

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

MINUTES

November 16, 2020

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:08 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, Kevin Raudenbush, Alfonso F. Rossi

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Changming Wang

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Michael T. Mitchell, Jr., Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill, Kate Costenbader, Stephanie Deibler, Dr. Janet Heilman, Melissa Kelchner, Changming Wang, Jason Williams

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2020, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Miller reported that the Board met in executive session on November 9, 2020, prior to the Board meeting, for personnel matters, and following the November 9, 2020 Board meeting, for personnel matters. The Board also met in executive session prior to the November 16, 2020 Board meeting for personnel matters.

1.5 RECOGNITION

The Board extends sincere thanks and best wishes to the following retiring staff members for their service in education and to the Schuylkill Valley School District.

Mrs. Carolyn Dunlap	Special Education Teacher Middle School	26 years
Mrs. Donna Fuerst	Special Education Paraprofessional Middle School	13 years

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mrs. Dunlap and Mrs. Fuerst for their many years of service and dedication to the district and wished them well in their retirement.

**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 the next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that in regard to enrollment, Schuylkill Valley stands at 18% which is 85 of our eligible students in grades 10-12 attending the BCTC. They would like to see this number 2% higher, but due to the pandemic it is not a good year to measure enrollment. The new welding building was shut down due to two positive COVID cases. This building is separate from the other buildings so the west campus remains open and operating as well as the east campus. BCTC ran a virtual open house on November 11 and trending subjects on how students are enrolling are welding, diesel mechanics, HVAC and health services. These top four programs are at over 95% enrollment.

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

Mr. Moll reported that most districts in Berks County are not seeing significant shortfall in wages at least through the third quarter.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that she attended several meetings including a weekly buzz meeting on November 9. A good part of the meeting was spent on special education including the issue of schools possibly looking at more staffing needs in the areas of mental health and paraeducators and also additional supplies being needed for at-home learning as well as at school. Pendency vouchers were also discussed which give parents a voucher to get services during the interim when their child is not in school. During the Special Legislative Advisory Advocacy meeting new bills were reviewed including the broadband bill, a bill to recognize PSBA's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and retired volunteer educator tutor programs where intermediate units may establish a program for the school districts assigned to the intermediate unit. There is currently concept legislation to make a school director position non-partisan which will allow military and other federal employees to run for office. There would be no primary and everyone would run together in a list for the general election; their goal is to have this in place for the 2020-21 school year.

**2.7 BERKS COUNTY COLA UPDATE**

Mr. Dempsey reported that the last meeting was held on Tuesday, November 10. Dr. DiRocco, Executive Director, PSBA, discussed various topics including how the 2020 national election will affect public education as a new Secretary of Education will be appointed with a more friendly view of public education. The state budget is funded by the state through November 2020 only and the basic subsidy, special education subsidy, and other public school budget lines were level funded by the legislature and governor for 2020-2021. While most educators appreciated the level funding, it has resulted in a loss of revenue as mandated expenses continue to increase in districts. Federal CARES funds assisted many districts with a one-time infusion of cash to assist with COVID-19 expenses. PA received \$523 million in CARES funds in May, with \$471 million going directly to schools. Unfortunately, it was not enough to overcome other revenue losses going into the 2020-2021 school year.

State revenues are falling \$3-5 billion below previous year revenues. If more stimulus dollars are not received from the federal government, the state will have to make significant cuts, raid reserve funds, borrow money or use some combination of all three to stay solvent for the remainder of 2020-2021. They also discussed equity in Pennsylvania which has one of widest

gaps in state funding between the highest and lowest spending school districts of any state in the country. PA students and educators are experiencing inequity at outrageous and damaging levels. The disparity in spending is so wide that the most well off districts spend about \$114,000 more per classroom than those with the lowest spending districts. Adequate funding is an issue every year as far as the percentage of revenue that we receive from the state. In order for districts to have adequate funding to enable their students to meet state standards, the Commonwealth must provide school districts with between \$3-4 billion more in additional funding than it distributed in the 2016-17 school year. Under the topic of special education, from 2008 to 2016, state investment in special education increased by \$72 million. Yet during that time, district special education costs increased by \$1.54 billion. Despite the current upward trend, the rate of state investment has failed to keep pace with local needs. Statewide, special education costs have been rising at a rate averaging nearly \$200 million per year.

In regard to the basic subsidy dilemma, the new state subsidy formula fairly distributes state funding to schools based on student and community needs. Some have proposed solutions to this inequity based on the assumption that redistributing existing state dollars will solve the problem. They propose running all basic education money through the state's funding formula either immediately or over a short period of time but not increasing the state's investment. That has the effect of redirecting funds from about 350 school districts across the state, some with the lowest available resources for students, to 150 other school districts. They also discussed cyber charter school enrollments which are estimated to have increased from 38,000 students in 2019-2020 to 62,000 students for 2020-2021, which is an increase of approximately 24,000 students over last year. PASBO estimates that school districts will pay an additional \$475 million in charter school costs in 2020-2021 as a result of more families choosing charter schools. In Berks County this year we are looking at between 1,500 and 2,100 students added to the roles of the cyber schools. There is hope for legislation to lower tuition costs and possibly putting a limit on tuition costs for cyber schools.

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

No one addressed the Board.

### **4.0 BOARD**

#### Audit Review Report / Herbein & Company

- 4.1 Mr. Nick Bieber, Herbein & Company, reviewed the June 30, 2020 audit report with the Board. He stated that this year the focus was on the district's compliance with direct and material compliance requirements related to the major federal programs selected for testing which for this school year was the special education cluster for the IDEA funds. Mr. Bieber stated that under generally accepted auditing standards they had an unmodified opinion over the district's financial statements and under uniform guidance they had an unmodified opinion on compliance. An unmodified opinion is a clean audit opinion which is the highest level that can be issued. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls over compliance reported. In regard to general fund revenue, overall revenues for the 2019-20 year were \$211,000 under budget which is a 0.5% variance which was mostly due to local revenue sources of real estate tax revenue, earnings on investments and incarcerated education. General fund expenditures for the 2019-20 year came in about \$1.5 million under budget which is a 3.7% variance. Most of this is savings in regular programs related to wages and cyber charter costs and also savings in operation and maintenance of the district, transportation and student activities, primarily related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total the general fund had budgeted a use of fund balance of \$638,884 for the 2019-20 year; the actual end result was a surplus of \$749,915, mostly driven by expenditures being under budget by about \$1.5 million. In total, with the \$750,000 increase, the fund balance in the general fund at the end of year was about \$4.6 million. In this fund balance there was \$1.3 million which has been assigned, which consists of the budgeted deficit for the 2019-20 year of \$816,093 and cyber charter school costs of \$493,533. The unassigned fund balance of \$3,239,466, at June 30, 2020 represents 8% of

budgeted expenditures for the 2019-20 year which is within the thresholds outlined in the district's fund balance policy.

For the capital projects fund, overall results for the year was a use of funds balance of \$884,000 which was spending down some debt issuance funds. The ending fund balance in that fund of \$1.3 million is comprised of \$495,000 reserved for technology and \$917,000 in capital reserves. For the food service fund, overall operating revenue was down \$130,000 due to not being able to serve regular meals during the last few months of the 2019-20 school year. Even with those challenges, the fund did have a positive change in net position of \$14,058 for the year. This would have been a deficit of \$7,638 excluding the pension and OPEB valuation adjustments. Looking at the overall net position or deficit that is presented for the food service fund, it's a deficit of \$498,798. This is driven by the pension and OPEB liabilities allocated to the fund. Without these liabilities the district has a positive net position of \$367,408 which represents about five months of operating expenses. In the overall summary of federal grants for the 2019-20 year, the district had just over \$1 million in federal funds. The special education cluster (IDEA) was tested which represents \$320,000 of these funds and there were no deviations noted in the district's internal controls. The district does qualify as being a low-risk auditee for its audit over federal awards under uniform guidance due to not having past issues. The Board thanked Mr. Bieber for his presentation.

## **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

### Future Ready Index

**5.2** Mr. Mitchell provided a brief report on the Future Ready Index. This is typically our school report card for all three buildings and it's usually a lengthy report. However, because of COVID-19 and no standardized testing happening last year, the only things that changed from the year before were the district fast facts, which has to do with the number of students that we have, ethnicity of our students, our attendance rate, our graduation rate and our post-secondary transition to school, military and work. There are only a couple of areas that changed in each building and they were very close to the year before. For elementary, our attendance rate is 97%. Our English language growth and attainment is also an area that would have changed however we do not have enough students to qualify for that. For the middle school, our attendance rate is 95.8% which is above the state projection of 2030, which is 94.1%, and two years ago we were at 94.2%, so we've improved a little bit. We do not have enough students at the middle school to qualify for English language growth, and career readiness benchmarks remained unchanged at 100%. For the high school, our attendance rate is 93% which has been the same for the past two years. We're a little below the 2030 targeted goal but we're right about there. We do not have enough students at the high school to qualify for English language growth. Our graduation cohort is 94.4%, with the 2030 goal of 92.4%. The five-year cohort went down a little bit from 94.8% to 93.5%, but we're above the state average and are just about where we need to be for 2030 and we're looking for ways to improve this as well.

## **6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### ***Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III***

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:36 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in January 2021.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

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

- 6.1** 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.):
- 6.1.1** Dr. Angela Zawisza, school physician at an hourly rate of \$130 for the 2020-21 school year.
  - 6.1.2** Job description for the position of Certified School Nurse.
  - 6.1.3** Mrs. Christian Losito, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, 6.00 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$12.73, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Charissa Starke, effective date to be determined.
  - 6.1.4** Additional bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2020-21 school year.
  - 6.1.5** Substitutes for the 2020-21 school year.
  - 6.1.6** Transfer of Mr. Phillip Kissinger, German and history teacher at the High School, to temporary assistant to the principal at the High School, effective November 23, 2020, through February 26, 2021, to be paid a stipend of \$5,000.
  - 6.1.7** Winter coaches for the 2020-21 school year.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the employment in Items 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.7, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.2** Approves the unpaid leave of absence for Ms. Amanda Bobeck, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective December 7, 2020, through January 11, 2021.

**Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by George Mertz to approve the unpaid leave of absence in Item 6.2, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.3** Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 818: Contracted Services, as revised.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the second reading and final adoption of Policy 818: Contracted Services, as revised.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6.4 Approves the request for unpaid days for Ms. Deborah Hughes, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, for three consecutive unpaid days, December 21-23, 2020.

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the request for unpaid days in Item 6.4, as presented.**

**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, November 9, 2020, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in January 2021.

### *Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

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

- 7.1 Approves the Letter of Intent to participate in the Berks County DocuSign Consortium for one year, to procure DocuSign envelopes and licensing, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.<sup>6</sup>

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Letter of Intent to participate in the Berks County DocuSign Consortium for one year, to procure DocuSign envelopes and licensing, 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.**

- 7.2 Approves entering into a 66-month lease agreement with Fraser Advanced Information Systems, for 16 district photocopiers, at a monthly cost of \$3,138 (covers maintenance, lease, and print management for 16 machines), and approves authorization to cancel current lease agreement to enter new lease agreement, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the lease and non-appropriation agreement (with the option to remove individual printers from classrooms).

**Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by George Mertz to approve entering into a 66-month lease agreement with Fraser Advanced Information Systems, for 16 district photocopiers, at a monthly cost of \$3,138 (covers maintenance, lease, and print management for 16 machines), and approves authorization to cancel current lease agreement to enter new lease agreement, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the lease and non-appropriation agreement (with the option to remove individual printers from classrooms).**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7.3 Approves ceasing the ordering of any and all supplies and consumables for personal printers throughout the district as soon as possible.

Mr. Billman stated this would be part of the transition to the new copiers as the personal printers would be removed when the new copiers are installed later this year. Mr. Miller noted that there may be a couple of situations where the printer is for confidential items. Mr. Raudenbush stated that there may be circumstances where it's absolutely necessary to have a personal printer and the Board will support this, however the majority are not necessary and can be disposed of as we will be receiving new copiers in the near future that can take the place of these printers.

**Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve ceasing the ordering of any and all supplies and consumables for personal printers throughout the district as soon as possible.**

**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 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in January 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 October 14, 2020, to November 17, 2020, as presented.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$618,155.94</b>
<b>CAFETERIA FUND</b>	<b>\$9,429.37</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>	<b>\$187,012.23</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND</b>	<b>\$930.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$815,527.54</b>

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from October 14, 2020, to November 17, 2020, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.2 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid interim bills dated May 1, 2020, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are (5) bills totaling \$9,480.51 (last year there were six (6) bills totaling \$4,110.03).

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the exoneration of school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid interim bills dated May 1, 2020, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are (5) bills totaling \$9,480.51 (last year there were six (6) bills totaling \$4,110.03).**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.3** Approves the proposal from Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to process, print, and mail the Act 1 Applications for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions, and further, authorizes the Business Manager to execute the proposal. The BCIU has been providing this service since Act 1 began in 2006. The total cost is \$1,164.46 for 1,738 mailers (last year we had 1,732 mailers for a total cost of \$1,143.12).

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the proposal from Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to process, print, and mail the Act 1 Applications for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions, and further, authorizes the Business Manager to execute the proposal. The BCIU has been providing this service since Act 1 began in 2006. The total cost is \$1,164.46 for 1,738 mailers (last year we had 1,732 mailers for a total cost of \$1,143.12).**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.4** Grants authorization for Administrative personnel to participate in the county-wide bid of paper for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the Berks County Joint Purchasing Agreement.

**Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to grant authorization for Administrative personnel to participate in the county-wide bid of paper for the 2021-2022 school year, in accordance with the Berks County Joint Purchasing Agreement.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.5** Approves the PlanCon K application for General Obligation 2020A Notes for submission to PDE, and further, authorizes the Board Secretary to execute the PlanCon - K01.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the PlanCon K application for General Obligation 2020A Notes for submission to PDE, and further, authorizes the Board Secretary to execute the PlanCon - K01.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8.6** Approves accepting the report of the annual local audit as performed by Herbein & Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve accepting the report of the annual local audit as performed by Herbein & Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

8.7 Approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, after discussions with Changming Wang, the Business Manager of the Schuylkill Valley School District, John E. Muir, Esquire and Kozloff Stoudt, Professional Corporation, Solicitors for Schuylkill Valley School District, filed a real estate assessment appeal on behalf of the School District of the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals Final Notice dated October 13, 2020, which reduced the assessed value of the property owned by Enersys Delaware, Inc., located at 2400 Bernville Road, Bern Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Property ID #27439815625918, from \$13,559,600 to \$5,686,300.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the actions taken by the Solicitors to file the Assessment Appeal on behalf of the School District are hereby ratified.

Preparation of appraisal report - \$8,500.00  
Trial preparation and attendance at trial - \$200.00 per hour additional

Mr. Moll noted that the district had a LERTA with Enersys. Mr. Bendigo asked if the LERTA had expired on the increase of the tax assessment. Mr. Moll believes it was over a seven or eight-year period and asked Mrs. Wang to review the LERTA and send the information to the Board.

**Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the resolution Item 8.7, as presented.**

**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 7:15 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in January 2021.

*Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration*

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

9.1 Approves the proposals from R.J. McCarville Associates, Ltd., for folding partition replacements as listed, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Projects Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the proposals.

• Elementary School Gym	\$59,500.00
• Elementary School Cafeteria	<u>\$48,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108,000.00</b>

**Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the proposals from R.J. McCarville Associates, Ltd. in Item 9.1, as presented.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mrs. Lash asked about the status of the HVAC system at the high school. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that they are working on it and the elementary school HVAC system also has issues. There is no heat at the elementary school and he has been working on this throughout the day. The district has aging systems and the main control board at the elementary school failed. The boards are not made, they are re-manufactured, and the cost is \$4,000 with only one vendor in California that has these boards. He had the board overnigheted, but there is no guarantee that it is going to work. There have been a lot of issues in all of the buildings due to age. The middle school is also having issues where heat is intermittent in the older part of the building. When they're finished with the control board tomorrow at the elementary school, they will then be taking a look at the middle school to get the issues resolved. He asked that the Board make a determination as to where they're headed with these issues.

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Rossi would be bringing up the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) projects with the Board. Mr. Blankenbiller noted that GESA is an act that was passed by the state to pay for construction and facility upgrades based on your energy savings. When you hire a contractor you can be very selective as to what they do and what you approve them to do. The nice part about it is that we can also pick quality contractors so we get quality work and our long-term issues are not going to be there because we'll have everything done first class right away. Mr. Miller stated that it involves a lot of record keeping. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that he has already looked at how to proceed with this process and they will be scanning and filing everything electronically. GESA's are a very useful tool and you can also do 15-20% of the total cost of the project in facility upgrades in regard to windows and those sorts of things. The contractor is required to provide the district with an energy audit up front to say here's how you're using your energy, and then they will give us a report that shows an estimate of what our savings will be over a period of time for each project. After that there is a measurement and verification process where the GESA Act requires them to recalculate all of those savings the following year and review energy bills and utility bills and see if your savings were equal to what they had estimated. We are not required by the act to pay for the measurement and verification process, however we could do it for one year to see the savings.

**10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 7:29 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, in the Schuylkill Valley Middle School LGI Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in January 2021.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

There were no Committee recommendations.

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

Mr. Miller noted that there will be a Budget and Finance Committee meeting on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. The GESA projects have been added as a discussion item for that meeting.

**12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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

November 16, 2020

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



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Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors