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

MINUTES

December 3, 2018

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

1.1  PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1.2  ROLL CALL
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 (not present)
Recording Secretary:  Susan A. Christman

Administrative Staff Present:  Dr. Cynthia S. Mierzejewski, Michael Billman, Robin Brightbill, Jeremy Crills, Stephanie Deibler, Melissa Kelchner

2.0  SELECTION OF A TEMPORARY PRESIDENT
George H. Mertz III served as the temporary President.

3.0  RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS:  HOLIDAY CARDS
The Board recognized the following middle school students in Mrs. Ronda Seymour’s art classes whose designs were chosen to represent the school district on holiday cards: Delilah Cole, fifth grade; Jayleen Godfrey, sixth grade; Alexis Seymour, seventh grade; and Emma Stauffer, eighth grade.

Each student was presented with a set of cards and a framed poster of their design as tokens of appreciation for their creativity and hard work.

4.0  LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND TERMS
Paul L. Bendigo  Region 1  2017-2021
Robert M. Dempsey  Region 2  2017-2019
Nicoleen M. Kleffel  At-Large  2017-2021
Linda R. Lash  At-Large  2017-2021
Jay R. Melvin  Region 3  2015-2019
George H. Mertz III  Region 1  2015-2019
G. Dane Miller  Region 2  2015-2019
Kevin Raudenbush  At-Large  2017-2021
Alfonso F. Rossi  Region 3  2017-2019

5.0  NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT
Temporary President George H. Mertz III asked for nominations for President.

Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Paul Bendigo to nominate George H. Mertz III for President.
Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by Jay Melvin to nominate Kevin Raudenbush for President.

Moved by Paul Bendigo and seconded by Robert Dempsey to close the nominations for President.

Roll Call Vote
Rossi – Mertz; Bendigo – Mertz; Dempsey – Raudenbush; Kleffel – Raudenbush; Lash – Raudenbush; Melvin – Raudenbush; Mertz – Mertz; Miller – Mertz; Raudenbush – Raudenbush.

Motion passed 5-4 for Kevin Raudenbush for Board President.

6.0 NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT
President Kevin Raudenbush asked for nominations for Vice President.

Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by Nicoleen Kleffel to nominate George H. Mertz III as Vice President.

Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by Linda Lash to nominate Robert M. Dempsey as Vice President.

Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by Paul Bendigo to close the nominations for Vice President.

Roll Call Vote
Bendigo – Mertz; Dempsey – Mertz; Kleffel – Mertz; Lash – Mertz; Melvin – Dempsey; Mertz – Mertz; Miller – Mertz; Raudenbush – Mertz; Rossi – Mertz

Motion passed 8-1 for George H. Mertz III for Board Vice President.

7.0 APPOINTMENTS: BOARD REPRESENTATIVES
The Board is requested to consider and appoint representatives as listed:

7.1 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Liaison
Mrs. Linda Lash agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and
Mr. Dane Miller agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

7.2 Tax Collection Committee
Mr. Paul Bendigo agreed to serve as the representative for a one-year term and
Mr. Dane Miller agreed to serve as the alternate representative for the same one-year term.

8.0 CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS

8.1 Berks Career and Technology Center: Joint Operating Committee
(Three-Year Term: January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019)
Dr. Jay Melvin is presently the representative and Mr. George Mertz was appointed as the alternate representative through December 31, 2019, at the December 4, 2017 Board meeting, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Geoffrey Miller.

8.2 Berks County Intermediate Unit Board Representative (Three-Year Term)
Mrs. Linda Lash was appointed as the representative through June 30, 2020 at the April 24, 2017 Board meeting.
8.3 Berks Vocational-Technical School Authority Representative (Five-Year Term)
Mr. Geoffrey Miller was appointed as the representative effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020 at the December 4, 2017 Board meeting, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Glenn Jacoby.

9.0 CONTINUING OFFICES

9.1 Secretary
Mrs. Linda Lash was appointed to a four-year term, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021 at the June 26, 2017 Board meeting.

9.2 Treasurer
Mrs. Changming Wang was appointed to a one-year term, effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 at the June 25, 2018 Board meeting.

10.0 CURRENT BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: 2018 and 2019

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations
Linda R. Lash, Chair
Jay R. Melvin
George H. Mertz III
Alfonso F. Rossi

Curriculum and Technology
Robert M. Dempsey, Chair
Nicoleen M. Klefelf
Linda R. Lash
G. Dane Miller

Budget and Finance
Jay R. Melvin, Chair
Paul L. Bendigo
Robert M. Dempsey
Alfonso F. Rossi

Buildings and Grounds
Paul L. Bendigo, Chair
George H. Mertz III
G. Dane Miller
Alfonso F. Rossi

Extracurricular Activities
G. Dane Miller, Chair
Nicoleen M. Klefelf
Linda R. Lash
Jay R. Melvin

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

- G. Dane Miller to become the Chairperson of the Curriculum and Technology Committee (to replace Mr. Dempsey as Chairperson); Robert M. Dempsey will remain as a Committee member.

- Alfonso F. Rossi to become the Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee (to replace Mr. Bendigo as Chairperson); Paul L. Bendigo will remain as a Committee member.

- Nicoleen M. Klefelf to become the Chairperson of the Extracurricular Activities Committee (to replace Mr. Miller as Chairperson); G. Dane Miller will remain as a Committee member.

11.0 MEETING DATES: 2019
The Board is requested to consider and approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2019 calendar year.
Board Action: Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Paul Bendigo to approve the Committee and Board meeting dates for the 2019 calendar year, with the addition of April 8, 2019 for Committee meetings.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

12.0 PROCESSING OF BILLS

The Board is requested to consider and authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 21, 2018, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2019 for ratification.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to authorize the Business Office to process bills for payment up to and including December 21, 2018, with the list of said bills to be presented at the regular Board meeting in January 2019 for ratification.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

13.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Curriculum and Technology

13.1 Agreements

The Board is requested to consider and approve ratification of the service agreements with EBS (Educational Based Services) to provide evaluation services for the 2018-19 school year from August 27, 2018 through June 7, 2019, at the rates provided and further, to authorize the Director of Special Education to execute the agreements.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve ratification of the service agreements with EBS (Educational Based Services) to provide evaluation services for the 2018-19 school year from August 27, 2018 through June 7, 2019, at the rates provided and further, to authorize the Director of Special Education to execute the agreements.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

13.2 Future Ready Index

Mrs. Melissa Kelchner, Director of Teaching and Learning, provided an update on the district’s Future Ready Index.

Mrs. Kelchner showed an introductory video regarding the Future Ready Index and why it was created. The Future Ready Index provides a comprehensive way to evaluate school progress and student success in the classroom and beyond. Using feedback gathered over three years, and at the direction of Governor Tom Wolf, the Department of Education created the Future Ready PA Index. It is a holistic tool that provides communities with a one-stop location for comprehensive information and data on student and school success. FutureReadyPA.org features a dashboard that highlights how schools are making progress across multiple categories rather than solely on standardized test scores. Finding information on the district is simple and you can also filter, compare and find information on multiple schools, track school progress towards
state goals and view annual improvement data. A color-coded system illustrates student and school progress measured annually via collection of indicators. These indicators fall into three main categories. The first category is state-wide assessment indicators measure student performance on standardized tests such as the PSSA’s and Keystone Exams. The second category is on-track indicators measure attendance and progress in reading and math. The third category is college and career ready indicators illustrate how well students are being prepared for post-secondary success.

Mrs. Kelchner explained that the State Assessment Indicator measures our results on the Keystone and PSSA, our growth from one year to the next and the percentage of students that were advanced on the ELA PSSA and the Math PSSA. Sections are color-coded to show how expectations are being met. Blue being exceeding, green-meeting and red-not meeting targets. In addition to the colors, comparisons to last year’s data is shown with an arrow pointing up to show we performed better than we did last year, down to show our scores are below where they were last year or a solid circle indicating we performed the same as last year. The elementary school is meeting expectations for performance on the PSSA’s as shown by the green color. In addition to the district’s score, we see the state-wide average and also the goal for 2030. Regarding growth measures, there is some work to do here as indicated by the red color. They want our students to make more growth over the course of a year than they are. This is being targeted and has been discussed with the principals. One strategy we put in place to meet this need is iReady, which is a targeted math intervention program for all of our elementary school students. This is the first year for iReady and we are hopeful scores and growth will improve with its implementation. Lastly, we can see the percentage of our students that were advanced on the PSSA and how that compares with State averages. On-Track Indicators that apply to the elementary school are attendance and you can see our attendance score is strong. Another area that looks at is our 3rd grade reading score which is our 3rd grade ELA PSSA score. We have been talking about using a local assessment, such as DIBELS, to show 3rd grade progress in reading. We will research what we must do to use this as our measure as we know our score here will then be in the area of 90% and will be a more accurate reflection. The other indicator listed here is the progress of our English Language Learners and we have an insufficient sample in this area in all of our schools as the threshold is twenty students. Also the College and Career Ready Measures do not apply to the elementary because these measures begin in 5th grade.

Regarding the middle school, our performance is meeting expectations and we are up from where we were last year in regard to PSSAs in ELA as indicated by the blue arrow. However, we are not meeting expectations on PSSA’s in math and we are down from where we were the year before. The middle school now has a math intervention in place, Get More Math. This is also being used at the high school for Algebra I. We are doing very well with our growth measures at the middle school as you can see blue across the board. Lastly, you can see our percent advanced. Moving to On-Track Measures, again no score for EL Progress, attendance is strong, 7th grade math is an area of concern as it is our weakest grade level score at the middle school in math. We are hoping those scores come up with the targeted intervention that has been put in place. In the area of College and Career Readiness, the only score we get here is in the area of Career Standards Benchmark and it is based on us meeting the expectation of exposing our students to different career pathways and collecting evidence to document it. The State mandates that we have 8 pieces of evidence by the end of 5th grade, 14 by the end of 8th grade and 22 by the end of 11th grade. As you can see we are doing really well here.

The high school looks very strong on their Keystone’s this year and all scores are up from where they were last year. Growth is not as strong, but students are performing well on the Keystone. On-Track Measures, again, an insufficient sample for EL score and attendance looks great. In College and Career Readiness, the high school is measured
in many areas. We have the required pieces of evidence to show we have exposed our students to different career pathways that helped them make decisions about their next steps in life. Graduation rate is strong. You can see we are low in the Industry Based Learning Credential, however everyone really is as we learn how to navigate this new platform. This is the first year for this and this year, we only counted our BCTC students so our number is small. In the future we will be counting our BCTC students as well as students that have completed internships and students who have earned some type of certification or credential that can be recognized, such as a Google Certification or a CPR Certification. We expect this number to increase greatly this year due to these additions. Also in this section are the results of our students that attend BCTC that have taken the NOCTI and were proficient or advanced. We’re doing well there. The next section is the Rigorous Course of Study and it looks at our AP courses, how many we offer and the percentage of seniors taking them and how they are performing on the AP exam.

Additionally, the percentage of our seniors that are enrolled in BCTC are listed here. Next is the Post-Secondary Transition section. In this section the State is looking at what our students are doing after graduation. The scores in this section are currently based on our class of 2015-2016 and what they are doing as of November 2017. The avenues they are looking at are college or technical school, military or workplace. The State has recognized that they have some work to do here and some mistakes have been made. We have a communication in to the State about the number they show for us in the area of the percentage of our students going on to college or technical school. They list us at 62% and we believe this number should be 87%. We are looking for clarification as to how this number is calculated and if the mistake is ours or theirs. In the area of workforce, the State admits they fumbled here in that they are finding this information very hard to obtain and have been unclear about how they’ve managed to calculate these numbers for districts. We will continue to look for answers in this area.

Mrs. Kelchner asked if there were any questions. Mr. Bendigo asked to what Mrs. Kelchner attributed the increase in performance on the Keystone. Mrs. Kelchner responded that the change in administration has been impactful in that remediation is now being implemented with fidelity and administration, teachers and students are now taking the test seriously. As should be the case because although some would argue that PSSAs are controversial, the Keystone is really an end of course test based on the standards for that course, so if we’re teaching what we should be, students should do well. Mrs. Kelchner asked if there were any other questions. When there were none, she summed it up by saying that the bottom line is that students are happy coming to school here and are successful when they leave us. The Board thanked Mrs. Kelchner for her presentation.

Policy, Personnel and Public Relations

13.3 Resignation
The Board is requested to consider and accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Denise Rison, Full-Time Athletic Secretary at the High School, effective December 11, 2018.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation of Mrs. Denise Rison, Full-Time Athletic Secretary at the High School, effective December 11, 2018.

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

Motion passed unanimously.
13.4 Employment
The Board is requested to consider and recommend 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.):

13.4.1 Substitutes for 2018-19 school year.

13.4.2 Volunteers for 2018-19 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 13.4.1 and 13.4.2, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

13.4.3 Mr. Bradley Foltz, Long-Term Substitute Biology Teacher at the High School for approximately the remainder of the 2018-19 school year, BS, Step 1, $47,825 (prorated for actual days worked), to fill the vacancy created by the special sick leave of Mr. William Gampe, effective December 17, 2018.

13.4.4 Additional head coach for the 2018-19 school year.

Board Action: Moved by Dane Miller and seconded by George Mertz to approve the employment in Items 13.4.3 and 13.4.4, as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

13.5 Retirement
The Board is requested to consider and accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation due to retirement of Mr. Stephen Karnoval, Full-Time Custodian at the Middle School, effective December 13, 2018.

Board Action: Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to consider and accept, with best wishes for the future, the resignation due to retirement of Mr. Stephen Karnoval, Full-Time Custodian at the Middle School, effective December 13, 2018.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

13.6 Childrearing Leave Extension
The Board is requested to consider and approve the childrearing leave extension for Mary Kate Raytek, Discovery Learning Teacher at the Elementary School, effective December 10, 2018, through December 18, 2018.

Board Action: Moved by Jay Melvin and seconded by George Mertz to approve the childrearing leave extension for Mary Kate Raytek, Discovery Learning Teacher at the Elementary School, effective December 10, 2018, through December 18, 2018.

Yeas: Bendigo, Dempsey, Kleffel, Lash, Melvin, Mertz, Miller, Raudenbush, Rossi
Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget and Finance**

13.7 **Wellness Credit Award**
The Board is requested to consider and approve accepting a wellness credit award from Capital BlueCross in the amount of $4,600.

13.8 **Donation**
The Board is requested to consider and approve accepting a donation of scarfs and gloves from Rev. David Blitch and Salem Belleman's Church.

**Board Action:** Moved by Linda Lash and seconded by George Mertz to approve accepting a wellness credit award from Capital BlueCross in the amount of $4,600; and to approve accepting a donation of scarfs and gloves from Rev. David Blitch and Salem Belleman's Church.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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

15.0 **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

16.0 **ADJOURNMENT**
Moved by George Mertz and seconded by Robert Dempsey that, 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 7:53 p.m.

Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Board of School Directors