

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

MINUTES

December 3, 2019

1.0 The Reorganization/Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, Kevin Raudenbush, in the LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room of the Schuylkill Valley High School.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

Holdover Members Present: Paul L. Bendigo, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, Kevin Raudenbush

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Changming Wang (not present)

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cynthia S. Mierzejewski, Michael Billman, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Brian Feick

1.3 RECOGNITION

Farewell to Board Member

Dr. Jay R. Melvin has dedicated his service to the citizens and students of the Schuylkill Valley School District since 2007. Mr. Raudenbush thanked him for his devotion in serving the district and wished him well in his future endeavors.

2.0 SELECTION OF A TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (from holdover members)

Mrs. Linda Lash 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: Neil Bitting, fifth grade; Angela Leshner, sixth grade; Caitlyn Reali, seventh grade; and Kyleana Ripple, 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 CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FOR NEWLY ELECTED OR REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Lash, Temporary President, read the Certificates of Election from the Berks County Board of Elections for Robert M. Dempsey, Region 2; George H. Mertz III, At Large; G. Dane Miller, At Large; David E. Moll, At Large; Alfonso F. Rossi, Region 3.

5.0 SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED AND REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Lash, Temporary President, administered the oath of office to newly elected and reelected Board members:

Robert M. Dempsey (Region 2)	Four-year term to conclude first Monday in December 2023
George H. Mertz III (At Large)	Four-year term to conclude first Monday in December 2023
G. Dane Miller (At Large)	Four-year term to conclude first Monday in December 2023
David E. Moll (At Large)	Four-year term to conclude first Monday in December 2023
Alfonso F. Rossi (Region 3)	Four-year term to conclude first Monday in December 2023

Dr. Mierzejewski reminded the newly elected Board members that they need to complete five hours of training and re-elected Board members need to complete three hours of training, which falls under Act 55. PSBA has many online training modules available to members.

6.0 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

7.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Temporary President Linda Lash asked for nominations for President.

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to nominate G. Dane Miller for President.

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to nominate Kevin Raudenbush for President.

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

Roll Call Vote

Bendigo – Miller; Dempsey – Miller; Kleffel – Raudenbush; Lash – Raudenbush; Mertz – Miller; Miller – Miller; Moll – Miller; Raudenbush – Raudenbush; Rossi – Miller.

Motion passed 6-3 for G. Dane Miller for Board President.

8.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

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

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to nominate Kevin Raudenbush as Vice President.

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

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

Roll Call Vote

Dempsey – Raudenbush; Kleffel – Raudenbush; Lash – Raudenbush; Mertz – Mertz; Miller – Mertz; Moll – Mertz; Raudenbush – Raudenbush; Rossi – Mertz; Bendigo – Mertz.

Motion passed 5-4 for George Mertz for Board Vice President.

9.0 APPOINTMENTS: BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

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

9.1 Berks Career and Technology Center: Joint Operating Committee (Three-Year Term)

Mr. George Mertz agreed to serve as the representative for a three-year term effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, and Mr. David Moll agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same three-year term.

9.2 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Liaison (One-Year Term)

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.

9.3 Tax Collection Committee (One-Year Term)

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.

10.0 CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS

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

Mrs. Linda Lash was appointed as the representative through June 30, 2020 at the April 24, 2017 Board meeting.

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

Mr. Geoffrey Miller was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Glenn Jacoby ending December 31, 2020.

11.0 CONTINUING OFFICES

11.1 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.

11.2 Treasurer

Mrs. Changming Wang was appointed to a one-year term, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 at the May 20, 2019 Board meeting.

12.0 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: 2020 and 2021

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

George H. Mertz III, Chair
Paul L. Bendigo

Linda R. Lash
Alfonso F. Rossi

Curriculum and Technology

Kevin Raudenbush, Chair
Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Linda R. Lash
David E. Moll

Budget and Finance

David E. Moll, Chair
Robert M. Dempsey

Nicoleen M. Kleffel
Kevin Raudenbush

Buildings and Grounds

Alfonso F. Rossi, Chair
Paul L. Bendigo

Robert M. Dempsey
George H. Mertz III

Extracurricular Activities

Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Chair
Robert M. Dempsey

Linda R. Lash
George H. Mertz III

Mr. Miller asked for the following changes to the Committee membership:

- ✓ **George H. Mertz III to become the Chairperson of the Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee (to replace Mrs. Lash as Chairperson); Linda R. Lash will remain as a Committee member.**
- ✓ **Add Paul L. Bendigo to the Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee (to replace Jay Melvin).**
- ✓ **Kevin Raudenbush to become the Chairperson of the Curriculum and Technology Committee (to replace Mr. Miller as Chairperson).**
- ✓ **Add David E. Moll to the Curriculum and Technology Committee (to replace Mr. Dempsey).**
- ✓ **David E. Moll to become the Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee (to replace Jay Melvin).**
- ✓ **Add Nicoleen M. Kleffel to the Budget and Finance Committee (to replace Mr. Bendigo).**
- ✓ **Add Kevin Raudenbush to the Budget and Finance Committee (to replace Mr. Rossi).**
- ✓ **Add Robert M. Dempsey to the Buildings and Grounds Committee (to replace Mr. Miller).**
- ✓ **Add Robert M. Dempsey to the Extracurricular Activities Committee (to replace Mr. Miller).**
- ✓ **Add George H. Mertz III to the Extracurricular Activities Committee (to replace Jay Melvin).**

13.0 MEETING DATES: 2020

The Board is requested to consider and approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year.

Mr. Mertz requested that the July 20 committee meetings be kept on the calendar instead of as needed. Mr. Bendigo requested that the April 20 committee meetings be kept on the calendar and also to add a Budget and Finance Committee meeting for the purpose of budget review.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year, with revisions as requested.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

14.0 PROCESSING OF BILLS

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 20, 2019, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2020 for ratification.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 20, 2019, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2020 for ratification.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

15.1 Employment

The Board is requested to consider and approve 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.):

15.1.1 Ms. Traci Pawling, Spanish Teacher at the High School to ESL Teacher at all buildings, to fill the newly created position, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by David Moll to approve the employment in Item 15.1.1, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.1.2 Department chairpersons for the 2019-20 school year.

15.1.3 Substitutes for the 2019-20 school year.

15.1.4 Volunteers for the 2019-20 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 15.1.2 through and including 15.1.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.1.5 Change of Panthers-On-Parade salaries for the 2019-20 school year.

- 15.1.6** Ms. Angela Lucas, Head Custodian at the Elementary School, at an hourly rate of \$21.37, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Jim Blatt, effective December 9, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the employment in Items 15.1.5 and 15.1.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.2 Salary Increase

The Board is requested to consider and approve the salary increase of Dr. Cynthia Mierzejewski, Superintendent, in the amount of \$3,090 retroactive to July 1, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by George Mertz to approve the salary increase of Dr. Cynthia Mierzejewski, Superintendent, in the amount of \$3,090 retroactive to July 1, 2019.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.3 Contract for Services

The Board is requested to consider and approve acceptance of the renewal from National School Applications Network, Inc. for the annual membership fee for the PA REAP teacher application system, at a cost of \$1,049, and further, to authorize the Director of Human Resources & Communications to execute the renewal.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve acceptance of the renewal from National School Applications Network, Inc. for the annual membership fee for the PA REAP teacher application system, at a cost of \$1,049, and further, to authorize the Director of Human Resources & Communications to execute the renewal.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

15.4 Request for Leave of Absence

The Board is requested to consider and approve the request for a leave of absence from Ms. Donna Fuerst, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective October 29, 2019, through November 22, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by David Moll and seconded by George Mertz to approve the request for a leave of absence from Ms. Donna Fuerst, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective October 29, 2019, through November 22, 2019.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

16.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the Board.

17.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dr. Mierzejewski stated that the Board was given two draft versions of the school calendar for the 2020-21 school year. One version shows August 31, 2020 as the first day of school due to a prior Board resolution stating that school would start the Monday before the Labor Day holiday. The last day of school for students would be June 11, 2021 which is a little late in the summer. The second version shows August 26, 2020 as the first day of school with June 8, 2021 as the last day of school for students, which would also leave room for snow days. Dr. Mierzejewski asked the Board to consider these options as this item will be presented at the January 2020 meeting.

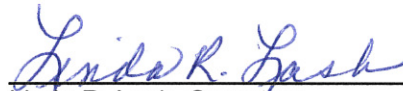
18.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo 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 7:52 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors