

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

MINUTES

April 27, 2020

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, G. Dane Miller, held online via Zoom Meeting Room.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members Present (online): 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 (online): Dr. Cynthia S. Mierzejewski, Michael Billman, Casey Blankenbiller, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler, Brian Feick, Dawn Harris, Dr. Janet Heilman, Diane Kaag, Courtney Maguire, Michael Mitchell, Changming Wang, Dr. Sarah Yoder, Jason Williams

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by David Moll to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 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 via Zoom Meeting Room on April 20, 2020, for a personnel matter.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – G. Dane Miller

Mr. Miller reported that he will be attending three online PSBA forums during the week including a round-table, a digital equity forum and a COVID-19 forum.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that they had a virtual meeting on April 16 to review their Herbein audit. They reviewed the financing of the BCIU which has 11% local financing, 40% state financing and 49% federal financing. Each year they have a fund of about \$6 million that is set up in case they need to borrow, however this year they are setting up a \$10 million fund to be safe. They are also putting out bids to purchase 18 vehicles. Their next meeting will be held on May 21.

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

Mr. Mertz reported that they had a virtual meeting on April 22. They discussed digital learning at the BCTC which is a much bigger learning curve as there is no hands-on learning. The NOCTI assessments and the state competitions have been cancelled. The new welding lab is now under roof and is coming along nicely.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that they did not have a meeting however the latest statements were sent out. In the past they would take the surplus from the previous year after the audit and distribute that to all of the members. What they opted for, to have some visibility and also to keep some of the funds there, was to hold about \$100,000 out and distribute it sometime in the middle of the year in a separate distribution.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash attended the Zoom section meeting held by PSBA which was excellent. They discussed renewing fingerprints for employees that are in need, but the state has not made a decision at this time. They also discussed Keystone testing that was missed by a sophomore or junior, what this would look like in the future, and would they be required to take the missed test in the coming year. Graduation requirements will be re-issued in the fall. In addition, the Cutler Amendment on property taxes was not approved due to not receiving the required number of votes. There are now two bills in regard to a property tax freeze. Mrs. Lash is also a member of the PSBA Legislative Advocacy Council which met two weeks ago.

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 David Moll and seconded by George Mertz 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.

Appointment of Representative

4.2 The Board is requested to consider and approve appointing a representative to the following:

Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Representative (Three-Year Term ending June 30, 2023)
Mrs. Linda R. Lash agreed to serve as the representative for a three-year term, ending June 30, 2023.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the appointment of Mrs. Linda R. Lash as the Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Representative for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution

- 4.3** The Board is requested to consider and approve the resolution of the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania, declaring its official intent to finance a school building project on an interim basis and reimburse itself with proceeds of a general obligation bond or note issue, as presented.

WHEREAS, the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania (the "School District"), is working to complete the construction, reconstruction, renovation and equipping of a school building facilities project in the School District (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project will take approximately two (2) years to complete from the start of construction; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the Project is not expected to exceed \$30,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the School District intends to use its General Fund and Capital Project Fund to finance on an interim basis a portion of the costs of the Project and to issue its general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 prior to final completion of the Project, the proceeds of which will be used to reimburse the General Fund and Capital Project Fund for all or part of the costs of the Project in compliance with United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the resolution of the Schuylkill Valley School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania, declaring its official intent to finance a school building project on an interim basis and reimburse itself with proceeds of a general obligation bond or note issue, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT

Updates

- 5.1** Dr. Mierzejewski stated that in response to the closing of the school buildings, the district is continuing with the Continuity of Education Plan which is posted on our website. Our plans moving forward include providing some additional PDE for our teachers as needed. Our principals are virtually visiting the classrooms and are checking on the good things that are happening throughout the district. They are very pleased and proud of the work that is being done in the classroom and she thanked everyone that is contributing toward this good work. Our food service department is continuing to provide meals to our students on Tuesdays and Thursdays and our custodial staff continues to clean each of our buildings. This work is much appreciated. We also post a lot of good news on our Facebook page.

Mr. Mitchell stated that there have been a number of conversations in regard to graduation and prom. We feel that we have solid plans in place to meet everyone's needs and they are planning to announce the plans later in the week. They believe they have found a way to accommodate everyone's needs and let it happen in a way that everyone can participate safely and have the type of graduation and prom that they want to have. Dr. Mierzejewski added that they have been on many superintendent calls and in regard to graduation, everyone is doing something a little different. Every school district needs to evaluate for themselves what they feel is going to be the best solution. Mr. Mitchell noted that we will be honoring our seniors and are in the process of pulling everything together. We'll continue to do everything that we can to support them.

Dr. Mierzejewski stated that the budget has been an ongoing topic in all of the superintendent meetings. There may be repercussions in the 2020-21 school year and also the 2021-22 school year in regard to how long it may take us to actually get back to where we were. As a district we're doing fairly well but the loss of revenue due to the pandemic is unfortunate. They are also discussing summer programming including ESY and Teachers in the Parks and planning virtual alternatives for both programs, as well as what the start of the 2020-21 school year will look like and having options available. She noted that Dr. Heilman is preparing an application for flexible instructional days.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 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 due to retirement effective with the last day of the 2019-20 school term unless otherwise noted:

6.1.1 Ms. Patricia Kramer, English Teacher at the High School.

6.1.2 Ms. Janet Scull, Speech/Language Therapist at the Elementary School.

6.1.3 Ms. Marsha Townsend, 4th Grade Teacher at the Elementary School.

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 authorizing the Administration to apply for Act 80 Exceptions for the teacher in-service day held on Monday, March 9, 2020; the initial two-week school closure for teacher instructional planning days for the extended school closure for the week of March 16, 2020 through March 20, 2020; and the week of March 23, 2020, through March 27, 2020, and the teacher in-service professional learning on March 30, 2020, and March 31, 2020, as part of the District's Continuity of Education Plan.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the Administration to apply for Act 80 Exceptions for the teacher in-service day held on Monday, March 9, 2020; the initial two-week school closure for teacher instructional planning days for the extended school closure for the week of March 16, 2020 through March 20, 2020; and the week of March 23, 2020, through March 27, 2020, and the teacher in-service professional learning on March 30, 2020, and March 31, 2020, as part of the District's Continuity of Education Plan.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, Raudenbush, 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 Mr. Dan Shuman, 4th Grade Teacher at the Elementary School to Temporary Full-Time Instruction Technology Integration Coach at the Elementary School, for the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by David Moll to approve the employment in Item 6.3.1, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.4 Approves the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021, which reflects no change in monthly premiums paid by seniors, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the Capital Blue Cross Benefit Renewal Plan for the Schuylkill Valley School District Senior Product for the period of 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021, 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, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 626: Federal Fiscal Compliance, as revised.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by David Moll to approve the second reading and final adoption of Policy 626: Federal Fiscal Compliance, as revised.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.6 Accepts, with best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Dawn Harris, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Dawn Harris, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, effective date to be determined.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.7 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.):

- 6.7.1** Ms. Anna Neuhard, Spanish, German & ESL Teacher at the Middle School, Master's, Step 1, \$54,705, effective with the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the employment in Item 6.7.1, 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 7:40 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020.

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 2020-2021 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.

Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by George Mertz to approve the agreement in Item 7.1, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 7.2** Approves the funding for the District's One-to-One Program for the purchase of Chromebooks and Chromebook cases, at a cost not to exceed \$140,000, 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 times needed to acquire Chromebooks and Chromebook cases.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the funding for the District's One-to-One Program for the purchase of Chromebooks and Chromebook cases in Item 7.2, 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 6:52 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 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 March 13, 2020, to April 28, 2020, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$839,505.38
CAFETERIA FUND	\$55,197.94
GRAND TOTAL	\$894,703.32

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from March 13, 2020, to April 28, 2020, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Reports for March 2020, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.3** Approves the Computer Service Rates for 2020-2021 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.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Computer Service Rates for 2020-2021 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, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.4** Approves the interim agreement with Eshelman Transportation, Inc. to add a "School Closure Daily Rate" of \$6,092.49 per day for a total of 55 days equaling \$335,087.00, which will be paid to the contractor for each day of school closure due to the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic in the 2019-2020 school year.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the interim agreement with Eshelman Transportation, Inc. to add a "School Closure Daily Rate" of \$6,092.49 per day for a total of 55 days equaling \$335,087.00, which will be paid to the contractor for each day of school closure due to the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic in the 2019-2020 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.5** Approves rescinding resolution 8.7, the agreement/donation with Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., as approved at the February 24, 2020, Board meeting.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Kevin Raudenbush to approve rescinding resolution 8.7, the agreement/donation with Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., as approved at the February 24, 2020, Board meeting.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 8.6** Approves the agreement with Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. and accepts a donation in the amount not to exceed \$22,000.00, for the purchase of VEX IQ robotics equipment from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., in supporting the growth of the Middle School STEAM program, 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 agreement with Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. and accept a donation in the amount not to exceed \$22,000.00, for the purchase of VEX IQ robotics equipment from Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., in supporting the growth of the Middle School STEAM program, 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.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:46 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the proposal from Miller Sports Construction for the reconstruction of eight (8) tennis courts at the high school, in the amount of \$463,995.00, 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 David Moll and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the proposal from Miller Sports Construction for the reconstruction of eight (8) tennis courts at the high school, in the amount of \$463,995.00, 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.

- 9.2** Approves the proposal from Trane for Phase 1 of the HVAC upgrade at the high school, at a cost of \$872,171.00, 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 Trane for Phase 1 of the HVAC upgrade at the high school, at a cost of

\$872,171.00, 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.

- 9.3** Approves the quote from The A. G. Mauro Company, for wood door replacements at the high school, in the amount of \$38,625.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.

Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by George Mertz to approve the quote from The A. G. Mauro Company, for wood door replacements at the high school, in the amount of \$38,625.00, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.4** Approves the quote from Reading Tractor and Equipment, for the purchase of two (2) Exmark diesel zero-turn mowers with a 96" deck, at a cost of \$32,874.00 per mower, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.

Board Action: Moved by Kevin Raudenbush and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the quote from Reading Tractor and Equipment, for the purchase of two (2) Exmark diesel zero-turn mowers with a 96" deck, at a cost of \$32,874.00 per mower, to be paid from the Capital Project Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the quote.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5** Authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to place the Jacobsen mower and attachments on Municibid.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to authorize the Director of Buildings and Grounds to place the Jacobsen mower and attachments on Municibid.

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 8:08 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020, via Zoom Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the agreement with NFHS Network School Broadcast Program to install and run two NFHS Network cameras for the purpose of live-streaming games, in the amount of \$2,000.00, for a period of five complete school years, and further, authorizes the Athletic Director to execute the agreement.

NOTE: One camera will be installed at the stadium and the other will be installed in the high school gym. The hardware for the cameras and computers to run them is free, but the district will incur a one-time fee of \$2,000 for installation.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the agreement with NFHS Network School Broadcast Program to install and run two NFHS Network cameras for the purpose of live-streaming games, in the amount of \$2,000.00, for a period of five complete school years, and further, authorizes the Athletic Director to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Dempsey asked if the track was open at this time. Mr. Blankenbiller stated that it is completely closed and the card access system has been turned off. When some of the state outdoor restrictions are lifted on May 1, he is fine with opening the track if the Board agrees. The Board agreed with this and the track will be reopened on May 1.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Lash noted that the Reading Eagle published an article on the history of the 2,000-point club for girls' basketball. The article featured Schuylkill Valley graduate and elementary teacher Corielle Yarde who scored 2,283 points in her time at SV.

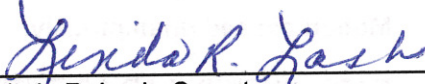
12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kevin Raudenbush 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 8:07 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors