

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

MINUTES

July 24, 2023

1.0 The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board President, David E. Moll, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members Present: Robert M. Dempsey, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi

Members Absent: Paul L. Bendigo

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Casey Blankenbiller, Dr. Melissa Brewer, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler, Kristin Holst, Dr. Joshua Kuehner, Jenny Rexrode, Jacqueline Rivas, Kristen Wallace

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 26, 2023, as presented.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moll reported that the Board met in executive session on Monday, July 17, 2023, prior to the Committee meetings, for legal matters, and on Monday, July 24, 2023, prior to the Board meeting, for personnel matters.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – *David E. Moll*

Mr. Moll noted that the district is still waiting for a detailed plan from the county in regard to the youth shelter.

2.2 SECRETARY – *Linda R. Lash*

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that their next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17.

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

No report.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – David E. Moll

Mr. Moll reported that the committee meets quarterly. At this time, Berks earned income tax continues to track well.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash

Mrs. Lash reported that the state has not passed the budget for the coming year. The future of free breakfast and lunch for all Pennsylvania students is in jeopardy as a pandemic era policy making the meals mandatory has expired. There are bills in the house and senate that may add Pennsylvania to the growing list of states funding free breakfast and lunch for all public school students, however neither of the bills have advanced out of committee. Gov. Shapiro's proposed budget does continue the free breakfast program and grants free lunch to those who are currently only eligible for reduced meals. Also, with the budget delay, the voucher program has not come to fruition and the governor will not support the program at this time.

2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Robert M. Dempsey

Dr. Taschner reported that the foundation will have a table at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1. She also encouraged local business owners to join the foundation's board. They continue their work to get the 501(c)(3) reinstated and she thanked Mr. Shucker for his work on this issue.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Sue Staus, Centre Township – Child's IEP/Instructor
Jessica Holben, Centre Township – District Turnover
Christine Wysocki, Bern Township – Thank You to Past Employees, Board Agendas
Lisa Jacobson, Bern Township – Youth Shelter
Kate Inman, Ontelaunee Township – District Turnover
Amanda Hoover, Bern Township – District Turnover
Randy Hoover, Bern Township – Youth Shelter, District Turnover
Lauren Matthews, Centre Township – Employment in the District

4.0 BOARD

There were no items for consideration.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT

Monthly Reports

5.1 The following monthly reports will resume in September:

- 5.1.1 Enrollment Year-To-Date
- 5.1.2 Principals' Dashboard Reports

Other (Old/New Business)

5.2 Dr. Taschner spoke about summer programming and how glad we are to see students and staff in the buildings and people enjoying those opportunities. She thanked the principals and assistant principals for their work in regard to scheduling, reviewing class lists, PIMS reports, ordering materials and so much more, and also the administrators for all of their work in preparing for the year ahead. She thanked the entire 12-month staff who work throughout the summer in order to have the district ready for the new school year. Dr. Taschner stated that the middle school pool project is moving along relatively on time and we're looking forward to the opportunity for middle school students to enjoy swimming in their physical education classes. As a reminder, we are hosting National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1 at the high school. Back to School Night planning is well underway and parents will soon receive information on these events.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – George H. Mertz III

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:32 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 6.1** Accepts, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:
- 6.1.1** Ms. Emily Calaman, Librarian at the Middle School, effective June 8, 2023.
 - 6.1.2** Mr. Howard Cummings, Food Services Worker, effective June 7, 2023.
 - 6.1.3** Ms. Kara Feeney, 1st Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, effective June 8, 2023.
 - 6.1.4** Mrs. Lauren Matthews, School Counselor at the Elementary School, effective June 28, 2023.
- 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** Mrs. Morgan Boone, Elementary Education Teacher, Master's, Step 10, \$69,462, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Karen Degler, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.2.2** Mr. Jacob Ford, Social Studies Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 2, \$54,663, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Megan French, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.2.3** Mrs. Kelly Howells, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, Master's+30, Step 22, \$97,280, to fill the newly created position, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.2.4** Ms. Aaryn Snyder, Special Education Teacher, Master's, Step 2, \$60,299, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Robin Oleson, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.2.5** Ms. Jennifer Vroman, English Teacher, Master's+18, Step 22, \$93,777, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Paige Figueroa, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
 - 6.2.6** Approves the following employee transfers effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year:
 - Mr. Taylor Grim - Health & Physical Education Teacher at the high school to Health & Physical Education Teacher at the middle school.
 - Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs - Librarian at the elementary school to Librarian at the middle school.
 - Mrs. Christina Sossong - Health & Physical Education Teacher at the elementary school to Health & Physical Education Teacher at the middle school.
 - 6.2.7** Approves extended school year (ESY) staff, with teachers to be paid the professional hourly rate of \$27, per the SVEA Collective Bargaining Agreement; paraprofessional and substitute paraprofessionals to be paid at their regular hourly rate:

Sharon Chelius - Paraprofessional
Rose Ward - Paraprofessional

6.2.8 Substitutes for the 2023-24 school year:

Michelle Anastasio - Elementary Education K-6, Homebound
Alexander Arredondolopez - Paraprofessional
Tiffany Bechtel - Nurse
Kaitlin Becker Humphrey - Guest Teacher
Evan Cannon - Guest Teacher
Angela Davis - Guest Teacher
Alexia Dynda - Guest Teacher
Nelda Eddinger - Elementary Education K-6, Homebound (Retired)
Amber Elliott - Food Services Worker, Paraprofessional, Secretary
Kiley Esbenshade - Food Services Worker, Paraprofessional
Kimberly Foreman - English 7-12 (Retired)
Sallie Gigliotti - Elementary Education 4-8
Logan Grauer - Elementary Education K-4
Debra Hettinger - Guest Teacher, Paraprofessional, Secretary
Colleen Hodnik - Elementary Education K-6 (Retired)
Jacob Jerdan - Custodian
Deanne Johnson - Mathematics 7-12
Susan Jones - Food Services Worker
Jenna Martorana - Elementary School Counselor
Mary McMenammin-Blatt - Guest Teacher
Jeffrey Metz - Guest Teacher
Linda Miller - Elementary Education K-6
Melissa Miller - Food Services Worker, Paraprofessional
Franchon Minor-Grandy - Guest Teacher
Hunter Mountz - Guest Teacher
Whitney Myers - Social Studies 7-12
Wendy Noll - Food Services Worker, Paraprofessional, Secretary
Roberta Nye - Guest Teacher
Hannah Phillips - Guest Teacher
Mary Pucul - Guest Teacher
Danielle Readinger - Paraprofessional
John Ries - Guest Teacher
Tiffany Rollman - Paraprofessional, Secretary
Abigail Searfoss - Guest Teacher, Paraprofessional
Janet Scull - Speech Correction (Retired)
Linda Seaman - Paraprofessional
Jane Sigoda - Elementary - Retired
Cynthia Steele - Mathematics 7-12 (Retired)
Russette Weand - Guest Teacher
Dorothea Weeks - Social Studies 7-12

6.2.9 Volunteers for the 2023-24 school year:

Jeremy Bauder - ES
Christine Wysocki - All

6.2.10 Summer school staff, with teachers to be paid the hourly rate of \$50, per the Memorandum of Understanding with the Schuylkill Valley Education Association:

Mrs. Morgan Boone - ES
Mrs. Michelle Rowles-Cranmer - HS

Mrs. Ronda Seymour – ES

- 6.2.11 Job description for the position of Supervisor of Special Education.
- 6.2.12 Abolishment of two Part-Time, Two Days Per Week Reading Paraprofessional positions at the elementary school effective June 8, 2023.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future the resignations in Item 6.1.1 through and including 6.1.4, as presented; and to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.12, as presented.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.2.13 Miss Nicole Edmondson, Elementary Education Teacher, Bachelor's, Step 2, \$54,663, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Shannon Lewis.
- 6.2.14 Ms. Courtney Smith from Special Education Teacher to Elementary Education Teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Tara LeClair.
- 6.2.15 Ms. Sallie Gigliotti, Elementary Education Teacher, Master's, Step 2, \$60,299, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Christine Wysocki, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.
- 6.2.16 Ms. Alyssa Smith, Special Education Teacher, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year, Master's, Step 3, \$61,892, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Ms. Courtney Smith.
- 6.2.17 Mr. Nicollas Bernhart, Accountant, at an annual salary of \$55,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Kristen Wallace, effective date to be determined.
- 6.2.18 Mrs. Ann Bricker, School Counselor, MS+42, Step 12, \$84,711 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Lauren Matthews, effective pending release from current assignment.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the employment in Items 6.2.13 through and including 6.2.18, as presented.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3 Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves:

Mr. Warren Koller, Custodian, effective July 3, 2023, through approximately August 28, 2023.

Mrs. Mona Waller, Technology Support Specialist, effective July 1, 2023, intermittently through September 30, 2023.

- 6.4 Approves the revisions to the organizational chart, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to acknowledge the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leaves in Item 6.3; and to approve the revisions to the organizational chart, as presented.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.5** Approves the salary increases for administrators and support staff, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve the salary increases for administrators and support staff, as presented.

Mr. Moll called for an executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Moll reconvened the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to table the resolution.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.6** Approves the purchase of back to school items for district staff.

- 6.7** Approves a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the purchase of back to school items for district staff; and to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 7.1** Approves the sales quote from GovConnection, Inc. for renewal of the annual subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, in the amount of \$2,460.00, as presented.
- 7.2** Approves participation in the PEPPM 2023 Apple Bid - Pennsylvania contract awarded to Apple, Inc.
- 7.3** Approves the renewal for the annual Nearpod subscription, in the amount of \$2,621.67, as presented.

- 7.4 Approves the fifth year of a five-year agreement with IU13 for Microsoft licensing at a total cost of \$33,537.90, as presented.
- 7.5 Approves the Bulk Services Agreement with ePlus, in the amount of \$10,000.00, as presented.
- 7.6 Approves the quote from PowerSchool for Schoology roll over, in the amount of \$1,205.00, as presented.
- 7.7 Approves the re-written social studies courses, as presented.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the sales quote from GovConnection, Inc. for renewal of the annual subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, in the amount of \$2,460.00, as presented; and to approve participation in the PEPPM 2023 Apple Bid - Pennsylvania contract awarded to Apple, Inc.; and to approve the renewal for the annual Nearpod subscription, in the amount of \$2,621.67, as presented; and to approve the fifth year of a five-year agreement with IU13 for Microsoft licensing at a total cost of \$33,537.90, as presented; and to approve the Bulk Services Agreement with ePlus, in the amount of \$10,000.00, as presented; and to approve the quote from PowerSchool for Schoology roll over, in the amount of \$1,205.00, as presented; and to approve the re-written social studies courses, as presented.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:11 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023.

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 June 13, 2023, to July 25, 2023, as presented.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,537,299.56
CAFETERIA FUND	\$5,936.45
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND	\$107,584.84
MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND	\$3,439.95
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,654,260.80

- 8.2 Approves Equitable as our provider of Basic Life with AD&D coverage effective July 1, 2023; this was previously held by One America. The Consortium of schools in Berks County agreed to use Equitable due to reduced pricing.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from June 13, 2023, to July 25, 2023, as presented; and to approve Equitable as our provider of Basic Life with AD&D coverage effective July 1, 2023; this was previously held by One America. The Consortium of schools in Berks County agreed to use Equitable due to reduced pricing.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:13 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 9.1** Approves the remediation plan proposed by Miller Sports Construction to correct the surface installation at the Schuylkill Valley high school tennis court facility, as presented.
- 9.2** Approves the proposal from Degler Whiting to provide and install two wireless field timers on new support poles with one wireless controller and one wireless hand switch controller, in the amount of \$12,130.00.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the remediation plan proposed by Miller Sports Construction to correct the surface installation at the Schuylkill Valley high school tennis court facility, as presented; and to approve the proposal from Degler Whiting to provide and install two wireless field timers on new support poles with one wireless controller and one wireless hand switch controller, in the amount of \$12,130.00.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 7:23 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

- 10.1** Approves the Memorandum of Understanding for Law Enforcement Authority with Bern Township.
- 10.2** Approves the settlement and release agreements for 2023-24 for the following students: 1877, 3006, 3613, 3702, and 5030.

Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Law Enforcement Authority with Bern Township; and to approve the settlement and release agreements for 2023-24 for the following students: 1877, 3006, 3613, 3702, and 5030.

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mrs. Kleffel reminded everyone that there is a school supply distribution on Thursday, August 10 from 6-7 p.m. at the Leesport Farmers Market. They are also accepting back to school supplies and they can be dropped off at any of the schools, Andali's or Steve Moyer Subaru. The information is also available on the district website.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors