1.0  The 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
Members Present: Paul L. Bendigo, Robert M. Dempsey, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, Jay R. Melvin, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, Kevin Raudenbush, Alfonso F. Rossi

Secretary: Linda R. Lash

Treasurer: Changming Wang

Recording Secretary: Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Cynthia S. Mierzejewski, Michael Billman, Robin Brightbill, Stephanie Deibler, Maggie Drake, Dawn Harris, Jeffrey Kerchner, Michael Mitchell, Melissa Rhoads, Changming Wang

1.3  APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2018, and the reorganization/regular meeting of December 3, 2018, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4  EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Raudenbush reported that the Board met in executive session on January 21, 2019, prior to the meeting for litigation, and on January 22, 2019, for negotiations.

2.0  REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1  PRESIDENT – Kevin Raudenbush
No report.

2.2  SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash
No report.

2.3  BERKS COUNTY I.U. BOARD – Linda R. Lash
Mrs. Lash reported that at their January meeting, student artwork was featured at the BCIU from each of the Berks County school districts. Abigail Kunkle is representing SVSD and will have her artwork on display for the next year. In December, Dr. Jill Hackman, BCIU Executive Director, was honored with the President’s Award of the Berks County Chiefs of Police Association in recognition of her community service in connection with safety. Also, the 49th Annual Convention
of Berks County School Directors will be held on April 30, 2019, at Reading Area Community College. The IU has also published their annual report.

2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – Jay Melvin
Dr. Melvin reported that the BCTC budget will be forthcoming for approval.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – Paul L. Bendigo
Mr. Bendigo reported that their next quarterly meeting will be held in March.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash
Mrs. Lash reported that the National School Board Convention will be held in Philadelphia this year on March 30-April 1 if anyone would like to attend. She also noted that the American School Board Journal had an interesting section on gardening and all of the advantages to having one in your district. Mrs. Lash has been working on the equitable funding issue and has received additional information and stated it will be good to have more meetings on this topic.

2.7 BERKS COUNTY COLA (Committee on Legislative Action) UPDATE – G. Dane Miller
Mr. Miller stated that at the last meeting in December, Dr. Mark DiRocco, Executive Director of PASA, discussed the change in the balance of power in the House and Senate and how it affects school funding. There was a $1 billion increase in revenue last year for Pennsylvania which equals a $100 million increase in school funding, however this did not even cover PSERS costs. Studies have shown that Pennsylvania is behind $3-4 billion in funding. He believes that something everyone can get behind is school safety and it is an ongoing expense. The state is now looking to stabilize this funding each year. In regard to charter schools, there was a study done through PASA that showed school districts can run in-house charters themselves at 50% of the cost of what outside charter schools cost. PASA and PSBA are looking for a more sensible approach to charter schools and the funding that goes along with them. Dr. DiRocco also discussed teacher evaluations and that there has been a 1-2% increase in satisfactory ratings across the state as noted in a recent study.

The next meeting COLA meeting will be held on February 28 at 6:45 a.m. at the BCIU.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
No one addressed the Board.

4.0 BOARD

Settlement Agreement and Release

4.1 The Board is requested to consider and approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #1877, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #1877, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

Yea: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

Settlement Agreement and Release

4.2 The Board is requested to consider and approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student
#3245, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #3245, as proposed, and further, authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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' Reports
5.1.3 Dropout Report

Dr. Mierzejewski noted that January is National School Board Appreciation month. The high school manufacturing class provided panther paw key chains to the board members to show their appreciation of the Boards' support of their many projects. She thanked the Board for volunteering their time and expressed appreciation for the many hours that board members give to the district.

Regarding enrollment, Dr. Mierzejewski stated that the district is staying around 2,050 students. We have had additional enrollments in January which is typical for this time of year. Also, the Redware Pottery Event was held at the Middle School in the beginning of December. The Board was sent the entire presentation, created by Mrs. Sigoda, and pictures were placed on our website and Facebook page. It was a great program, the students were really engaged in it and it's a great relationship with our community.

Dr. Mierzejewski noted that in the high school report, we had students that participated in the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. Mikayla Davis, senior, was present and spoke about the activities at the show which included her taking first place with her dairy heifers. She participates in the SVHS Agricultural Club and several students from the club placed entries in the farm show in the market basket division. Mikayla is very active within the district and the community and shared her many activities with the group. The Board thanked Mikayla for a great presentation.

Updates

5.2 Dr. Mierzejewski stated that the SVSD Annual Report has arrived and copies will be distributed both internally and externally. On January 24, she and Mr. Raudenbush attended the 20th Annual Board Presidents' and Superintendents' Workshop at the BCIU. The speakers for the evening were Berks County District Attorney John Adams and Chief County Detective Mike Gombar. The discussion focused around the school safety pieces and the resources that are available for school districts, their willingness to work with the schools, and how we go about coordinating a lot of the services.

Dr. Mierzejewski noted that Mrs. Lash asked about a policy around crowd funding at the January 21 committee meetings. Dr. Mierzejewski did some investigating and the BCIU did put a new policy in place. The policy is in regard to someone raising money via Go Fund Me or some other means and doing it in the name of the district, and it really is best for the school to have a
policy in place around this. She will be working on this policy in the next month or so and will then present it to the Board.

Dr. Mierzejewski also shared that there have been a few families who spoke to us about scholarships and giving scholarship money for our students. What we found that we’re missing that some other districts have is that makes it a little easier for those funds to come into the district for the students is an education foundation. A number of districts have education foundations and they look different in different schools. Dr. Mierzejewski believes it would be a good idea to have an education foundation in place to do some of the work around the scholarship money or donations for our schools such as instructional supplies. She has started some investigation into foundations and how different people are using them and how they are set up. She spoke with PSBA last week who connected her with two successful foundations. Dr. Mierzejewski spoke with Kutztown School District about how they run their foundation and she will continue to investigate this. Mr. Mitchell will assist her as much of this will impact the high school. If anyone is interested in helping out, the foundation will need its own executive director and its own board as the school district cannot run it. The school board members and the superintendent can sit on the board but not as voting members. This will be beneficial for our students and she believes it would be a good idea to have a venue for scholarship monies and donations. The Berks County Community Foundation could be used as a resource for the district.

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Linda R. Lash

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:35 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

6.1 Accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the following resignations:

6.1.1 Mrs. Erin Romberger, Part-Time Library Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective January 31, 2019.

6.1.2 Ms. Leslie Klinger, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, effective January 17, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to accept, with regret and best wishes for the future, the resignations in Items 6.1.1 and 6.1.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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. Amanda Wilson, Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, BS, Step 2, $48,924 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Abby Maulick, effective approximately January 23, 2019, through April 12, 2019, and 1-2 days of coordination time.
6.2.2 Mrs. Helaine Young, Long-Term Substitute Librarian at the Middle School, MS, Step 1, $52,925 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence of Mrs. Emily Calaman, effective approximately January 28, 2019, through April 23, 2019, and 1-2 days of coordination time.

6.2.3 Change of status of Mrs. Nikki Rider, from Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School to Full-Time Athletics Secretary at the High School, at an hourly rate of $13.50, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Denise Rison, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.4 Mrs. Charissa Starke, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, up to 29.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of $10.25, to fill a newly created position due to an increase in student need, effective December 17, 2018.

6.2.5 Stipend of $300 to Dana Carter for additional special education paperwork work to be completed and assistance to be provided from January 2019, through April 2019.

6.2.6 Additional volunteer winter coach for the 2018-19 school year.

6.2.7 Substitutes for the 2018-19 school year.

6.2.8 Volunteers for the 2018-19 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the employment in Items 6.2.4 through and including 6.2.8, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.9 Additional bus drivers utilized by Eshelman Transportation for the 2018-19 school year.

6.2.10 Mrs. Michelle Rowley, Part-Time Non-Certified Library Paraprofessional at the Middle School, 4 hours a day at an hourly rate of $11.94, effective February 1, 2019, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Erin Romberger.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve the employment in Items 6.2.9 and 6.2.10, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.11 Mr. Brian Feick, Business Manager, $120,000 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Wendy Boarder, effective date to be determined.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Item 6.2.11, as presented.
Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.12 Change in assignment for Mr. Walter Seifrit, from 1st Shift Custodian at the High School to 1st Shift Custodian at the Middle School, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Stephen Karnoval, effective January 8, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve the employment in item 6.2.12, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Approves the conference request from Miss Stephanie Deibler to attend the PA State Athletic Directors Association Conference from March 20-22, 2019, in Hershey, PA, at an approximate cost of $709.60.

6.4 Approves the request from Mr. Makoto Kizuka, science teacher at the middle school, for three consecutive unpaid days, April 3-5, 2019.

6.5 Approves the addition of three paid holidays for full-time and part-time 10-month non-union support staff employees effective with the 2019-20 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the conference request from Miss Stephanie Deibler to attend the PA State Athletic Directors Association Conference from March 20-22, 2019, in Hershey, PA, at an approximate cost of $709.60; and to approve the request from Mr. Makoto Kizuka, science teacher at the middle school, for three consecutive unpaid days, April 3-5, 2019; and to approve the addition of three paid holidays for full-time and part-time 10-month non-union support staff employees effective with the 2019-20 school year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.6 Approves the leave of absence for Ms. Lori Johnson, Part-Time Food Service Worker, effective December 20, 2018, through January 16, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the leave of absence in item 6.6, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.7 Approves a change to the annual calendar for the 2018-19 school year for kindergarten students. Kindergarten registration is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2019, and Friday, May 24, 2019. Approval is requested to cancel kindergarten classes on Friday, May 24, 2019. This is a half day for students and will not violate the State required number of student days per year.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve cancelling kindergarten classes on Friday, May 24, 2019.
Roll Call Vote
Yeas: Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi, Bendigo

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

7.1 Approves the standard agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams LLP, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their agreement, to be used for special education matters.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the standard agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams LLP, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, according to the schedule of fees and services outlined in their agreement, to be used for special education matters.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Other (Old/New Business)
Mr. Miller stated that there is a Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting scheduled for February 25, 2019, at 6 p.m.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Jay R. Melvin

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019.

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 5, 2018, to January 29, 2019, as presented.

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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL FUND</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAFETERIA FUND</td>
<td>$99,456.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND</td>
<td>$31,049.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$2,088,840.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Jay Melvin to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from November 5, 2018, to January 29, 2019, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Approves the Treasurer’s Reports and the Financial Reports for November and December 2018.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the Treasurer’s Reports and the Financial Reports for November and December 2018.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid April 2018 interims billed July 1, 2018, which are delinquent after December 31, 2018, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are 2 bills totaling $935.27 (last year there were 2 bills totaling $83.92). 

8.4 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid July 2018 real estate taxes which are delinquent after December 31, 2018, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau for collection. There are 180 bills totaling $446,914.12 (last year there were 198 totaling $538,860.35).

8.5 Approves exonerating the school district tax collectors from collecting unpaid 2018 per capita taxes after December 31, 2018, and that the Board approve submitting the taxes to Berkheimer Associates for collection. There are 1,701 bills totaling $17,010.00 (last year there were 1,654 totaling $16,540.00).

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the tax collector exonerations in Items 8.3 through and including 8.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.6 Approves the BCIU Joint purchasing bid for copy paper for January – June 2019 in the amount of $13,010.79.

8.7 Approves the mileage reimbursement rate of 0.58 cents per mile as per Internal Revenue Service Regulations, effective January 1, 2019.

8.8 Approves changing signatures from the Business Manager to the Board Treasurer for checks in the following funds: general, capital projects, food service, payroll, technology reserve, scholarship, and trust funds. (Note: Currently the Board President and Secretary are already authorized and three signatures will still remain on all checks.)

8.9 Approves accepting a grant from the Public Education Foundation Fund for Instructional Innovation of Berks County Community Foundation in the amount of $500, to be used for the Elementary School Flexible Seating Project.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the actions in Items 8.6 through and including 8.9, as presented.
Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

9.0 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Alfonso F. Rossi

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met at 7:39 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

9.1 Accepts the donation of water from Fleetwood Bank and Redner’s Warehouse Markets that was utilized during the boil-water advisory in December.

9.2 Approves payment in the amount of $59,991.97 to Grace Industries, Inc., for work completed on the stadium improvement project, to be paid from the Stadium Fund. This would reduce the outstanding contract amount to $10,000 held as retainage until final acceptance of work.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Jay Melvin to accept the donation of water from Fleetwood Bank and Redner’s Warehouse Markets that was utilized during the boil-water advisory in December; and to approve payment in the amount of $59,991.97 to Grace Industries, Inc., for work completed on the stadium improvement project, to be paid from the Stadium Fund.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 7:53 p.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 11, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

10.1 Accepts a donation from Ms. Kimberly Rinehart of 5-6 vinyl chairs to be used for the scoring table at the pool.

10.2 Approves the professional services by Lynx System Developers, Inc., to provide track timing system training at a cost not to exceed $2,795.00, for the quote provided, to be paid from the Stadium Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the quote.

Board Action: Moved by Alfonso Rossi and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to accept a donation from Ms. Kimberly Rinehart of 5-6 vinyl chairs to be used for the scoring table at the pool; and to approve the professional services by Lynx System Developers, Inc., to
provide track timing system training at a cost not to exceed $2,795.00, for the quote provided, to be paid from the Stadium Fund, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the quote.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER
Mr. Bendigo asked for clarification from our solicitor on what constitutes a quorum when we have a single committee meeting. He thought a quorum was a make-up of the entire Board but according to PSBA their position is that a quorum for a committee meeting is a quorum of committee members.

Dr. Melvin noted that the National Honor Society has their induction on February 13 and in the past many of the Board members had attended these events. He stated that it would be nice to see Board members attending these events as it shows support for our students.

Mr. Chilcot reminded everyone that the second annual Powder Puff Football Game will be held on Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. in the stadium.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Raudenbush announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting for legal matters.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Jay Melvin, there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting be adjourned.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors