

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

**MINUTES**

**December 1, 2020**

- 1.0 The Reorganization/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, Linda R. Lash, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll

Board Members Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Kevin Raudenbush and Alfonso F. Rossi were not physically present but participated and voted via speakerphone.

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Changming Wang (not present)

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Michael T. Mitchell, Jr., Michael Billman, Dr. Sarah Yoder

**2.0 SELECTION OF A TEMPORARY PRESIDENT**

David E. Moll served as the temporary President.

**3.0 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS: HOLIDAY CARDS**

The Board recognized the following middle school students in Mrs. Ronda Seymour's art classes whose designs were chosen to represent the school district on holiday cards: Ian Luckey, fifth grade; Kaitlyn Flowers, sixth grade; Taylor Riggins, seventh grade; and Taylor Henry, eighth grade.

Each student was presented with a set of cards and a framed poster of their design as tokens of appreciation for their creativity and hard work.

**4.0 LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TERMS**

Paul L. Bendigo	Region 1	2017-2021
Robert M. Dempsey	Region 2	2019-2023
Nicoleen M. Kleffel	At-Large	2017-2021
Linda R. Lash	At-Large	2017-2021
George H. Mertz III	At-Large	2019-2023
G. Dane Miller	At-Large	2019-2023
David E. Moll	At-Large	2019-2023
Kevin Raudenbush	At-Large	2017-2021
Alfonso F. Rossi	Region 3	2019-2023

**5.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

Temporary President David E. Moll asked for nominations for President.

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to nominate G. Dane Miller for President.

Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by George Mertz to close the nominations for President.

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

*Motion passed unanimously for G. Dane Miller for Board President.*

#### 6.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

President G. Dane Miller asked for nominations for Vice President.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by David Moll to nominate George H. Mertz III as Vice President.

Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to close the nominations for Vice President.

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

*Motion passed unanimously for George H. Mertz III for Board Vice President.*

#### 7.0 APPOINTMENTS: BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Board is requested to consider and appoint representatives as listed:

##### 7.1 Berks Vocational-Technical School Authority Representative (Five-Year Term)

Mr. Geoffrey Miller (past Board Member) agreed to continue to serve as the representative effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

##### 7.2 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Liaison

Mrs. Linda Lash agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and Mr. Robert Dempsey agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

##### 7.3 Tax Collection Committee

Mr. David Moll agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and Mr. Paul Bendigo agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

#### 8.0 CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS

##### 8.1 Berks Career and Technology Center: Joint Operating Committee

(Three-Year Term: January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022)

Mr. George Mertz is presently the representative and Mr. David Moll is the alternate representative through December 31, 2022, as appointed at the December 3, 2019 Board meeting.

##### 8.2 Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Representative (Three-Year Term)

Mrs. Linda Lash was appointed as the representative through June 30, 2023 at the April 27, 2020 Board meeting.

#### 9.0 CONTINUING OFFICES

**9.1 Secretary**

Mrs. Linda Lash was appointed to a four-year term, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021 at the June 26, 2017 Board meeting.

**9.2 Treasurer**

Mrs. Changming Wang was appointed to a one-year term, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at the May 18, 2020 Board meeting.

**10.0 CURRENT BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: 2020 and 2021**

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

George H. Mertz III, Chair	Linda R. Lash
Paul L. Bendigo	Alfonso F. Rossi

Curriculum and Technology

Kevin Raudenbush, Chair	Linda R. Lash
Nicoleen M. Kleffel	David E. Moll

Budget and Finance

David E. Moll, Chair	Nicoleen M. Kleffel
Robert M. Dempsey	Kevin Raudenbush

Buildings and Grounds

Alfonso F. Rossi, Chair	Robert M. Dempsey
Paul L. Bendigo	George H. Mertz

Extracurricular Activities

Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Chair	Linda R. Lash
Robert M. Dempsey	George H. Mertz III

**11.0 MEETING DATES: 2021**

The Board is requested to consider and approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2021 calendar year.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2021 calendar year.**

**Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**12.0 PROCESSING OF BILLS**

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 23, 2020, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2021 for ratification.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 23, 2020, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2021 for ratification.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**



13.0 OTHER BUSINESS

*Curriculum and Technology*

13.1 BCIU Service Agreements

The Board is requested to consider and approve the Berks County Intermediate Unit Service Agreement for one year for the purchase of DocuSign licenses and one-time setup at a cost not to exceed \$4,300.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Berks County Intermediate Unit Service Agreement for one year for the purchase of DocuSign licenses and one-time setup at a cost not to exceed \$4,300.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

13.2 Donation

The Board is requested to consider and approve accepting the donation from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$459.60, to be used for the purchase of Adruinio Starter Kits and a Raspberry Pi 400 Personal Computer Kit for the High School science class in electronics.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Linda Lash to approve accepting the donation from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$459.60, to be used for the purchase of Adruinio Starter Kits and a Raspberry Pi 400 Personal Computer Kit for the High School science class in electronics.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

*Budget and Finance*

13.3 Grant

The Board is requested to consider and approve accepting a grant from the County of Berks, in the amount of \$100,000.00, to be used for supplies for COVID-19 virtual and in-person instruction.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve accepting a grant from the County of Berks, in the amount of \$100,000.00, to be used for supplies for COVID-19 virtual and in-person instruction.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Assessment Appeals

13.4 The Board is requested to consider and approve the following:

On November 6, 2020, Americold Real Estate, LP filed two (2) Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals regarding the properties located at 41 Orchard Lane, Ontelaunee Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 68449002895025 and 41A

Orchard Lane, Leesport Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 92449002799730 (the "Assessment Appeals").

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania that:

Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, are authorized to intervene in the Assessment Appeals on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeals in Item 13.4, on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.5** The Board is requested to consider and approve the following:

On November 6, 2020, URS Logistics Inc., filed a Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeal regarding the property located at Peach Street, Borough of Leesport, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 92449104707112001 (the "Assessment Appeal").

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania that:

Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, are authorized to intervene in the Assessment Appeal on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeal in Item 13.5, on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 13.6** The Board is requested to consider and approve the following:

On November 11, 2020, the Whitman Grandchildren Year 2008 Irrevocable Trust filed two (2) Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals regarding the properties located at 306 Sasha Lane, Bern Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 27530817102736 and 309 Sasha Lane, Bern Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID No. 27530817101545 (the "Assessment Appeals").

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania that:

Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, are authorized to intervene in the Assessment Appeals on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.

**NOTE:** The District has 30 days from 11/6/2020 to file a Notice of Intervention for the Americold Real Estate LP Assessment Appeals and the URS Logistics Inc.,

Assessment Appeal; we have 30 days from 11/11/2020 to file a Notice of Intervention for the Whitman Grandchildren Year 2008 Irrevocable Trust Assessment Appeals.

**Board Action:** Moved by David Moll and seconded by Robert Dempsey to authorize Brian F. Boland, Esquire, John E. Muir, Esquire, and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for the Schuylkill Valley School District, to intervene in the Assessment Appeals in Item 13.6, on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley School District.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### ***Buildings and Grounds***

#### Agreement

- 13.7** The Board is requested to consider and approve the preauthorization agreement from Trane for Phase II of the HVAC upgrades at the high school and elementary school, in the amount of \$88,860.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal.

**Board Action:** Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the preauthorization agreement from Trane for Phase II of the HVAC upgrades at the high school and elementary school, in the amount of \$88,860.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects 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.**

#### Proposal

- 13.8** The Board is requested to consider and approve the proposal from D'Huy Engineering, Inc., for the high school locker room renovation, in the amount of \$29,500.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposal. NOTE: Revised preliminary schedule to follow.

**Board Action:** Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the proposal from D'Huy Engineering, Inc., for the high school locker room renovation, in the amount of \$29,500.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects 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.**

### ***Policy, Personnel and Public Relations***

#### **13.9** Employment

The Board is requested to consider and approve 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.):



**13.9.1** Additional Winter coaches for the 2020-21 school year.

**13.9.2** Co-curricular assignments for the 2020-21 school year.

**Board Action:** Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the employment in Items 13.9.1 and 13.9.2, as presented.

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

No one addressed the Board.

**15.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Miller noted that there would be a Budget and Finance Committee meeting on December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

**16.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**17.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz that, 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 7:27 p.m.



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Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors