

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Senior High School Library**  
**March 28, 2019**

A Community Budget Meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the School Board Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call as follows:

Mr. Blick, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Ligeros, Mr. Olson, Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Rojtas (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Mrs. Steele, Ms. Youngblood

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Colebank, Mrs. Borges and Mr. Zenone

Flag Salute

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *William Russel Wade*, uncle of Jodi Geyer, academic literacy coach; *Kathleen Griffin*, mother-in-law of Jennifer Ambrozic, 4th grade Barrett teacher; *Jane B. Kendrick*, grandmother of Mariann Reilly, high school English language arts teacher; grandmother of Jamie Fleck, credit recovery teacher; *Melissa L. "Missie" Weir*, niece of Dave Colasante, Board member; *Philomena G. Hoehn*, grandmother of Jamie Fleck, credit recovery teacher; *Cathy Serbic*, grandmother of Sue Large, middle school counselor; *Mary Catherine Dietrich*, aunt of Erin Dawso, high school special education teacher; *Mary B. Kosko*, wife of former Board member Robert Kosko.

**Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the purchase of memorial books to be placed into the district libraries in memory of the above departed.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhus and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Mr. Bulger:

- Announced that we are honoring one of our teachers tonight. He added that there are good things happening in the school district. The School Board is looking forward and looking at what it can do to improve the school district.

### **Student Representatives' Report**

Isabella Furrick and Channing Griffin:

- Announced that doctoral students from the University of Pittsburgh spoke with high school students about college and career choices. The College in High School Rhetoric and Debate class held its final formal debates in the auditorium March 7-14. The students argued whether or not American high schools effectively empower students to take control of their futures. Senior project presentations began on March 15 and continued throughout the month.
- On March 12, several students traveled to the painting with a purpose studio and created a beautiful portrait of the African Savanna. Members of the senior class spent the day at Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park. The trip was a lot of fun and the students really enjoyed themselves. Ninety students attended a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center organized by Science Teacher Mr. Deabner. The students learned a lot while having fun.
- The High School Student Council sponsored its third and final blood drive on March 19. Enough blood was collected to support the lives of nearly 90 patients. Many of the high school students took advantage of an opportunity to sell hoagies in order to pay for their prom ticket. A total of 1,749 hoagies were sold and 73 students earned a free ticket.
- On March 22, the high school held a dress-down day benefiting the Randy Zirkle Scholarship Fund. The PNC Job Collaborative held a meeting on March 27.
- On March 1, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade gifted students competed in a chess competition at Plum Middle School. Mrs. MacDonald's homeroom

donated the most birthday supplies for Beverly's Birthdays, and they were rewarded with a donut breakfast. Middle school students were also rewarded with a dress-down day for their fantastic participation donating birthday supplies.

- The Pittsburgh CLO performed "Beyond the Moon" for the eighth grade classes on March 4. About 100 students attended the PTO-sponsored St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 14. The Middle School Student Government members attended the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Conference at Chartiers Valley School District with Mrs. Noblet on March 18. The Student Government held a hoagie sale from March 11 – 27, and the hoagies were delivered April 3.
- Gifted students participated in an Art competition at Gateway Middle School on March 21. Sixth grader Darwin Burns received the first place individual award, and the team took first place overall for their Cubism art projects. Congratulations to everyone on the team: Darwin Burns, Michayla Rager, Dominique Ruiz, Briona McKenith and Maddie Wedig.
- Stand Together students started their own Breaking Barriers March Madness Basketball competition at the middle school. Congratulations to Mr. Owston's sixth grade homeroom for defeating Mrs. Olson's eighth grade homeroom in the final student/teacher basketball game. Stand Together also collected \$1.00 from each of the students for a dress-down day. All donations will benefit a local mental illness rehabilitation facility.
- Career Day for middle school students was held during school on March 28. The day consisted of Steel Valley Alumni from varied professions sharing information about their careers with students.
- First graders from Park Elementary School had a great time at the Carnegie Science Center rock climbing, maneuvering through a ropes course, and flying down a zip line! They also learned about our rivers and the animals that live in Pennsylvania. The third Perfect Attendance Assembly was held on Wednesday, April 3. All of the students have been working hard, and the third and fourth graders are going to do a great job on the PSSA's in a few weeks!
- The Dr. Seuss Activity Day for all first grade students at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools went very well. The 911 Van came to Barrett, and Allegheny County personnel shared valuable safety information with all of the students. The students will be rewarded for their good behavior on April 28 as they will be able to participate in a Bounce House activity in the gym.
- Barrett staff will be participating in the Preschool/Kindergarten Family Night activity held at the Carnegie Library of Homestead on March 28 from 5:30-7:00

p.m. The Cash Bash was a success, and the PTO did a great job of putting the event together.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer:

- Recognized Middle School Teacher Steve Large as the fifth grade math and science teacher, one who has played a large part in the Middle School Apple Distinguished School status, and one of the coordinators of the STREAM activities. Mr. Large was surprised to learn that he was nominated as an All-Star Teacher by Mrs. Meghan Fitzgerald and her daughter Abbie. Abbie read excerpts from her nomination letter. “Mr. Large is constantly thinking outside the box for ways to make learning interactive and fun. He uses his knowledge and love for STEM to create opportunities for students to learn how to apply the information they are learning to real-life situations. Along with a few other teachers, Mr. Large has brought Science and Math to life for his students with events such as building roller coasters ...and designing escape rooms and then watching as they try to escape using math, science and critical thinking. Mr. Large makes learning fun. From assigning the students assignments such as building Leprechaun traps when learning about pulley systems. Mr. Large has sparked a fire for math and science in me, and has helped me come out of my very shy shell.”
- He thanked the Fitzgeralds for their nomination. He also discussed the STREAM program, which goes above and beyond the curriculum. He recognized Steve Vinay, Heather Clark, Ed Tozzi and Mike Hofbauer in these endeavors. Mr. Large acknowledged Bryan Macuga for his support. Mr. Large stated that he is lucky and grateful that he gets to do what he loves everyday.
- Mr. Wehrer stated that the Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held Monday, April 29, in the Steel Valley High School Cafeteria beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services**

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that the Preschool and Kindergarten Family Night is being held tonight at the Carnegie Library of Homestead.
- There will be no school for students on March 29 since it is a teacher clerical day. On April 3 report cards will be distributed. April 18 is scheduled for teacher and

staff inservice, and there will be no school for students. April 19 is a holiday and there will be no school.

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report**

Mr. Colebank:

- Announced that the district has applied for the AP Biology course to be a College in High School (CHS) course this coming school year
- He added that STEM activities can be important hands on learning for students. He has ordered 20 drones for hands-on learning and problem solving with Apple Swift Program.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

Christine Schott: Questions on the sale of land motions  
Item 2.2 Bus driver's review process

Donna Dreshman: Is the district placing up for bid the Franklin playground property?  
Mr. Fetzko responded and stated it will be placed up for bid.  
Question the motion on the following agenda items: 5.1, 7.3, 7.5, 7.6  
Questioned the value of unpaid portion of real estate tax exoneration

Jim Deutsch: What are the changes to handbook? Mr. Colebank responded the weights to class has been changed as well as some of the titles to the classes. Changes are made in red type.

### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to declare that land designated as Block and Lot 181-B-00044, know locally as the Franklin Street realty is hereby declared to be unused and unnecessary land of the School District and shall be Sold by Public Auction with no reserve.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded that realty designated as Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall be partially subdivided and joined with Block and Lot 181-E-00190. The subdivision of Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall preserve a**

**sufficient amount of land as is deemed necessary by the School District's Administration after consultation with the Board of School Directors for the use of the Franklin Administration Building and the Steel Valley Senior High School complex.**

**Mr. Rojtas discussed the motion to include valley portion of Block and Lot 181-K-00025.**

**Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to amend the above motion to read as follows: That realty designated as Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall be partially subdivided and joined with Block and Lot 181-E-00190 and Block and Lot 181-K-00025. The subdivision of Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall preserve a sufficient amount of land as is deemed necessary by the School District's Administration after consultation with the Board of School Directors for the use of the Franklin Administration Building and the Steel Valley Senior High School complex.**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Colasante seconded that the Solicitor and the Administration of the Steel Valley School District are hereby authorized to take all necessary steps to effectuate the sale of the unused and unnecessary realty identified as Block and Lot 180-B-00044, and the subdivision of Block and Lot 181-E-00275 and the joiner of said Block and Lot 181-E-00275 to Block and Lot 181-E-00190 and 181-K-00025.**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mrs. Ligeros seconded the motion to approve the following:**

#### **February 25, 2019 worksession minutes**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Yuhas and Bulger. Abstain: Rojtas. Negative: None.

## **February 28, 2019 regular minutes**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **1.0 Financial Management**

**Mr. Blick moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 1.1 List of bills:
  - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for March 2019 in the amount of \$643,010.78
  - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for February 2019 in the amount of \$600,018.80
  - 1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.05 General Fund Balance Sheet for February 2019
  - 1.1.06 Food Service invoices for February 2019 in the amount of \$34,883.96
  - 1.1.07 Food Service Revenue Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.08 Food Service Expenditure Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.09 Food Service Balance Sheet for February 2019
  - 1.1.10 Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2019
  - 1.1.11 External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.12 High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.13 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.14 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and disbursement Report for February 2019
  - 1.1.15 Capital Projects Balance Sheet for February 2019
  - 1.1.16 Capital Projects Revenue for February 2019
- 1.2 The June 20, 2018 Financial Statements and Management Report as submitted by Maher Duessel CPAs
- 1.3 Place out for bid the general school supplies and athletic supplies. The bids will be advertised in a paper of general circulation and placed on our website for ease of use by bidders
- 1.4 The agreement with UGI Energy Services, LLC, at a cost of NYMEX less .039 per Dth for the period September 2019 through February 2021 as presented

1.5 Exonerate the Boroughs of Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead real estate tax collectors for the 2018 real estate taxes

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

**Mr. Colasante moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

2.1 Facility rental requests as presented

2.2 List of bus/van drivers or monitors for PA coach for this school year as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

**Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

3.1 Fundraising requests as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **4.0 Special Assignments**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Ligeros seconded the motion to approve the following:**

4.1 Hold second reading and adopt the revisions to Policies 004, 006, 007, 011, 103, 103.1, 104, 105, 108, 113.3, 115, 116, 127, 137 and 138

4.2 Hold second reading and adopt revisions to Policy 246

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **5.0 Educational Leadership**

**Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 5.1 Deleted
- 5.2 Adopt the 2019-2020 Academic Handbook for the Senior High School
- 5.3 Approve the Elementary Summer Program beginning in June and ending in July for three (3) weeks
- 5.4 Accept the grant of \$1,000 from the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon, Inc., for a Middle School Run Club
- 5.5 Approve the 2019-2020 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget totaling \$2,144,656

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger thanked the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon for awarding the grant for “distance running” to the district.

## **6.0 Communications and Technology**

No report

## **7.0 Personnel Management**

**Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 7.1 Accept, with regret, the retirement of LeeAnn Doyle, Barrett paraprofessional, effective the last day of the 2018-2019 school year
- 7.2 Appoint Jennifer Perhac as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour as highly qualified status, contingent upon passing the district’s mandated screening for controlled substances and receipt of updated clearances, which must be completed within 30 days, effective on a mutually agreed upon date

- 7.3 Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals
- 7.4 Karen Barnett as a substitute paraprofessional effective immediately at the approved rate
- 7.5 Create athletic programs for Middle School Cross Country, Middle School Track and Middle School Football
- 7.6 Create supplementals and stipends for one (1) Middle School Cross Country Coach at a stipend of \$1,453.49, two (2) Middle School Track Coaches at a stipend of \$2,470.26, and three (3) Middle School Football Coaches at a stipend of \$2,761.61 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year
- 7.7 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Ryan Dunmire-Kuftic from the supplemental positions of High School Creating Value Co-Advisor, The Future is Mine Co-Advisor, Middle School Stand Together Advisor, and Girl Talk Liaison effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year
- 7.8 Brian Savolskis to the supplemental position of Baseball Assistant Coach for the 2018-2019 school year
- 7.9 The football volunteers as presented, contingent upon receipt of updated clearances  
Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Zenone submitted the budget detail to the Board and a budget presentation was conducted prior to the meeting.

### **Citizen Comments**

Donna Dreshman: Budget questions, discussed the subdivision.

Christine Schott: Wants to come up with a means to utilize Woodlawn property.

Jim Deutsch: Presented the Keystone Performance Data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education website.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:12 p.m.