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

MINUTES
February 25, 2019

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 (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Robert M. Dempsey, Nicoleen M. Kleffel, Linda R. Lash, George H. Mertz III, G. Dane Miller, Kevin Raudenbush, Alfonso F. Rossi
Members Absent: Jay R. Melvin
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, Melissa Rhoads, Changming Wang

1.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2019, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

1.4 EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Raudenbush reported that the Board met in executive session on January 28, 2019, for legal matters, and on February 25, 2019, prior to the Board meeting, for safety and security.

2.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 PRESIDENT – Kevin Raudenbush
No report.

2.2 SECRETARY – Linda R. Lash
Mrs. Lash noted that she received correspondence from PSBA confirming that she is the designated PSBA liaison for the district.

2.3 BERKS COUNTY I.U. BOARD – Linda R. Lash
Mrs. Lash stated that the Annual Convention of Berks County School Directors will be held on April 30 at Reading Area Community College at 5:30 p.m. and will include a tour and reception. Also, she has distributed information on cyber charter schools to the Board. Cyber charter
schools are not doing well on standardized testing, and they burn traditional schools financially. Senator Schwank has introduced SB34 which would require families to pay tuition to attend cyber charter schools if their home district offers a cyber-based program equal in scope and content. Senator Argall is also one of the sponsors of this bill. This may go further as the PA House has SB526 which has the same content. State data indicates that cyber charter tuition paid by PA taxpayers from 500 school districts for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 was over $1.6 billion.

Mrs. Lash noted that on Monday, April 29, Advocacy Day will be held at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. The focus for the day will be meetings with legislators to discuss critical issues affecting public education. Also, the BCIU reported that in regard to the 2019-20 Governor’s Proposed State Budget, special education would receive a $50 million increase or 4.4%, transportation is once again level funded, Pre-K Counts received a 20% increase, Head Start received a 16.9% increase, and early intervention received a 5% increase. Also, career and technical education received a 10.9% increase and PlanCon reimbursements are level funded with no funding for new projects. Other items included are the proposed raise to the teacher minimum salary to $45,000, lowering the compulsory age of attendance from 8 to 6 years of age, and raising the dropout age from 17 to 18. Also, the next Berks County COLA meeting will be on February 28 at 7 a.m.

2.4 BERKS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – Jay Melvin
Mr. Mertz noted that the Joint Operating Committee will meet on February 27.

2.5 TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – Paul L. Bendigo
No report.

2.6 PA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LIAISON – Linda R. Lash
Mrs. Lash reported that on February 28 she will attend the PSBA Section 8 meeting at Parkland High School. The topics will all be related to school safety and security.

3.0 PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
Mrs. Angela Lassandro, Leesport, has children in the district and expressed appreciation for our teachers. She mentioned there was some concern with the Sick Leave Policy that was on the February 25 agenda for approval. She has read the policy and found it confusing in that it does not specifically address maternity leave. She stated that she hoped our teachers were getting time to take care of their families and that the policy clarified this as well.

Ms. Brightbill, Director of Human Resources, stated that family leave is addressed under the FMLA Policy where it discusses the options that individuals have for taking leave. The teachers specifically have certain parameters that are negotiated into their contract regarding childrearing leave and also being able to take an extended leave from work. Mr. Raudenbush added that the Board approves these leaves and they know of no complaints on the amount of time that mothers can take for maternity leave. Ms. Brightbill noted that the employee has a minimum of 12 weeks if they qualify for FMLA. Beyond that, teachers have the option of taking a childrearing leave which would be an extended leave allowed through their contract.

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 #492, 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 Robert Dempsey to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between the parents, individually on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor child, Student #492, 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, 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 #1203, 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 Linda Lash 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 #1203, 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, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Other (Old/New Business)

Mr. Raudenbush stated that they are in the process of gathering agenda items for a Board Retreat. They would like to schedule the retreat for Saturday, March 30 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT

5.1 Monthly Reports

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

6.0 POLICY, PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Linda R. Lash

The Policy, Personnel and Public Relations Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 18, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

6.1 Approves the adoption of the annual calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the adoption of the annual calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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 Mrs. Amanda Bobeck, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Elementary School, up to 29.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of $11.17, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mrs. Nikki Rider, effective February 18, 2019.

6.2.2 Mrs. Corie Kehr, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, up to 29.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of $13.02, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Leslie Klinger, effective February 18, 2019.

6.2.3 Ms. Sharon Witman, Part-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, up to 29.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of $10.25, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Diane Arentz, effective February 21, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the employment in Items 6.2.1 through and including 6.2.3, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.4 Substitutes for the 2018-19 school year.

6.2.5 Volunteers for the 2018-19 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 6.2.4 and 6.2.5, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Approves ratification of the request from Mr. Makoto Kizuka, STEAM Teacher at the Middle School, for three consecutive unpaid days, February 4-6, 2019.

6.4 Approves authorizing the Administration to apply for Act 80 Exceptions for the teacher in-service days held on Friday, September 14, 2018, and Monday, October 8, 2018.

6.5 Approves ratification of the leave of absence of Ms. Lori Brenner, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective January 2, 2019, through January 25, 2019.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve ratification of the request from Mr. Makoto Kizuka, STEAM Teacher at the Middle School, for three consecutive unpaid days, February 4-6, 2019; and to approve authorizing the Administration to apply for Act 80 Exceptions for the teacher in-service days held on Friday, September 14, 2018, and Monday, October 8, 2018; and to approve ratification of the leave of absence of Ms. Lori Brenner, Part-Time Food Services Worker, effective January 2, 2019, through January 25, 2019.

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

Motion passed unanimously.
6.6 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 006.1: Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications, as revised.

6.7 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 200: Enrollment of Students, as revised.

6.8 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 202: Eligibility of Nonresident Students, as revised.

6.9 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 202.1: Determination of Student Residence and Right to Educational Privileges, as revised.

6.10 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 313: Evaluation of Employees, as revised.

6.11 Approves the second reading and final adoption of Policy 334: Sick Leave, as revised.

Board Action: Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by George Mertz to approve the second reading and final adoption of the policies listed in Items 6.6 through and including 6.11, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

6.12 Approves the request from Mrs. Kathy Gwiazdowski, 2nd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, for three consecutive unpaid days, March 6-8, 2019.

6.13 Approves the request from Mrs. Leanne Moyer, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, for four consecutive unpaid days, April 4-9, 2019.

6.14 Approves the employment of the Spring Coaches for the 2018-19 school year (all elections are contingent upon receipt and district approval of all necessary pre-employment forms, certification, state-mandated physical examinations, clearances, etc.).

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Linda Lash to approve the request from Mrs. Kathy Gwiazdowski, 2nd Grade Teacher at the Elementary School, for three consecutive unpaid days, March 6-8, 2019; and to approve the request from Mrs. Leanne Moyer, Full-Time Special Education Paraprofessional at the Middle School, for four consecutive unpaid days, April 4-9, 2019; and to approve the employment of the Spring Coaches for the 2018-19 school year (all elections are contingent upon receipt and district approval of all necessary pre-employment forms, certification, state-mandated physical examinations, clearances, etc.).

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Summary of Committee Deliberations – G. Dane Miller

The Curriculum and Technology Committee met at 7:12 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 18, 2019.
Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

7.1 Approves the High School CCTV expansion project proposals by Pagoda Electrical Inc., not to exceed $7,450.00 for the proposal provided, by Berkshire Systems Group, Inc., not to exceed $14,988.00 for the proposals provided, to be paid through the PA School Safety and Security Grant awarded to the District by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the proposals.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the High School CCTV expansion project proposals by Pagoda Electrical Inc., not to exceed $7,450.00 for the proposal provided, by Berkshire Systems Group, Inc., not to exceed $14,988.00 for the proposals provided, to be paid through the PA School Safety and Security Grant awarded to the District by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the proposals.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Approves continuing the District’s subscription and services agreement with K12 Systems Administrative Software Solutions, effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve continuing the District’s subscription and services agreement with K12 Systems Administrative Software Solutions, effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023, and further, authorizes the Director of Instructional and Information Technology to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Approves ratification of the agreement with The Pathway School to provide Student #1877 educational services from February 1, 2019, through June 14, 2019, at the tuition rates specified, and further, authorizes the Director of Special Education to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Robert Dempsey and seconded by George Mertz to approve ratification of the agreement with The Pathway School to provide Student #1877 educational services from February 1, 2019 through June 14, 2019, at the tuition rates specified, and further, authorizes the Director of Special Education to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

7.4 Approves the agreement with Green Valley Academy, to provide educational services to Student #525 for five hours per week, at the rate of $75 per hour, for a minimum of 45 days or through the end of the 2018-19 school year (if needed), and further, authorizes the Director of Special Education to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the agreement with Green Valley Academy, to provide educational services to Student #525 for five hours per week, at the rate of $75 per hour, for a minimum of 45 days or through
the end of the 2018-19 school year (if needed), and further, authorizes the Director of Special Education to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Jay R. Melvin

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 18, 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 January 25, 2019, to February 26, 2019, as presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL FUND</td>
<td>$612,897.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFETERIA FUND</td>
<td>$22,323.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$635,220.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve/ratify the payment of bills in Item 8.1 from January 25, 2019, to February 26, 2019, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.


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

Motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Approves the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's annual operating budget for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of $31,926.43.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the district's share of the Berks County Intermediate Unit's annual operating budget for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of $31,926.43.

Roll Call Vote
Yeas: Kleffel, Lash, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi, Bendigo, Dempsey

Motion passed unanimously.
8.4 Approves the district's participation in the Berks County Safety and Security Consortium Services for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of $5,000, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the consent form.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey to approve the district's participation in the Berks County Safety and Security Consortium Services for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of $5,000, and further, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the consent form.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, 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, February 11, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 18, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:

9.1 Approves the agreement with Direct Energy Business, to participate in the PJM Demand Response Program for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2019, and continuing through May 31, 2020, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the documents.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the agreement with Direct Energy Business, to participate in the PJM Demand Response Program for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2019, and continuing through May 31, 2020, and further, authorizes the Director of Buildings and Grounds to execute the documents.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

9.2 Other (Old/New Business)
Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Strunk, Director of Buildings and Grounds, took the Union Fire Company #1 from Leesport on a fire preparedness tour of the middle school on February 19. It was a very productive tour and they will meet with Mrs. Harris in the future to discuss the entire district and fire preparedness.

10.0 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Summary of Committee Deliberations – Nicoleen M. Kleffel

The Extracurricular Activities Committee met at 7:55 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019, in the Schuylkill Valley High School LeRoy K. Seip Memorial Meeting Room. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on March 18, 2019.

Committee Recommendations for Board Consideration

Be It Resolved, That the Board of School Directors:
10.1 Approves the three-year agreement with Penn State Health St. Joseph to provide sports medicine services to the district, in the amount of $52,500 for the term of the contract, from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, and further, authorizes the Athletic Director to execute the agreement.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the three-year agreement with Penn State Health St. Joseph to provide sports medicine services to the district, in the amount of $52,500 for the term of the contract, from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, and further, authorizes the Athletic Director to execute the agreement.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Accepts a donation from the Conner Kleffel Memorial Foundation, in the amount of $785.00, to be used for the payment of bus fees incurred by the High School Ski and Snowboard Club.

Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to accept a donation from the Conner Kleffel Memorial Foundation, in the amount of $785.00, to be used for the payment of bus fees incurred by the High School Ski and Snowboard Club.

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

Abstain: Kleffel

Motion carried.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER
Mr. Chillot reminded everyone that the second annual Powder Puff Football Game will be held on Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. in the stadium. Also, Mr. Dempsey reminded the Board that petitions are available at the court house for anyone seeking re-election and they must be returned by March 13.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Raudenbush announced that there would be an executive session immediately following the meeting for a personnel matter.

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

[Signature]
Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors