

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

MINUTES

August 24, 2020

- 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

Board Member Kevin Raudenbush was not physically present but participated and voted via speakerphone.

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, Brian Feick, Dr. Janet Heilman, Melissa Kelchner, Courtney Maguire, Changming Wang, Dr. Sarah Yoder, Jason Williams

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 27, 2020, and to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 17, 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 August 17, 2020 for personnel matters. Mr. Miller announced that the Board would meet at the conclusion of the Board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – G. Dane Miller

Mr. Miller stated that in regard to COVID-19 positive testing, what strikes him is how similar the rural districts are in Berks County. We are in very similar situations with very low infection rates, roughly about one positive test for every three days in the entire district. It's extremely low and all of the data is on the PA Department of Health website. The data can be accessed by county and then by zip code.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash stated that their last meeting was on August 20. They reviewed the Health and Safety Plan for the IU which is now complete. On June 15, BCIU child care resumed. The IU has two billboards in Berks showing the Berks Cyber School option. They also reviewed the Title IX protections which took effect August 14. In addition, they voted on the diversity plan. Their next meeting is in September.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that there was a special meeting held on August 5 to discuss reopening. They are opening with a hybrid model and depending on the sending school district and what their days are, they are expecting about 80% capacity. They will be open five days but attendance will be staggered enough that students can be in the building each day.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that the committee had a Zoom meeting to discuss their budget and potential shortfalls in the collection rate of the earned income tax.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash stated that she watched the PA senate hearing that involved Secretary Pedro Rivera from PDE and Dr. Levine from the PA Department of Health. They discussed the following: fire drills and emergency drills during the pandemic and how they would be handled; the transition from online to hybrid or full day and what guidelines and procedures are in effect; and liability issues. The PSBA *Success Starts Here* initiative has been revamped and has many informational items for communities. The new site is designed as a resource where the public can access core information about each Pennsylvania public school district and board, including positive stories of educational impacts. Each member school district has a dedicated webpage with data and stories specific to its schools. Also, there is a mandate waiver on its way to the PA Legislature. Also, there is great concern about the transportation formula due to the way busses will be used this fall and going forward. Some districts are not using their busses at all for any reason. PSBA has sent a draft executive order to Gov. Wolf on the possibility of liability protection.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the Board.

4.0 BOARD

Policy Waiver

- 4.1** The Board is requested to consider and approve waiving Policy 006.1, Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve waiving Policy 006.1, Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

PSBA Officer Elections

- 4.2** The Board is requested to consider and recommend the election of officers for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer

- PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees – choose up to two candidates for a 3-year term.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to elect David Hein, President-Elect.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to elect Sabrina Backer, Vice President.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to elect Michael Gossert, Treasurer; Michael Faccinetto and Marianne Neel, PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees; Stephen Skrocki and Tracy Long, Forum Steering Committee.

Yeas: Bendigo, 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

*These reports will be provided again beginning with the September 28 agenda.

Updates

5.2 Mr. Mitchell stated that in regard to starting the school year, he has been very impressed with the teaching staff the last number of weeks. They're working very hard to give our students the best possible education, remotely, that they can. He is really pleased with their attitudes, their work ethic, the amount of time they're putting in, and the questions they're asking. They have been great and he appreciates their hard work. Mr. Billman's staff has been phenomenal with getting the devices out to families, and the principals and teachers have done an outstanding job getting materials to the families. Although it's not an ideal learning situation, he believes our students will get a great education for the time that we're online.

One of the questions that he keeps getting is "when are we coming back." We said the end of the first marking period, but as we know, this is a changing situation as guidelines change daily. There are a few schools going back hybrid and we'll see how this goes and we'll continue to monitor the situation. There are a number of ways to look at the zip code data and one of them is that we do not have a lot of cases. But we do have teachers coming from different zip codes and we can't control the people during the weekends and evenings as they may be travelling to different areas. We will continue to monitor the data in our area. If these other schools go back, and we feel we can meet the guidelines, he doesn't see a need to wait until the end of the quarter. The contact tracing office has given different advice each week in regard to athletic incidents, and they seem to be loosening their restrictions. If that continues to happen, he would look to getting the students back as quickly as possible to a hybrid model and then full green if

we can. We'll look at all the data and we'll make sure we can do it safely. He is really impressed with our staff and the administrative team worked hard in the summer to get a good plan together and the teachers are going above and beyond to deliver the curriculum virtually.

Mr. Mitchell requested that the September 21 Committee meetings be moved to September 14 in order to have a voting meeting if needed after the Committee meetings.

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, August 17, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020.

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. Mary Haag, Full-Time Food Services Worker at the Elementary School, effective June 4, 2020.

6.1.2 Mrs. Deana Pietrowski, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, effective June 8, 2020.

6.1.3 Mrs. Changming Wang, Assistant Business Manager, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to accept, with best wishes for the future, 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 Mentors for the 2020-21 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full year mentors and \$587.50 for half year mentors.

6.2.2 Substitutes for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.3 Bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation and the bus routes established for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the employment in Item 6.2.3, as presented.

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

Abstain: Raudenbush

Motion carried.

6.2.4 Jordan Hottenstein, D.D.S., as school dentist at an annual fee of \$80 for the 2020-21 school year.

6.2.5 Mr. Scott Horning, Part-Time Temporary IT Intern, for continued employment in support of remote learning, at an hourly rate of pay of \$12.00, effective from approximately August 31, 2020, through no later than October 30, 2020.

6.2.6 Miss Danielle Fritz, Long-Term Substitute 2nd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, Bachelor's, Step 2, \$50,663, to fill the new position created due to increased need, effective for the 2020-21 school year.

6.2.7 Mr. Steven Hoptley, Full-Time Custodian, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Vernon Heffleger, effective October 13, 2020.

6.2.8 Additional Fall coach for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 6.2.4 through and including 6.2.8, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Contracts for Services

6.3.1 Approves the renewal of the contract for services from eFileCabinet, for the annual software fee for the district's electronic employee file management system, in the amount of \$660.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Human Resources & Communications to execute the agreement.

6.3.2 Approves the renewal of the contract for services from Vector Solutions for the SafeSchools training program in the amount of \$1,957.50, and further, authorizes the Director of Human Resources & Communications to execute the agreement.

6.3.3 Approves the contract for services from Aflac for supplemental employee benefits, at no cost to the district, and further, authorizes the Director of Human Resources & Communications to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the contracts for services in Items 6.3.1 through and including 6.3.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.4 Approves the Special Sick Leave request for Mr. Charles Mohn for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Special Sick Leave request for Mr. Charles Mohn for the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5 Approves the second reading and final adoption of new Policy 815.2: Livestream Video.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the second reading and final adoption of new Policy 815.2: Livestream Video.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Raudenbush, 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 Schuylkill Valley Management relating to the removal of one position.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of School Directors of the Schuylkill Valley School District and Schuylkill Valley Management relating to the removal of one position.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.7 Information: Accountant job description.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Kevin Raudenbush

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 6:47 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1 Approves the statement of work from CDW-G, Inc. for professional services, to provide support in the implementation of AWS AppStream, at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00, to be paid from the Technology Reserve Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.
- 7.2 Approves the statement of work from CDW-G, Inc. for managed services, to provide support in the implementation of AWS AppStream and on-going support of the AWS virtual environment, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.
- 7.3 Approves the agreement with John Paul II Center to provide Student #3006 educational services at the rate of \$30,100 from August 31, 2020 through June 11, 2021, and further, authorizes the

Acting Superintendent to execute the agreement. NOTE: Additional costs may be incurred for ancillary and paraprofessional services if required.

- 7.4 Approves the tuition agreement with the Wilson School District to provide Student #1586 educational services, at the rate of \$66,950 for the 2020-21 school year, and further, authorizes the Acting Superintendent to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the agreements in Items 7.1 through and including 7.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.5 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Bendigo read a text message that he received from a parent stating that Mr. Billman, Director of Instructional and Information Technology, is a godsend. He is so patient, he is so kind, and he always seems to have it together. Mr. Bendigo thanked Mr. Billman for everything that he does for the district. Mr. Raudenbush commended Mr. Billman for his insight on Chromebooks as they are currently very difficult to get and some districts are unable to purchase them as they are on backorder. Mr. Billman had the insight to get SVSD's order in early and we're good to go on Chromebooks, thanks to him.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – David E. Moll

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020.

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 July 15, 2020, to August 25, 2020, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,225,504.62
CAFETERIA FUND	\$2,466.26
TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND	\$120,173.40
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	\$448,049.27
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,796,193.55

- 8.2 Approves the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Reports for July 2020, as presented.

- 8.3 Approves accepting a donation from the Schuylkill Valley Elementary PTO, in the amount of \$5,061.20, for the purchase of a one-year subscription to Seesaw and Boom learning applications.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from July 15, 2020, to August 25, 2020, as presented; and to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Reports for July 2020, as presented; and to approve accepting a donation from the Schuylkill Valley Elementary PTO, in the

amount of \$5,061.20, for the purchase of a one-year subscription to Seesaw and Boom learning applications.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4** Approves authorizing the Business Office to open an interest bearing account through PSDLAF for the purpose of managing the 2020 General Obligation Notes proceeds to be used for District Capital projects.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve authorizing the Business Office to open an interest bearing account through PSDLAF for the purpose of managing the 2020 General Obligation Notes proceeds to be used for District Capital projects.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.5** Approves the extension of the postage machine lease through Quadient for another 60 months, at a cost of \$125.00 per month.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the extension of the postage machine lease through Quadient for another 60 months, at a cost of \$125.00 per month.

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 7:28 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the renewal of the contract for services from eFileCabinet, for the annual software fee for the district's electronic buildings and grounds file management system, in the amount of \$660.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the agreement.
- 9.2** Approves the request from Seth Geiger (Class of 2023), Boy Scout Troop 190, to repaint the baseball dugouts behind the tennis courts during the summer of 2021 as his Eagle Scout Project. Project estimated to be complete in the June/July 2021 timeframe.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by George Mertz to approve the renewal of the contract for services from eFileCabinet, for the annual software fee for the district's electronic buildings and grounds file management system, in the amount of \$660.00, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the

agreement; and to approve the request from Seth Geiger (Class of 2023), Boy Scout Troop 190, to repaint the baseball dugouts behind the tennis courts during the summer of 2021 as his Eagle Scout Project. Project estimated to be complete in the June/July 2021 timeframe.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the district's revised Athletic Health and Safety Plan, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the district's revised Athletic Health and Safety Plan, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Miller presented Mr. Mitchell, Superintendent, with a certificate of recognition for his 25 years of service in education.

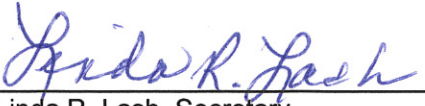
12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz, 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 7:43 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors