

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
May 23, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:11 p.m.

Roll call as follows:

Mr. Blick, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Ligeros, Mr. Olson (via telephone connection and physically entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m.), Mr. Rojtas, Ms. Youngblood, Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mrs. Steele

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Diana M. Brown*, cousin of Jeffrey Deabner, high school science teacher and mother of Dara Brown, middle school student; *Nancy L. Wilcox*, mother-in-law of Russell Firestone, high school social studies teacher; *Andrew C. Strobel, Sr.*, retired high school custodian; *Marguerite M. Canonge*, grandmother of Lori Oleksak, special education teacher at Park School, *Marlene "Pumpkin" Murphy*, director of the Rainbow Kitchen.

Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Yuhas 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, Youngblood, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger:

- Announced that due to the lobbying efforts of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, the Family Centers in Allegheny County will be fully funded for the next two years. Therefore, the resolution (Agenda Item 1.7) urging the PA Department of Human Services to continue current funding for family support centers would be removed from the agenda.
- He added that the Dr. Griffin Senior Awards Banquet is one of the highlights of the year recognizing Steel Valley's best and brightest for their academic achievements. The community groups provide a large amount of scholarship money to our students.
- Chaperoned the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C., and he noted that Dr. Fenyus, Mr. McKern and Mr. Singer do an outstanding job organizing this learning opportunity. He was proud of the students throughout the trip.
- He was impressed with the amazing student talent displayed at the Spring Art Show, and the musical talent at the spring choral and band concerts. The Girls on the Run 5K event is a great program teaching our girls how to be young women. Mr. Bulger ran in this event with his two daughters.
- He congratulated Mr. Rojtas and Mr. Colasante for their successful run in the primary election, and he welcomed Maya Adams and Meghan Fitzgerald, who will join the School Board later in the year.
- The School Board, administration and faculty believe revising the pre-requisites has been a resounding success. Students are doing well and keeping up with the pace of the classes. The SPP scores increased in 2017-2018, and over two years, the Math, Science and English Language Arts scores have all shown growth.

Student Representatives' Reports

Channing Griffin

Kristen Craycraft

- Junior Representative to the School Board Channing Griffin introduced Kristen Craycraft, who will replace Channing as the Junior Representative to the School Board in September.
- Announced that the students sounded wonderful at Park School's All School Revue. The third graders did a great job at the Munhall Borough Council

Meeting, serving as council members, the mayor, police chief, fire chief and other important positions,

- Students learned a lot at the Science and Math Olympiad held at Park School. They are excited for the upcoming field trips, carnival, and activity day. It has been a great year at Park School.
- Mrs. Strom, Mrs. Chalus, Mrs. Mehalik, and Mrs. O'Shell did a fantastic job representing the School Wide Positive Behavior Support Team and Park Elementary School at a state conference last week. They received a lot of positive feedback after their presentation. For the second year in a row, the Positive Behavior Support Program has been formally recognized by the state.
- At Barrett Elementary School, 20 students participated in the Kids of Steel race in Pittsburgh on May 4. The Mad Science Assembly took place on May 8 for all grade levels. The Family Night Carnival was very successful with over 85 families participating. The All School Musical Revue went very well and the gymnasium was packed with guests.
- The Girls on the Run club participated in a 5K race at Hartwood Acres on May 19. Barrett's Merit Day Program took place on May 21 in the Campbell Gym at 5:00 p.m. The 4th grade Step Up Day took place at the Middle School on May 24. Field Day with Park School students will take place at Campbell Athletic Field on May 31.

Isabella Furrick

- Reported that sixth, seventh and eighth grade gifted students earned first place in the Academic Endeavors competition. On April 9, Devantae Butler presented a motivational speech to sixth and seventh graders. Stand Together students went to the Heinz History Center on April 10. On April 24, Senator Costa visited the middle school and high school to see the wonderful things going on. Mrs. MacDonald's fifth grade homeroom won the Dress Code Challenge for March.
- At the Senior High School, the Senior Debate class traveled to North Allegheny High School to participate in the Allegheny County debate finals. Kayla Hartnett represented Steel Valley well in the formal portion, and Isabella Furrick took second place in the spar debate tournament. Families of students in grades 10 and 11 participated in the 2nd Annual Junior Jumpstart Night learning about the college financial aid process.
- On May 7, the choirs performed in the Spring Choral Concert with the theme "A Reason to Dream." The students sounded amazing. The stage band presented a

wonderful concert entitled “Night at the Cinema” on May 14. They played classic movie soundtracks to Jurassic Park and Moana.

- The Dr. Lawrence Griffin Senior Honors Awards Dinner took place on May 8. Countless scholarships were presented to grateful students. The National Honor Society Induction took place on May 10. May 17 was prom! The students who attended looked lovely and represented Steel Valley well.
- Senior finals and Keystone exams were conducted this week. A play written by our very own Channing Griffin would be performed in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- Thanked Isabella Furrick for serving as the Student Representative to the School Board for the past two years. This position takes a commitment of time, and Izzie was diligent in her dedication to reporting the school news. He congratulated her achievement of Salutatorian of the Class of 2019. Izzie will be attending Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, majoring in chemical engineering. She has done an outstanding job, and he wished her all the best in her post-secondary endeavors.
- Congratulations were in order for Channing Griffin for writing, directing and starring in an original play entitled “Situations.” He wrote and will direct the play Thursday and Friday nights. Channing served as the Junior Representative to the School Board this year, and he has done a terrific job reporting the news from the elementary schools. Mr. Wehrer is looking forward to having Channing back next year as the Senior Representative.
- Thanked Emily Novak for serving as the first representative to the Junior Council Program on West Homestead Borough Council this year. Miss Novak , a junior high school student, was chosen for this program to support student involvement in local government. Mrs. Barb Ferson, West Homestead Council member, stated that Emily has done an outstanding job attending all caucus and regular meetings of West Homestead Council and sharing with council how their decisions impact young people. Emily noted that she learned a lot about how small local government impacts our lives.
- The Ironmen Café was in the house before and after the Board meeting selling drinks and snacks. As part of their post-secondary transition plans, the students are learning

how to operate a business for profit. Using two teams of students, they have been selling refreshments on Fridays to enthusiastic staff members. Middle School Teacher Erin Noblet stated that they are learning math skills, customer service skills, working as a team, and at the Board meeting, they also used their public speaking skills. With their profits, the students will make a trip to Dell's Dari Delight for an ice cream treat. Certificates of Recognition were distributed to the students.

- High School Student Savanna Blanchard spoke about a new student group, Global Hands, which the School Board is being asked to approve. Savanna feels that people have become desensitized to the shootings and violence in our community, and she feels we need to listen to other people's perspectives on current issues. Global Hands would give the students an opportunity to talk about the issues they feel strongly about. Mrs. Ebony Bowden, high school English Language Arts teacher, will be the faculty advisor, and she stated that through Global Hands, a safe and secure environment will be available for the students to dialogue.
- Recognized the following Steel Center students:

Extra Effort Award Winners – 4th Quarter

Natalya Butcher

Advertising and Design

Gabrielle Seay

Baking & Pastry Chef

Top of Shop Awards – 2nd Semester

Andrew Votedian

Building Trades

Jason Brown

Collision Repair and Refinishing

- Andrew Votedian has signed a commitment to work for a plumbing company in Whitaker.
- High School Junior Diana Craycroft is one of six young ladies nominated for Best Actress in the Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater. Diana played Maria in the high school production of *The Sound of Music*. Mr. Wehrer stated that Diana's nomination is well deserved, and we are very proud of her talent on the stage.
- The Boys Varsity Volleyball team had a terrific season. They qualified for the WPIAL playoffs, but unfortunately, they lost to Ambridge, one of the strongest volleyball programs in the state. Coach Gary Goga applauded these young men for their grit and hard work this season. Andre Hoye-Cogdell, a 6'5" senior earned all section, 2nd team recognition, and he is being recruited by several colleges. Senior Josh Lyons thanked the Board for the opportunity to play volleyball and for highlighting the

accomplishments of the student athletes. Mr. Wehrer noted that there is a proud volleyball tradition in the valley.

- Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Baseball team and its coaches for qualifying for the WPIAL Class 3A playoffs. They beat their first opponent Beth Center, and then went on to beat Freeport in the quarterfinal playoff game. They will compete in the championship game on Tuesday, May 28. Good luck to the Ironmen.
- Commencement will be held on Thursday, June 6, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field. We will be graduating approximately 100 students. Our Distinguished Alumnus this year is Dr. Armani Davis, graduate of the Steel Valley Class of 2010. Shuttle buses will be available from the high school to Campbell Field starting at 6:00 p.m. and returning to the high school at the conclusion of the ceremony. In case of inclement weather, a decision to move the ceremony to the high school gym will be made by 1:00 p.m. No tickets are necessary to attend the outdoor or indoor ceremony.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Special Services

No report

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank:

- Reported that his office is collecting iPads from students in grades 5-11 next week.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Wehrer stated he researched district policy, now and in the future; audience concerns will be limited to three minutes.

Erin Noblet thanked the Board for hiring school nurse. Mr. Colebank explained the schedule of the school nurse.

Donna Dreshman questioned Motion 1.2 why the millage rate increase?

- Mr. Wehrer stated that the millage rate increase is to cover mostly charter schools increase.

- Mr. Bulger stated the salary adjustment for the professional staff was addressed by issuing a note to cover the cost of the adjustment.

Question on Motion 5.3 – What happens to the sewing machine. Mrs. Yuhas stated that it will remain in the class and be given use authorization if there is a need.

Jim Deutsch – Why are we taking out loan. Mr. Bulger stated that we will issue restructuring note and \$2.5 million in new money to be used for capital maintenance.

Mr. Colasante thanked Kim Watkins for the meeting presentations, and also thanked the teachers for the work they do.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Ligeros seconded the motion to accept the bid amount of \$3,200.00 from Bodnar Real Estate Services, Inc., to perform an appraisal for the school district on realty located at 337 E. 8th Avenue, Homestead, PA, Block and Lot 130-K-245. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Youngblood, Yuhas and Bulger. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Colasante moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

April 17, 2019 worksession

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

April 23, 2019 regular meeting

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

1.0 Financial Management

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

1.1 Financial Items:

1.1.01 General Fund invoices for May 2019 in the amount of \$670,757.67

1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for April 2019 in the amount of \$521,216.97

1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for April 2019

1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for April 2019

1.1.05 General Fund Balance Sheet for April 2019

1.1.06 Food Service invoices for April 2019 in the amount of \$40,567.44

1.1.07 Food Service Revenue Report for April 2019

1.1.08 Food Service Expenditure Report for April 2019

1.1.09 Food Service Balance Sheet for April 2019

1.1.10 Payroll Funding Transfers for April 2019

1.1.11 External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for April 2019

1.1.12 High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for April 2019

1.1.13 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for April 2019

1.1.14 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and disbursement Report for April 2019

1.1.15 Capital Projects Balance Sheet for April 2019

1.1.16 Capital Projects Revenue for April 2019

1.1.17 Capital Projects Expenditures for April 2019

1.2 The Final General Fund Budget for 2019-2020 with a millage rate of 24.217 an increase of .728 mill. The General Fund Revenues are projected at \$35,597,490 and the Expenditures are projected to be \$39,086,222. The deficit of \$3,488,732 will be absorbed by the General Fund's Fund Balance

1.3 Authorize the administration to execute the Contract of Service agreement between Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the school district to provide access to PA Educator for the purpose of reviewing and considering applications for employment from certificated and non-certificated candidates

1.4 Award the bid list as presented to the selected vendors at a total amount of \$44,255.51

1.5 The Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion in the amount of \$250.23

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

1.6 The agreement as presented to explore the possibility of restructuring debt and issuing bonds for both capital needs and pension obligations. This agreement authorizes bond counsel to prepare a petition to the Department of Community and Economic Development. The agreement secures the services of PNC Capital Markets to be the investment banker and Dinsmore and Shohl LLP as Bond Counsel for the district. The agreement authorizes the President or Vice President the authority to take action by signing the petition.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Youngblood and Bulger. Negative: Yuhas. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Ms. Youngblood moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the following:

2.1 Facility rental requests as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Blick, Colasante, Ligeros, Olson, Rojtas, Youngblood, 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

3.2 An overnight field trip for the Marching Band, Cheerleaders and chaperones to travel to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on April 21-26, 2020.

3.3 The creation of a new student activity entitled “Global Hands” for high school students to bring unity between students, educate students and converse about topics that impact the students and community with Mrs. Ebony Bowden as volunteer sponsor

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

4.0 Special Assignments

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

4.1 The 2019-2020 Steel Center for Career and Technical Education Combined Budgets (Administrative, Operating, Perkins, and Workforce Development) and approve the Southeast Area Special School 2019-2020 Administrative Budget as presented.

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

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

5.1 The donation of \$5,000 from former Intuit CEO Brad Smith to be used for the History Club Trip to Charleston, South Carolina

5.2 Accept the donation of various art supplies from DonorsChoose.org for a middle school art project entitled “Keep on Drippin’ with Floating Inks for Suminagashi Art”

5.3 Accept the donation of a computerized sewing and quilting machine from DonorsChoose.org for a middle school project entitled “Sewing Our Worlds Together”

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

Jim Bulger thanked donors and the teachers for the grant application.

6.0 Communications and Technology

No action

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 Julie Angelilli from the position of Kindergarten teacher under the terms and conditions of the 2019-2024 collective bargaining agreement
- 7.2 A Family Medical Leave of Absence and a Child Rearing Leave of Absence to run concurrent for Erin Dawso retroactive to May 16, 2019, through the end of the nine-week grading period of the 2019-2020 school year, according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement
- 7.3 Appoint Lori Oleksak, Barb Ferson and Maureen Fagan as Special Education teachers at the rate of \$32 per hour, and appoint Lynn Cochrane, Vicki Deutsch, Mary Jo Craycraft, Christine Furrick, Holli Bobick, Kaitlin Craycraft and Betty Lyons as Paraeducators at their hourly rate for the 2019 Extended School Year Program
- 7.4 Nicole States as Program Point Person, Sue Wilder as Special Education teacher, Denise Stephenson as English Language Arts teacher, Jennifer Ambrozic as Math teacher and Jonette Bost as Substitute teacher at \$32 per hour, and appoint Betty Lyons as Paraeducator at her hourly rate for the 2019 Elementary Summer Program beginning June 10 and ending June 27, 2019
- 7.5 Hire Leigh Harper to a full-time permanent professional position with a 2019-2020 assignment of Districtwide School Nurse at a salary of \$40,019 according to Article XXV of the 2019-2024 collective bargaining agreement plus benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement effective with the start of the 2019-2020 school term, contingent upon passing pre-employment screenings, receipt of current clearances and compliance with Act 168
- 7.6 Morgan Churilla and Jaimie Barca as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2018-2019 school year at the approved daily rate, contingent upon passing all pre-employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days
- 7.7 Accept the resignations of Michelle Maddigan from the supplemental position of Pitt-Bridge sponsor effective May 18, 2019; Yvette Logan from the supplemental position of Pitt-Bridge sponsor effective June 7, 2019; Darrell Burroughs from the 7th grade Middle School Girls Volleyball Coach position effective

immediately; and Ed Tozzi from the Head Golf Coach position effective immediately

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

Citizen Comments

Donna Dreshman – Questioned status of pool? Mr. Bulger stated there is a slight leak, but being managed by the district staff.

Christine Schott – Stated the middle school play will be next week.

Mr. Bulger – passed out report discussing the standards established for advance placement coursework.

An individual made a statement on pre-requisites and advanced classes. He noted that the pre-requisites were revised in the 2016-2017 academic handbook to increase academic rigor. At the start of the 2016-2017 school year, 111 students did not meet the revised pre-requisites for their course selections, and 15 of the 111 students did not meet the criteria at all. Of the 96 who did not meet the pre-requisites, 52 were offered the opportunity to take the CDTs in an attempt to meet the pre-requisites. Twenty-six (26) of the 52 students who took the CDTs qualified for the classes they chose. The high school put Honors Geometry in the schedule, and six of seven students were eligible for Honors Geometry vs. Advanced Geometry. Only 63 students are not in the track they selected.

Report is accompanying.

Mr. Deutsch handed out a report taken from PDE website regarding student performance. Mr. Wehrer responded to Mr. Deutsch's report.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:44 p.m.