was unable to attend the meeting on March 18, however she did speak with the solicitor that was at the meeting. They discussed salary increases and will be

working on Dr. Hackman's evaluation in the near future. In the BCIU NewsLink for March, there was an item on "Zoom into Reading" which was a free virtual family fun night held on March 4. Schuylkill Valley graduate Hallie Jacobs, Miss Greater Reading 2020-21, participated in the event as a special guest reader. At the BCIU Board meeting on March 18, they ratified the agreement with SV for the BCIU to provide educational and related services for students placed in the Tower Behavioral Health in-patient treatment program. Also, the BCIU hosted a vaccine clinic for county educators last week and Governor Wolf visited the site on March 15.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that Dr. James Kraft, Executive Director of the West Campus, has announced his retirement at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Also, they are currently in negotiations with Act 93. In addition, they discussed recruitment in regard to what the advertising will look like and how to reach out through social media to get students interested in BCTC programs. Their next meeting is on Wednesday, March 24.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll reported that their next meeting is on Thursday, March 25.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that she has attended several weekly buzz meetings. On March 2 their meeting topic was school police officers, school resource officers and security guards. Discussions focused around the limitations of what schools can do and what the officers can do. There was also a discussion on grant funding for these positions; will they be an employee or contractor; will there be an agreement with a law enforcement agency; will they be allowed to have weapons; and will there be rules of engagement in place. Also, there are Chapter 10 regulations for special education. The person that is hired needs training in trauma enforced approach; they need to be culturally responsible and proactive; and they must complete threat assessment training. MOU's must be completed every two years.

The weekly buzz topic on March 9 was Ending Hunger Tomorrow. This organization has 27 food banks and they operate with Feeding Pennsylvania in which our local Helping Harvest is one of the food banks. In 2018, 10% of Pennsylvania had a food insecurity problem; in 2020 it rose to 23%. There has been a 60% increase in the need for food at food banks. Feeding Pennsylvania not only gives out food but it gives out tips for healthful food selections and recipes. There are 53,000 farms in Pennsylvania so there are good sources for fresh food to our population. The SNAP food stamp program was also discussed. If 10% of the money is taken away from this program this will double the need for food bank services.

Mr. Miller stated that he attended a meeting last week in regard to the American Rescue Plan, which is a \$1.9 trillion aid package. The money can be used for HVAC and other mitigation strategies and can also be used for summer programs to enable students to catch up on their academics. Equity is a huge component and he asked if this includes special needs and was told that it does. There is \$30 billion allocated for special needs equity. The money is to be spent by 2023. \$7 billion is devoted to online learning for broadband and hot spots through the e-rate to help close the homework gap. The standardized testing window has been extended until September 21. Substitutes with inactive certifications can now sub up to 120 days; prior to this it was 90 days.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the Board.

4.0 BOARD

Ratification of Action Taken

- 4.1** The Board is requested to recommend the ratification of all action taken by the Board at the Board meeting held virtually on February 22, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to ratify all action taken by the Board at the Board meeting held virtually on February 22, 2021.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Raudenbush, 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

Mr. Mitchell thanked the administrative staff for providing their monthly reports. They are very thorough and show everything that has been going on within each school. It's amazing to him and a credit to our entire staff that we are able to continue to do a lot of these activities that we've always done, albeit in a modified fashion. It's business as usual the best we can and he believes this speaks to everyone's work ethic and flexibility in our district. Everyone is finding a way to keep our traditions going. Family Reading Night was virtual for the first time this year and was extremely well done.

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 15, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021.

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:

- 6.1.1** Mrs. Paige Harding, 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, effective with the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.1.2** Mrs. Rachel Himes-Dewalt, 3rd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, effective with the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.1.3** Ms. Erica Angstadt, Part-Time ELL Paraprofessional at all buildings, effective March 17, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by George Mertz to approve the resignations in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.3, as presented.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Raudenbush, 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 Mr. Phillip Kissinger, German and history teacher at the High School, to temporary assistant to the principal at the High School, effective March 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, to be paid a stipend of \$6,750.
- 6.2.2 Mr. Daniel Helms, Long-Term Substitute Transition Room Teacher at the High School, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$49,553 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation Mr. Phil Klahold, effective date to be determined, through the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.2.3 Miss Adrianna Hyland, Long-Term Substitute German & Social Studies Teacher at the High School, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$49,553 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the temporary change of assignment of Mr. Phil Kissinger, effective March 1, 2021, through April 30, 2021.
- 6.2.4 Mrs. Adrienne Leshner, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, at an hourly rate of pay of \$13.41, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Denise Shupp, effective date to be determined.
- 6.2.5 Spring coaches for the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.2.6 Substitutes for the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.2.7 Bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.2.8 Volunteers for the 2020-21 school year.
- 6.2.9 Miss Isabelle Heffernan, Part-Time Reading Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, at an hourly rate of pay of \$12.22, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Mancuso, effective date to be determined.
- 6.2.10 Mrs. Stephanie Erb, Certified School Nurse at the Elementary School, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$49,553 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Amy Strayer, effective March 24, 2021.
- 6.2.11 Ms. Sonya Karetas, Part-Time Lunchroom Aide, 3 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$11.00, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Dana Stout, effective date to be determined.
- 6.2.12 Mrs. Cheryl Lupia, Special Education Long-Term Substitute Teacher at the Middle School, BS, Step 1, \$49,553 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Kelly Duncan, effective approximately March 29, 2021, through the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.12, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.2.13 Job description for the position of Digital Content and Marketing Specialist.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by George Mertz to approve the job description for the position of Digital Content and Marketing Specialist.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3** Approves the renewal of the agreement with Frontline Education for its Absence & Substitute Management, Time & Attendance, and Applicant Tracking products, at a total cost of 19,998.20, for the period of 7/01/2021 - 6/30/2022, and further, authorizes the Director of Human Resources and Communications to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the renewal of the agreement with Frontline Education in Item 6.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4** Approves the appointment of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the school district solicitor for the 2021 calendar year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the appointment of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the school district solicitor for the 2021 calendar year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their proposal.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5** Approves the request for unpaid days for Ms. Marsha Dornes, Part-Time Computer Paraprofessional at the High School, effective April 12, 2021, through April 23, 2021.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the request for unpaid days for Ms. Marsha Dornes, Part-Time Computer Paraprofessional at the High School, effective April 12, 2021, through April 23, 2021.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Kevin Raudenbush

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 6:43 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1** Approves the option for 2021 Graduating Seniors to pay a non-refundable \$10 fee to purchase their school issued Chromebook, charger and Chromebook case at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, and for the District to transfer ownership of the school issued Chromebook, charger and Chromebook case to the student upon purchase.

- 7.2 Approves a three-year agreement for contracting of services with Blackboard, using their Blackboard Mass Notifications services, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.
- 7.3 Approves a three-year agreement for contracting of services with Blackboard, using their Blackboard Community Manager services, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the actions in Items 7.1 through and including 7.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.4 Approves the agreement with Leesport Farmers Market to reserve April 23, 2021, for the high school prom, and further, authorizes the class advisor to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by David Moll to approve the agreement in Item 7.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.5 Approves the agreement with The Art of Sound, for the senior prom scheduled for April 23, 2021, at a cost of \$400.00, and further, authorizes the class advisor to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the agreement in Item 7.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – David E. Moll

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 19, 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 February 8, 2021, to March 23, 2021, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,011,759.93
CAFETERIA FUND	\$25,556.28
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$12,270.20
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,049,586.41

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by David Moll to approve/ratify the payment of bills in the following amounts from February 8, 2021, to March 23, 2021, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.2** Approves the Berks Career and Technology Center budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$19,677,327; Schuylkill Valley's member share is \$639,683 and \$97,643 for special needs.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the Berks Career and Technology Center budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$19,677,327; Schuylkill Valley's member share is \$639,683 and \$97,643 for special needs.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves accepting a donation from Capital Blue Cross in the amount of \$1,500.00, to be used for any needs the students or faculty may have.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by David Moll to approve accepting a donation from Capital Blue Cross in the amount of \$1,500.00, to be used for any needs the students or faculty may have.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Raudenbush, 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 15, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the quote from M.J. Reider Associates, Inc., for analytical services at the middle school pool, at a cost of \$20.00 per week from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.
- 9.2** Approves the quote from Klenzoid Inc., for continuing water treatment services at the elementary, middle and high schools, at a cost of \$4,060.00, from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.
- 9.3** Approves the proposal from R.J. McCarville Associates, Ltd., for the high school divider curtain, at a cost of \$17,600.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

- 9.4** Approves the quote from Elk Environmental Services, for the disposal of chemicals at the high school and middle school, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the actions in Items 9.1 through and including 9.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5** Approves the quote from Berkshire Mechanical, for the middle school PoolPak HVAC repairs, at a cost of \$5,940.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the quote from Berkshire Mechanical, for the middle school PoolPak HVAC repairs, at a cost of \$5,940.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.6** Approves ratification of the client services agreement with Provident Energy Consulting LLC, to allow the district to participate in the Berks County Schools Natural Gas Purchasing Consortium, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the agreement and also to sign any documents required to complete the actual commodity purchase or purchases as agreed upon by the consortium.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve ratification of the client services agreement in Item 9.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.7** Approves the proposal from Miller Sports Construction for refinishing the high school gym floor, at a cost of \$29,880.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by George Mertz to approve the proposal from Miller Sports Construction for refinishing the high school gym floor, at a cost of \$29,880.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.8 Other (Old/New Business)**

Mr. Blankenbiller noted that the waterproofing that was completed on the grandstands at the stadium seems to have resolved the issue of water under the grandstands.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 9:10 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the trial basis for a new high school club, The Panther Project, whose goal is to improve our community's environment.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the trial basis for a new high school club, The Panther Project, whose goal is to improve our community's environment.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Mitchell reported that the SV girls' swim team finished third in the state championships, and our cheerleaders finished second in the district championships. Mrs. Kleffel noted that the SVEA co-curricular meeting was held prior to the Board meeting and two new clubs will be brought forward at the April 19 Committee meetings.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER


12.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors