

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Steel Valley High School Auditorium and via High School Facebook Live**  
**April 23, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:32 PM

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Mr. Bulger

Video conferencing: Ms. Adams, Mr. Blick, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Fitzgerald,  
Mrs. Ligeros, Mr. Rojtas, Ms. Youngblood and Mrs. Yuhas

Absent: None

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

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Maitland M. Lebedda, husband of Janice Lebedda, retired school nurse; Paul Cain, Jr., husband of Dianne Cain, attendance/residency checker; Martin Holewinski, father of Colleen Andreyo, retired business office secretary; Steve DeAugustino, retired teacher and wrestling coach from the Munhall School District; Janice M. Metcalfe, niece of Jean Emro, high school paraprofessional, and cousin of David Emro, cyber coordinator; Jon A. Larson, father of Erika Tkach, high school chemistry teacher; and Joseph D. “Rooster” Fleming, father of Jill Fleming-Salopek, former administrator, teacher, and literacy coach, and grandfather of Anthony, Kelsey and Kylie Salopek, secondary school students.

**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:

Adams, Blick, Colasante, Fitzgerald, Ligeros, Rojtas, Youngblood, Yuhás and Bulger.  
Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Mr. Bulger could not say enough good things about the staff, including the teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to the custodians, food service and secretaries. There are challenges in distance learning; the job is incredible. He is proud to be part of Steel Valley.

The leadership team has put together a week of activities for seniors. Another group placed signs in the yards of senior students. Staff are emailing and holding ZOOM meetings to check in on students. The food service staff is providing meals everyday. The true spirit and the heart of people are the good coming from this situation. Mr. Bulger applauded these efforts.

He announced that the school district applied for an Equity in Education grant in the amount of \$83,000, and we will be receiving approximately \$77,000. Representative Austin Davis is an advocate for the Steel Valley area, and we appreciate his efforts for this grant during this unprecedented time.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer announced that as of April 17, the food service department has distributed 10,338 meal bags, which are over 20,000 meals. This is a significant amount of meals for children in our communities. He thanked Lisa Runco, food service director, and all the food service staff for their commitment to feeding families.

We are remembering Bill Campbell, our friend and patron, who passed away four years ago this month. We miss him.

Representatives of the Family Support Program contacted over 500 families to check on their well-being. They sent out COVID-19 information to 182 families. As the stay at home order continues, if you or someone in your family needs assistance, the Family Support Program in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh is available to talk with.

There is no one losing as much of their school year as the Class of 2020. Mr. Wehrer was grateful to the committee who created and displayed the signs in the yards of seniors. He also thanked the team who worked to put together senior week, which includes graduation ceremony, prom, academic awards dinner and National Honor Society induction the week of June 22.

President Trump signed the CARES Act in the amount of \$13.2 billion. As part of the Act, Steel Valley School District will receive part of the \$407 million allocated to Pennsylvania. This funding will allow the district to focus on the gaps of critical skills and literacy of elementary students. We will prepare for the worst and hope for the best by building capacity for any additional shutdowns. Professional development for teachers will be needed as we move forward with distance learning. Developing a learning management system for students and providing for our special needs population will be a priority.

Mr. Wehrer added an important message to students who are not doing much work. He asked them for their best effort. We are here to help. If anyone wants to talk or needs assistance, please contact the Family Support Line at 412-464-3673 or call the county help line at 211. We want to help.

On Saturday, Joe McCain provided over 600 boxes of fresh produce for families in the Steel Valley communities. Mr. Wehrer thanked the district volunteers, Family Center representatives and the Batch Center volunteers for coming together to distribute the food. There is a compassion for one another and toughness in Steel Valley people. He is proud to be an IRONMAN.

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

Mrs. Borges is planning for the Extended School Year Program (ESY) this summer. She is planning to go virtual but hoping students will be able to walk into our schools this summer. ESY is scheduled for June 29 – July 23 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A ZOOM Parent Training will be conducted by Jennifer Fandray, licensed psychologist, on Mindfulness, Relaxation and Grounding for the adolescent mind. Mrs. Borges noted that our success coaches and licensed professionals are continuing their efforts to help students and families.

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

Mr. Colebank reported that he is available and in the office everyday to answer questions about iPads and other technology questions. He can provide replacement equipment if needed. Contact him at 412-464-3600 ext. 1555. He added that Comcast has installed hot spots in the community for families to connect to WiFi.

Training has started for the new student information system Sapphire. We will run ProSoft's student system until October. They will run side-by-side for this time period only.

### **Citizen Comments**

Donna Dreshman asked about the budget increase, has the budget been looked at being cut.

Mr. Bulger responded we can only increase to Act 1 limit. We will be retooling the budget prior to next meeting.

Donna also asked if there is any savings because schools are not operating.

Mr. Bulger stated the transportation; other contracted services and security are the areas where the District will save money.

Donna Dreshman asked why personnel items are not on the agenda.

Mr. Bulger responded that we do not have personnel items this month.

Donna Dreshman asked about the pool.

Mr. Bulger responded he discussed this with Mr. Keesecker. We will monitor this level and in the near future come up with a recommendation.

Donna Dreshman asked how will we handle the student fundraising.

Mr. Bulger stated we have covered this earlier in the evening. Students will have a say on how funds are distributed and/or carry credit with them.

Jeremy Zubic asked will assessing homes be a means to fund the revenue shortfall? He recommended voting in negative to increase millage.

Mr. Bulger responded that the District must have reason to appeal property. The District looks at the sale and assessment and decides whether to appeal. The county does the

reassessment. Mr. Rojtas added we split the cost of the appeal with Munhall Borough in order to lower District appeal cost.

Jim Deutsch asked why did motion 1.2 change?

Mr. Bulger explained that an invoice was received late and placed on the agenda.

Jim Deutsch also asked why did we lose \$3.1 million?

Mr. Bulger explained that the \$3.1 million is the difference between revenue and expenditures. That is called a budget deficit. We have money allocated in fund balance to cover the excess cost. Mr. Rojtas also added over the years we looked at the difference source of revenue to alleviate the millage burden to the residents.

Jim Deutsch asked about the emergency funding bonds.

Mr. Bulger stated that the refunding is like refinancing a mortgage. It is done in order to lower the debt service payment. Mr. Bulger also stated that motion 5.2 is motioned because the Commonwealth is requiring we place a plan together to service special education students.

Mr. Colasante injected and wanted it placed on the record that he is all in for closing the pool in order to save money.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes.**

Upon roll call the following members voted as follows:

March 26, 2020 Worksession Meeting and School Board Meeting.

Adams, Blick, Colasante, Fitzgerald, Ligeros, Rojtas, Youngblood, Yuhus and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **1.0 Financial Management**

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

- 1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:
  - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for April 2020 in the amount of \$271,909.48
  - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for March 2020 in the amount of \$2,111,249.00
  - 1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.05 General Fund Balance Sheet for March 2020
  - 1.1.06 Food Service invoices for March 2020 in the amount of \$33,333.31
  - 1.1.07 Food Service Revenue Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.08 Food Service Expenditure Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.09 Food Service Balance Sheet for March 2020
  - 1.1.10 Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2020
  - 1.1.11 High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.12 External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.13 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.14 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2020
  - 1.1.15 Capital Reserve Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses for March 2020
  - 1.1.16 2019 Capital Project Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses for March 2020

Revised 1.2 Motion to approve BDA Engineering, Inc., for phase III completion of services in the amount of \$1,298.00; Kudravy Architects, LLC, for assisting in completing bid documents in the amount of \$5,696.00; and approve Tri-State Reprographics, Inc., for the printing of plans and specifications in the amount of \$247.35 on the Steel Valley High School/Middle School HVAC upgrades. The funds will be paid out of the 2019 Capital Project Fund.

Revised 1.3 Motion to approve the Proposed Final General Budget for 2020-2021 with a millage rate of 25.088 an increase of .8710 mill. The General Fund Revenues are projected at \$36,026,900 and the Expenditures are projected to be \$39,198,002. The Deficit of \$3,171,102 will be partially absorbed by the General Fund's Fund Balance.

Upon roll call the following members voted as follows:

Adams, Blick, Colasante, Fitzgerald, Ligeros, Rojtas, Youngblood, Yuhas and Bulger.  
 Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

No items or discussion.

### **3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

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

3.1 Motion to approve fundraising requests as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Blick, Colasante, Fitzgerald, Ligeros, Rojtas, Youngblood, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **4.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

Mrs. Ligeros stated go to Steel Center website if you have any questions or want to enroll.

### **5.0 Educational Leadership**

**Ms. Adams moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to approve the following:**

5.1 Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Middle School Academic Handbook

5.2 Motion to approve the Special Education Plan Report for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023

5.3 Motion to approve the Use of Funds Agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the District for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the appropriate officials to execute said agreement.

5.4 Motion to accept a donation of \$100.00 from Bruce C. Piker for computers being supplied to our students in recognition of teachers Jodi Geyer and Mariann Reilly.

Revised 5.5 Motion to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar.

5.6 Motion to revise the 2019-2020 school calendar and designate February 7, April 1, 2 and 3, 2020, as Flexible Instructional Days, and change the June 3 Clerical Day to June 2.

5.7 Motion to approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 Senior High School Academic Handbook as presented.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Blick, Colasante, Fitzgerald, Ligeros, Rojtas, Youngblood, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Adams thanked Bruce Piker for his donation.

## **6.0 Communication & Technology**

Mrs. Fitzgerald spoke to Steel Valley Wellness and asked Mrs. Borges to reach out to them.

## **7.0 Personnel Management**

No items or discussion.

## **Audience Concerns**

Jim Deutsch discussed the advanced classes process and requested that we go back to how teachers selected students for advanced classes.

Mr. Bulger stated that the Board increase rigor for the advance classes. This transpired because teachers recommended change. The Board did not decrease any class offerings.

Mrs. Ligeros thanked Holli Bobick for doing morning announcements and pledge of allegiances every morning.

Mrs. Yuhas said we should applaud the State for making the difficult decision to not have PSSA testing. Though, this will create difficulty for teachers that need the data in order to deliver instruction for the following year.

Mr. Colasante thanked Mr. Wehrer for the statement about the District and motivating students to do their schoolwork. He also thanked Mr. Bulger for running a professional meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:34 PM