

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

MINUTES

April 20, 2020

- 1.0 The Special Meeting was called to order at 8:19 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, Jeremy Crills, Stephanie Deibler, Brian Feick, Dawn Harris, Janet Heilman, Diane Kaag, Joshua Kuehner, Michael Mitchell, Changming Wang, Sarah Yoder
- 2.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**  
No one addressed the Board.
- 3.0 BOARD**  
Policy Waiver  
**3.1** 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 Kevin Raudenbush 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.**
- 4.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**  
El Associates  
**4.1** The Board is requested to consider and approve El Associates to start design of the Elementary project. El will work with the Building and Grounds Committee and the Business Manager to review options in design. Architectural fees for the elementary school project will be paid out of reimbursable district accounts or construction bond funding.  
  
Mr. Raudenbush asked if there were costs associated with El Associates moving forward. Mr. Feick stated that the costs will be incurred once we start the construction project. This is all rolled into the architecture fees; their fixed fees would be 6% of the total project cost.

Mr. Raudenbush asked if there would be no expenditures until we decide to move forward with the work and Mr. Feick answered this was correct. If we do not move forward there will be a cancellation fee.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve EI Associates to start design of the Elementary project. EI will work with the Building and Grounds Committee and the Business Manager to review options in design. Architectural fees for the elementary school project will be paid out of reimbursable district accounts or construction bond funding.**

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Mierzejewski commended the IT Department and the instructional technology coaches during the closing of schools due to the pandemic. They have been there to support our teachers and give our students and families what they need. The principals and assistant principals have been looking into the Google classrooms and the teachers are putting up things that are meaningful and worthwhile. We have an intervention plan in place for students who maybe are not participating and how we can get them to participate along with a process for contacting parents and making sure that they are engaged. We understand the challenges that families are faced with having students at home. We recognize that all of our students will have some type of gap as we enter into the next school year, so we are planning on being proactive on how to address that gap and what does the curriculum look like for next year. We are currently working on finding some time for our teachers at the end of the school year and we have two professional development days that we can work with. They may be able to get together in small groups by the end of the year, or even virtually if needed, to plan for next year. It has been quite an undertaking and she is very proud of everyone and everything that they have done.

Dr. Mierzejewski stated that kindergarten registration paperwork can either be mailed to Mandee Miller at the elementary school or there will be a curbside drop-off on May 11. The kindergarteners and parents visit that normally happens in May will be scheduled sometime over the summer. Also, the prom is currently scheduled for July 11, 2020.

**6.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

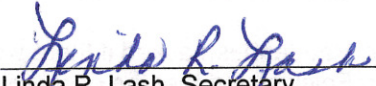
**7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by David Moll and seconded by Robert Dempsey 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 8:35 p.m.

  
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Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors