

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

MINUTES

January 22, 2024

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: Franklin M. Ammarell, Paul L. Bendigo, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, David E. Moll, Bryan J. O'Donnell, Alfonso F. Rossi, Kelly J. Steinke, Daniel B. Weyandt

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cathy Taschner, Toni Crater, Jennifer Gabryluk, Russell Poper, Jacqueline Rivas, Michael Sobczak, Kristen Wallace

Solicitor: Alicia Luke, Esq., Fox Rothschild LLP

1.3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2023, the reorganization/regular meeting of December 7, 2023, and the special meeting of December 14, 2023, as presented.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

1.4 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Moll reported that the Board met in executive session on January 22, 2024, prior to the Board meeting, for legal and personnel matters.

1.5 **RECOGNITION**

The Board was pleased to recognize SVHS's five All-American Cheerleaders: Makayla Bowers, Eve Kalinowski, Noah Sonon, Alexa Davis and Emmelia Neff. On January 1, the students traveled to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL for a performance in front of 40,000 people. They will also be competing in Hershey on January 26. The Board congratulated them on their accomplishments and wished them well in future endeavors.

2.0 **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

2.1 **PRESIDENT – David E. Moll**

No report.

2.2 **SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash**

No report.

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

Mrs. Lash reported that the BCIU held its seventh annual *Student Artwork Showcase* and this year Schuylkill Valley was represented by Isabella Vera, freshman. The IU is currently looking at optimizing its facilities usage while minimizing costs. They will be hiring an architectural firm to evaluate the properties on Commons Boulevard and Centre Avenue. The BCIU issued a mid-year *State of the Unit* report highlighting their service to over 70,000 K-12 students in 18 school districts and two career/tech centers. They welcomed nine new board members at their January meeting and unanimously approved the 2024-2025 BCIU General Fund Budget. They have asked for an increase of 3.5% in their Mandated Services Budget primarily due to healthcare, PSERS, and staff salaries. All Berks County school district board members will be asked to vote on the Mandated Services portion of the General Budget by mid-April.

**2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – David E. Moll**

Mr. Moll reported that the BCTC budget has decreased by 0.19%. They received 950 student applications in the first round for 2024-25 which were due by December 15. He encouraged interested students to still apply as the application review process will continue until all slots are filled. Also, there will be another partnership this year with the BCTC students and NASA.

**2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – Nicoleen M. Kleffel**

No report.

**2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash**

Mrs. Lash stated that the PSBA Trust has established Student Leader Scholarships to provide a one-time \$2,500 or \$5,000 scholarship to each recipient. The scholarships recognize graduating seniors from PSBA member districts who have demonstrated ongoing leadership and meet the criteria for one of four available scholarships. Applications are due by March 15 and she encouraged students to apply.

**2.7 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION – TBD**

No report.

**3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Sherry Faust, Bern Township/District Employee – New Non-Certified Compensation Plan  
Louis Shucker, Bern Township – Climate Change  
Sally Horton, Leesport/District Employee – New Non-Certified Compensation Plan

**4.0 BOARD**

There were no items for Board approval.

**4.1 SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

No report.

**4.1 Other (Old/New Business)**

Mr. Bendigo addressed the new Non-Certified Compensation Plan. He stated that when the committee began work on the new compensation plan, they looked at what was previously in place, which was employees receiving a yearly set percentage of increase. There was no recognition given to employees based on longevity and the increase basically kept up with the cost of living. They reviewed the starting rate and the top pay rate for different job categories within the district and also looked at how long individuals stay employed at a school district. They believed it was important to get people to the top rate of the pay chart as quickly as possible to incentivize employees to remain with the district. In looking at the starting rate through the top rate in the different pay categories, this could have been stretched out over 30 years, but it was decided to stretch it over 20 years so that employees could get to the top pay rate after 20 years of employment. In addition, after an employee gets to the top, they will continue to receive a cost of living increase based on what social security determines as their cost of living increase. They will also receive a lump-sum performance bonus of up to two percent of an employee’s yearly earnings based on individual performance. The plan that was developed was comprehensive for all district hourly employees, broken into different work classifications, and they believed the plan took great

steps in rewarding employees. He realizes that some people at the lower end probably received a larger increase, however this was due to the need to adjust pay rates based on what is currently being paid in the local market and in Berks County.

Dr. Taschner added that over the next week she will be visiting with any employees that would like to meet because it will be helpful. The first step that was taken was to place employees on the chart that was developed which was not the increase. The second chart will show the increase as of July 1, 2024. The Board's intention was that every person, regardless of longevity, would receive the yearly social security multiplier and the opportunity to receive up to an additional 2% bonus. The choice of 20 years was not meant to be negative, it was to help people get to the top more quickly. She will meet with groups to show the charts and to make sure that people are aware of everything included in the plan. Mr. Bendigo added that, in summary, previously all employees received one increase per year on July 1. With the new plan, on July 1, they will receive a step increase, a cost of living increase, and a performance bonus. Instead of receiving one increase per year, they are eligible for three increases, or two increases, depending on where you are on the pay chart.

## 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' Dashboard Reports

### Other (Old/New Business)

5.2 Dr. Taschner reported that the following students were selected for Berks Senior County Chorus: Naomi Frantz, Cerina Readinger, Josh Searfoss, Austin Kerper, and Andrew Kerper. Also, Jack Gambler was selected for Berks Senior County Band on the trumpet. Dr. Taschner congratulated this year's BCIAA wrestling champions Ian Vitalo, Mackenzie Bachman, and Kayley Weidner. As this was the first time BCIAA held a girls' wrestling championship, Mackenzie and Kayley will be recognized as the first girls wrestling champions in SV history. The FFA accepted SV's charter at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Show in Harrisburg on January 8. Attending were Charlotte Wallace, Abby Ruth, Ian Schlappich, Ashlee Neuin, and Hunter Foley. Alexa Davis and Keira Stork received their FFA jackets at the convention as part of the state jacket scholarship program. She congratulated the following winners at the farm show: Sydney Turner - 1st in Fairy Gardens - Any Design and Jazzy Jar, 2nd in Bird House Contest; Meadow Himmelberger - 1st in Bird House Contest, 2nd in Jazzy Jar.

Our SV students and teachers will be featured on ClassH-Room on the Fox 29 app beginning at 7 p.m. on January 31, and on February 7 at 6:30 p.m. on the Fox 29 TV station and website. Each episode features three students and three teachers from the same school competing against each other. Dr. Taschner congratulated our BCTC SkillsUSA competitors including Jordynn Augustine - 3rd in Commercial Baking. In addition, Lex Crespo, HVAC Refrigeration, and Bryce Bechtel, Mechatronics, will be advancing to the State SkillsUSA Competition for their 1st place wins in their respective categories. Devin Welker received triple-gold at the North American Open Weightlifting finals and is the reigning national champion in her weight class which she won in Colorado Springs in June. Our boys' bowling team shot games of 1,022, 1,048 and 1,013 which was the first time since 2013 that the team rolled three games over 1,000.

Dr. Taschner noted that our principals attended three separate sessions over the past six months on Artificial Intelligence. We are getting ready to have discussions with our teachers who are dealing with AI every day. She also recognized our Board of School Directors, as January is *Board Appreciation Month*, and thanked them for all that they do for the district. School directors spend 20-30 hours outside of regular meetings to attend work sessions, training, read materials and talking and taking concerns from the community. School directors are volunteering their time as they are not paid for their service. We also had our Martin Luther King, Jr. in-service day and our

teachers all took time to write to our graduates who are service men and women. We are packing the items and getting ready to ship them on behalf of our teachers and Dr. Taschner thanked everyone who serves.

**6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Paul L. Bendigo***

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 7:10 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.

***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:

- Mr. Nicollas Bernhart, Accountant, effective January 17, 2024.
- Mr. Scott Piergrossi, Music Teacher at the middle school, effective December 31, 2023.
- Ms. Amanda Redcay, Reading Olympics Coach at the elementary school, effective December 1, 2023.
- Mrs. Michelle Rowles-Cranmer, Director of Community Aquatics, effective December 18, 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** Ms. Kaitlin Becker Humphrey, Special Education Teacher PK-12, Bachelor's, Step 1, \$53,553 (prorated for actual days worked), effective December 4, 2023, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Michelle Rowles-Cranmer.
- 6.2.2** Change of status for Ms. Marlene Biros, from Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the middle school to Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the elementary school, Master's, Step 2, \$60,299 (prorated for actual days worked), effective December 4, 2023, end date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Charlotte Lupia.
- 6.2.3** Mrs. Dennise Heckman, Certified Building Substitute Teacher at the high school, \$43,553, reduced rate of pay with single level benefit option is available (prorated for actual days worked), effective December 13, 2023, to fill the newly created position.
- 6.2.4** Mrs. Morgan Schmeck, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional, six hours per day at an hourly rate of pay of \$12.91, effective date to be determined, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Lori Seisler.
- 6.2.5** Co-curricular change for the 2023-24 school year:
  - Mrs. Kimberly Makosch - Director of Vocal Music - MS - \$1,587
- 6.2.6** Extracurricular appointments for the 2023-24 school year:
  - Mr. Jeremy Crills - Baseball Varsity Assistant Coach - \$3,500
  - Mr. James Del Conte - Baseball Varsity Assistant Coach - \$3,500
  - Mr. Jovahn Hernandez - Wrestling Junior High Assistant Coach - \$2,250
  - Mr. Joshua Schmeck - Wrestling High School Assistant Coach - \$4,500
  - Mr. Steven Wise - Wrestling High School Assistant Coach - \$4,500

- 6.2.7** Mentors for the 2023-24 school year at a stipend of \$1,175.00 for full year mentors and \$587.50 for half year mentors:

Arianna Bressler for Kaitlin Becker Humphrey - Full Year (half year for 2023-24)  
Creg Drake for Melissa Yourey - Half Year  
Megan Fox for Gretta Young - Half Year

- 6.2.8** Substitutes for the 2023-24 school year:

Giana Dinardo - Guest Teacher  
Sadie Goad - Guest Teacher  
Samuel Kierstead - Guest Teacher  
Shannon Lewis - Instruction in the Home

- 6.2.9** Approves the following volunteers for the 2023-24 school year:

Allison Bossler - All Buildings  
David Brown - ES/HS  
Alison Burke - Internship Albright College  
Karina Castillo - ES  
Ana Correa - ES/HS  
Melissa Fisher - ES  
Jamin Flannery - ES/HS  
Holly Garner - Internship Shippensburg University  
James Guisard - All Buildings  
Jaime Macrina - Internship Core Health Berks  
Alyssa Melzer - Internship Body Zone  
Amanda Perrotto - ES  
Maria Prinzo - Internship Brentwood Industries  
Courtney Powers - Internship Tower Health  
Leann Quire - Internship ARL  
Jeryl Rankin - ES  
Stephanie Ruiz-Smith - ES  
Valarie Staats - ES  
Jeremy Stoltz - ES  
Julia Tomson - ES  
Adam Tranquillo - ES  
Joshua Wentzel - ES  
Jamie Wismer - ES

- 6.3** Approves the following requests for unpaid days:

- Ms. Marianne Potts, Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, seven (7) consecutive unpaid days, from January 24, 2024, through February 1, 2024.

- Miss Cassidy Reel, Kindergarten Teacher at the elementary school, three (3) consecutive unpaid days, from May 13, 2024, through May 15, 2024.

- 6.4** Approves the request for a personal leave of absence from Mr. Scott Piergrossi, Music Teacher at the middle school, effective November 16, 2023, through December 21, 2023.

- 6.5** Acknowledges the following Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence:

- Ms. Victoria Peters, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the high school, effective November 28, 2023, through January 5, 2024.

- 6.6** Approves the following changes to the hourly substitute wage rates:

- Custodian from \$14.00/hour to the starting rate of pay as determined annually in the Custodial & Food Service Employee Compensation Plan.
  - Food Services Worker from \$11.00/hour to the starting rate of pay as determined annually in the Custodial & Food Service Employee Compensation Plan.
  - Paraprofessional from \$12.00/hour to the starting rate of pay for the Paraprofessional Classroom position as determined annually in the Non-Certified Employee Compensation Plan.
- 6.7 Approves the following changes to the per diem substitute wage rates for the 2024-25 school year:
- Nurse substitute from \$140/day to \$150/day
  - Teacher day-to-day substitute from \$150/day to \$160/day
  - Teacher day-to-day substitute ten (10) or more cumulative days in a school year from \$160/day to \$170/day
  - Teacher short-term substitute (6-44 days in same assignment) from \$170/day to \$180/day
  - Retired teacher substitute from \$185/day to \$195/day
- 6.8 Approves the MOU with SVEA for Continuing Education, as presented.
- Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the resignations in Item 6.1, as presented; and to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.9, as presented; and to approve the requests for unpaid days in Item 6.3, as presented; and to approve the request for a personal leave of absence in Item 6.4, as presented; and to approve the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave of absence in Item 6.5, as presented; and to approve the changes to the hourly substitute wage rates in Item 6.6, as presented; and to approve the changes to the per diem substitute wage rates for the 2024-25 school year in Item 6.7, as presented; and to approve the MOU with SVEA for Continuing Education in Item 6.8, as presented.**
- Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**
- Motion passed unanimously.**
- 6.9 Approves the use of any pending custodial floating holidays through June 30, 2024.
- 6.10 Approves the revisions to Policy 137: Home Education Programs.
- 6.11 Approves the revisions to Policy 137.1: Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students.
- 6.12 Approves the revisions to Policy 137.2: Participation in Co-Curricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students.
- 6.13 Approves the revisions to Policy 137.3: Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students.
- 6.14 Approves the revisions to Policy 815: Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources.
- 6.15 Approves the revisions to Policy 819: Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response.
- 6.16 Approves the revisions to Policy 830: Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification.
- 6.17 Approves the revisions to Policy 830.1: Data Governance - Storage/Security.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell to approve the use of any pending custodial floating holidays through June 30, 2024; and to approve the revisions to the policies in Items 6.10 through and including 6.17, as presented.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY**

### ***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Linda R. Lash***

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:44 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.

### ***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 7.1** Approves the renewal agreement with KnowBe4 for security awareness training in the amount of \$2,457.00 for a term of 12 months.
- 7.2** Approves accepting the donation of \$573.00 from Ashley Furniture Industries for a projectile launcher and time of flight landing pad for our high school Physics Classroom.
- 7.3** Approves the Letter of Authorization from Kristin Van Strien for E-Rate funding consulting. Consulting will be in the amount of \$3,500 for category one and \$2,500 + 2% of committed funding amount for category two. This authorization covers matters related to the Funding Year(s) 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the renewal agreement with KnowBe4 for security awareness training in the amount of \$2,457.00 for a term of 12 months; and to approve accepting the donation of \$573.00 from Ashley Furniture Industries for a projectile launcher and time of flight landing pad for our high school Physics Classroom; and to approve the Letter of Authorization from Kristin Van Strien for E-Rate funding consulting. Consulting will be in the amount of \$3,500 for category one and \$2,500 + 2% of committed funding amount for category two. This authorization covers matters related to the Funding Year(s) 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### ***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel***

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:49 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.

### ***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 November 11, 2023, to January 23, 2024, as presented.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$5,013,844.41
<b>CAFETERIA FUND</b>	\$126,371.05
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND</b>	\$1,722,306.56
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</b>	\$57,212.08
<b>MS/HS ACTIVITY FUND</b>	\$9,378.79
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,929,112.89</b>

- 8.2 Approves accepting a donation from the PA Snowsports Museum in the amount of \$40, for the use of the HS Auditorium for a charity fundraiser.
- 8.3 Approves accepting the report of the annual local audit, as performed by Herbein & Company, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
- 8.4 Approves the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$10,682.56 for the period 1/1/2024 through 6/30/2024.
- 8.5 Approves donating the tickets sales from the Eric Koller Memorial Junior High Wrestling Tournament to the SV Wrestling Booster Club.
- 8.6 Approves the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2023-2024 Real Estate Taxes billed on July 1, 2023, which are delinquent after December 31, 2023, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 147 bills totaling \$378,891.50 (last year there were 153 bills totaling \$478,211.15).
- 8.7 Approves the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2023, and the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 20 bills totaling \$9,288.25.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Kelly Steinke to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from November 11, 2023, to January 23, 2024, as presented; and to approve accepting a donation from the PA Snowsports Museum in the amount of \$40, for the use of the HS Auditorium for a charity fundraiser; and to approve accepting the report of the annual local audit, as performed by Herbein & Company, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and to approve the BCIU Joint Purchasing Bid for copy paper in the amount of \$10,682.56 for the period 1/1/2024 through 6/30/2024; and to approve donating the tickets sales from the Eric Koller Memorial Junior High Wrestling Tournament to the SV Wrestling Booster Club; and to approve the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2023-2024 Real Estate Taxes billed on July 1, 2023, which are delinquent after December 31, 2023, and the Board approves submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 147 bills totaling \$378,891.50 (last year there were 153 bills totaling \$478,211.15); and to approve the exoneration of the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid Interim Real Estate Taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2023, and the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collections. There are 20 bills totaling \$9,288.25.**

Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

*Summary of Committee Deliberations – Bryan J. O'Donnell*



The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:57 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024 in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 9.1 Approves listing the following equipment on Municibid:
  - Air Compressor
  - Salt Spreader
- 9.2 Approves recycling the following items: old lamp posts, scrap metal and non-working refrigerators.
- 9.3 Approves advertising the following items for free. Should any items remain after a period of 30 days, they will be disposed of by the custodial department.
  - Old Scoreboard Signs
- 9.4 Approves Change Order #6 for the Elementary School HVAC Upgrade and High School Rooftop Unit Project authorizing Myco Mechanical to add humidity sensors and dehumidification controls to spaces with unit ventilators and fan coil units that also have reheat coils, at a cost of \$105,450.98.
- 9.5 Approves Change Order #1 for the High School HVAC Upgrade Project authorizing Myco Mechanical to add dehumidification to the HVAC system. This will include humidistats and control programming necessary to enable dehumidification at a cost of \$108,851.93.

**Board Action: Moved by Bryan O'Donnell and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve listing the equipment in Item 9.1 on Municibid, as presented; and to approve recycling the items in Item 9.2, as presented; and to approve advertising the items in Item 9.3, as presented; and to approve the Change Orders in Items 9.4 and 9.5, as presented.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 9.6 Approves the sanding, refinishing and painting of the high school auditorium stage floor in an amount not to exceed \$18,790.00.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the sanding, refinishing and painting of the high school auditorium stage floor in an amount not to exceed \$18,790.00.**

Mr. Bendigo asked what the time period would be for completing the project. Mr. Poper, Director of Buildings and Grounds, stated that he will contact both companies and see who can come out first. Mrs. Rexrode, HS Principal, would like it completed during the beginning of February and it should be completed in 3-4 days. Mr. Bendigo asked that the '3-4 day completion of the work' be added to the proposal.

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 15, 2024 BOARD MEETING:**

- 9.7 Approves the quote from Mobile Air & Power Rentals for temporary climate control and power for the D-Wing of the high school. First month and installation fee of \$7,582.20 with any continuing months at a rate of \$4,282.20.

**Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to approve the quote from Mobile Air & Power Rentals for temporary climate control and power for the D-Wing of the high school. First month and installation fee of \$7,582.20 with any continuing months at a rate of \$4,282.20.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo (via speakerphone), Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**9.8 Other (Old/New Business)**

Mr. Poper provided an update on the installation of temporary heating which was approved on January 15. The equipment was delivered today and they started extracting oil from the tank and filling the auxiliary oil tanks. In the process of setting it up, they've had some technical issues that they're working through and he will have more information on January 23. B&G Glass did the cut-outs for us. They're going to move one oil tank about 16 feet from its current location; the other oil tank for the woodshop is fine. The two pieces of equipment were brand new, and some of the fittings that came in as stock from the factory were different from what was expected. They will need to change out some of the fittings and finalize hose lengths to attach to the oil tank. When they return, it should be completed within one day. They will use a forklift to move the tank as it has skidded bottoms and they will be able to slide it.

Dr. Taschner asked Mr. Poper for an update on the F-Wing at the high school. He stated that he takes daily temperature checks since the heating issue began and when we get extreme cold temperatures, we notice some differences. In checking the roof, he noted that the old units do not latch very well, and with the wind storm, the wind had blown open both doors, causing it to bypass the damper and allow cold air to blow into the F-Wing. Upon repairing the latches the temperature rose about five degrees. There were some technical issues with the old Honeywell software, however, they were able to get one unit running which resulted in a substantial increase in temperature. He is in communication with Honeywell and Berks Mechanical to get the second unit up and running and noted that these units are original to the F-Wing when it was built.

**10.0 STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

***Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi***

The Student Services and Activities Committee met at 8:23 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Auxiliary Cafeteria of the Schuylkill Valley High School. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.

***Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration***

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:**

- 10.1** Approves members of the Technology Student Association attending the overnight state conference in 2024.
- 10.2** Approves the agreement with Barn Hill Preserve to provide assemblies at the elementary school: two 45-minute presentations, one for kindergarten and one for second grade.
- 10.3** Approves allowing members of the HS cheerleading team to attend a competition. All funds for the competition will be paid by either the SV Cheerleading Booster Club or individual participants.
- 10.4** Approval of a trip to Costa Rica for current students in Spanish I-III in 2025. The cost would be approximately \$3,509.00 per student, paid for by the student.

- 10.5 Approves a three-year contract with Arethusa Designs for our commencement ceremonies in 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- 10.6 Approves the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student #4199.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve members of the Technology Student Association attending the overnight state conference in 2024; and to approve the agreement with Barn Hill Preserve to provide assemblies at the elementary school: two 45-minute presentations, one for kindergarten and one for second grade; and to approve allowing members of the HS cheerleading team to attend a competition. All funds for the competition will be paid by either the SV Cheerleading Booster Club or individual participants; and to approve a trip to Costa Rica for current students in Spanish I-III in 2025. The cost would be approximately \$3,509.00 per student, paid for by the student; and to approve a three-year contract with Arethusa Designs for our Commencement ceremonies in 2024, 2025, and 2026; and to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release for Student #4199.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.7 Approves the agreement with Mind Matters for the Independent Educational Evaluation for an elementary student.

**Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the agreement with Mind Matters for the Independent Educational Evaluation for an elementary student.**

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

- 10.8 Approves a revision to the 2023-24 school calendar that eliminates the use of February 19th as a snow make-up day.

**Board Action: Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Alfonso Rossi to approve a revision to the 2023-24 school calendar that eliminates the use of February 19th as a snow make-up day.**

Dr. Taschner noted that she has been in conversation with SVEA regarding the new legislation that has been passed by the Governor in Act 56. We are well positioned for more than the hours that we are required to have in school, and there are people that have planned to travel during this time. It would not be a student day and we would give our teachers and our other staff an opportunity to work virtually on some of their mandated training.

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mrs. Kleffel reminded everyone that the *Souper Bowl* will be held on February 24 and tickets are required. This event supports the SV Art Club and The Conner Kleffel Memorial.

**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**


**Moved by Nicoleen Kleffel and seconded by Bryan O'Donnell, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.**

January 22, 2024

**Yeas: Ammarell, Bendigo, Kleffel, Lash, Moll, O'Donnell, Rossi, Steinke, Weyandt**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda R. Lash". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda R. Lash, Secretary  
Board of School Directors