

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Auditorium
March 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:06 PM

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Mr. Bulger, Mr. Blick, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Colasante

Zoom Teleconference: Ms. Adams, Mrs. Ligeros, Mr. Rojtas and Ms. Youngblood (enter at 7:31 PM)

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Kara L. Bodnar Kosanovich, Steel Valley Graduate, Class of 1993; Carolyn “Joyce” Rice, aunt of Edward Wellman, math resource teacher, Barrett Elementary School; Eleanor A. Csider, mother of Susan Wilder, 4th grade Barrett teacher; and Anne Safko, mother-in-law of Therese Safko, retired middle school paraprofessional.

Mr. Colasante moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded to place appropriate books into the district school libraries in memory of the above departed.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Youngblood entered the meeting after this motion.

President’s Report

Mr. Bulger thanked all of the teachers, administrators, custodians, food service, support staff and families of the school district for a fairly successful return to learning. Everyone is doing the best that they can during this time. He announced that Mr. Zenone would be discussing the budget tonight and

over the next several meetings. A budget is an estimate. Unexpected things happen. Mr. Zenone is going to discuss our revenue forecast for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Ben Novotny, Junior Student Representative to the School Board, reported on the events held at Park Elementary School. Dr. Seuss Read Across America Week went virtual this year. Instead of having a traditional Title I family night in person, students and staff participated in four nights of activities and stories via Zoom. Every night there was a guest reader who read a famous Dr. Seuss story, and the story was followed by a fun activity. Stories included The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, Wacky Wednesday, and Fox in Socks. After listening to the stories, students created reading spots, made green eggs and ham, colored and designed bookmarks, and made Seuss quote posters. Oh no, that was not all! Students also celebrated Seuss Week when they came to school wearing silly socks, and doing all kinds of other crazy things that would have made Dr. Seuss proud.

The kids looked great for their school pictures, and they cannot wait until COVID is behind them--the masks are gone and they can see smiling faces everyday.

At Barrett Elementary School, the celebration for Dr. Seuss took place during the first week of March. On March 5, students celebrated Pet Day sharing their pet virtually during the announcements. School pictures took place on March 9. All of the students were provided with an assembly on Fire Safety sponsored by the Red Cross. Johnny Appleseed Day was celebrated on March 11, and all of the students received an apple treat at lunch. The pepperoni roll fundraiser was very successful and funds will be used for end-of-the-year activities. The Queen of Hearts will be visiting Friday virtually. Perfect attendance awards will be distributed later this week.

Kristen Craycraft, Senior Student Representative, shared that the Middle School Student Government conducted an online team-building event. Ms. Noblet is finalizing the spring calendar events including Autism Awareness Day on April 7, coffee hour on the 15th, community cleanup day on the 28th, and the end-of-the-year celebration on May 12.

Kristen also announced that the Steel Valley Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) ran the personal perspectives campaign and interviewed people giving advice about the importance of driving safely. High School Student Council will be hosting a blood drive on April 15. The Prom will be held on May 6, but the promenade is canceled due to COVID-19 precautions. Prom tickets will be on sale April 7 through 15.

Two high school students have been selected to attend the Health Career Scholars Academy at the University of Pittsburgh this summer. Local scholarship packets have been distributed to seniors and

are available on the district website or in the library. Plans for Senior Awards, National Honor Society, and Homecoming will be finalized soon. School pictures were taken on March 17 and 18. The spring sports regular season will begin next week. Fall sports have begun preseason workouts. Free physical exams will be given on March 29.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer announced that Spartan Pharmacy would be providing the second Moderna vaccine to Phase 1A Steel Valley employees on Saturday, April 10. Approximately 70 employees took advantage of the first shot on March 6.

He is also grateful to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for coordinating the Johnson & Johnson vaccine that the Governor set aside for K-12 educators. Again approximately 70 folks took advantage of the one shot alternative. The second round of J & J vaccines at the AIU will be administered on March 29 and 30. He thanked everyone for working to help employees get vaccinated.

He noted that we have a lot of students in school. He added that if any families want to move their children from remote to in-person learning at this time, please notify your building principal by Tuesday, March 30. The 4th nine-week grading period will start April 7.

Spring break for students starts Thursday, April 1, through Tuesday, April 6. School will resume on Wednesday, April 7.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Mrs. Borges announced April 6 would be a clerical day to work on report cards that would be distributed on April 8.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank reminded everyone that the end of the 3rd grading period is next week. He said that many parents are using Sapphire to look into their children's records. He told parents to call the office for assistance to set up your own account.

Assessment testing will take place this school year. Last year, we received an exception to not take the Keystone exams, but first-time test takers of algebra, biology and literature will take the Keystone exams this year. The Department of Education extended the testing window for the PSSA, and the District will be testing students in the spring. We will spread out the testing dates, and offer remote students testing times in small groups in the buildings.

Mr. Colebank will announce new updated technology for the teachers next month.

Solicitor's Report

No Report

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Deutsch referenced motion (7.1) motion to close the Middle School / Technology Dept. Secretary position. He asked if someone is currently in that position.

- Mr. Bulger explained that there is someone who does hold that position, but no one will be losing their job due to the closing of that position. He explained they are reassigning and renaming positions.

Mr. Deutsch referenced (1.4) asking if there will be a copy of the report on the website.

- Mr. Zenone said the auditor report will be on the website. He also said you can currently see the prior (6) years on the website as well.

Ms. Dreshman referenced (1.4) asking when the report will be on the website.

- Mr. Bulger said it will be posted in about a week.

Ms. Dreshman asked what amount are the Tax Collectors being exonerated for.

- Mr. Bulger answered with the following figures: Borough of Munhall \$647,672.17; Borough of Homestead \$219,897.11; Borough of West Homestead \$148,317.92
- Mr. Bulger added that the collection activity from our tax collectors has been very good. We appreciate the hard work put forth by our elected officials.

Ms. Dreshman referenced the motions (7.1 and 7.2) the closing of the secretary positions, she asked if there are anyone in these positions at the present time.

- Mr. Bulger reiterated we are right-sizing our staff based on current responsibilities and current student levels.

Ms. Dreshman referenced about the pool and added will it be helpful to use rainwater when needed.

- Mr. Bulger said he will direct that request to Mr. Keesecker. As of right now the pool is not leaking due to being kept below that certain level and also confirmed with Mr. Zenone that our water bills for this year have been roughly \$75,000 less this year.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

February 22, 2021 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Abstain: Yuhás. Negative: None. Motion carried.

February 25, 2021 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Presentation

Mr. Zenone made a presentation on the anticipated revenue for the General Fund budget for the 2021-2022 school year. He discussed the main areas of revenue.

1. Real Estate Tax collection projections are \$16,130,000. Tax collectors collect approximately 92% of real estate taxes. The collection rate trend is increasing.
2. Real Estate Transfer Tax: \$138,000 from Homestead and \$205,000 from Munhall
3. Earned Income Tax: \$1.7 million for the budget
4. Delinquent Real Estate Taxes:
These amounts come through in the final quarter. Mr. Zenone estimates \$370,000 from Homestead, \$850,000 from Munhall, and \$143,000 from West Homestead
5. Other Larger Revenue Sources:
\$9.6 million State budget
\$1,558,000 Special education
\$2.4 million ESSER Funding (new to the budget)

Mr. Zenone stated that the current real estate taxes, delinquent real estate taxes, real estate transfer taxes and the earned income taxes are seeing an increase in their revenues. We are estimating \$1 million in savings for the 2020-2021 budget year.

Mr. Bulger asked Mr. Zenone in regards to budget to actual revenue for the 2020-2021 school year, where did we do better in the revenue?

- Mr. Zenone accredited it to (4) accounts. The current real estate taxes, the delinquent real estate taxes, the transfers and the earned income taxes are about at a 6-figure increase. We have also received a number of federal grants.

Mr. Blick clarified that the reserve was done with the expectation if we wouldn't receive tax collection not due to tax increases. In short we actually collected more than we thought.

Mr. Colasante asked Mr. Zenone to explain earned income.

- Mr. Zenone explained that earned income is what you earn in salaries, the 1% is paid to the municipality and half of it goes to the school district.

1.0 Financial Management

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

- 1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:
 - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for March 2021 in the amount of \$486,069.90
 - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for February 2021 in the amount of \$707,677.48
 - 1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.05 General Fund Balance Sheet for February 2021
 - 1.1.06 Food Service invoices for February 2021 in the amount of \$15,949.13
 - 1.1.07 Food Service Revenue Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.08 Food Service Expenditure Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.09 Food Service Balance Sheet for February 2021
 - 1.1.10 Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2021
 - 1.1.11 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.12 High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.13 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2021
 - 1.1.14 External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2021
- 1.2 Motion to approve a refund to L7 Holdings Limited LLC, Lot & Block 131-D-164 in the amount of \$1,432.07 for year 2020
- 1.3 Motion to approve payments to:

BDA Engineering, Inc.	Invoice # 191101-12	\$2,126.50
BDA Engineering, Inc.	Invoice # 191101-13	\$1,336.94
- 1.4 Motion to approve June 30, 2020 Financial Statements and Management Report as

submitted to Maher Duessel CPAs.

- 1.5 Motion to approve to exonerate the Boroughs of Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead real estate tax collectors for the 2020 real estate taxes.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Ms. Youngblood moved and Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage 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.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

Mr. Colasante moved and Ms. Adams seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 3.1 Motion to approve fundraising requests as presented.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively to table:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Ligeros reported that Steel Center would hold its 1st Annual CTE Job Fair on April 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Businesses that may want to participate should go to the website www.steelcentertech.com. Steel Center will hold an in-person senior recognition ceremony on June 2, and they are looking for an outdoor location. They are considering conducting summer classes for Steel Center students to offset the lost time and loss of skill development due to COVID-19. Steel Center will be hiring new teachers for the veterinarian and exercise science programs.

They have also partnered with Mon Valley Hospital to administer vaccines to the staff.

Mon Valley School completed seven videos showing the vocational programs offered at the school. These videos can be viewed on the website: www.aiu3.net under schools and Mon Valley. The school held a talent show on March 19. Each act was filmed individually, and they will be creating a document to watch the talent show on Google. Mon Valley is creating a peer-mentoring program for its students.

5.0 Educational Leadership

No discussion.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mrs. Fitzgerald will be emailing the Parent Liaison Group for an upcoming meeting.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to approve the closing of the Middle School/Technology Department Secretary position, effective immediately.
- 7.2 Motion to approve to close the vacant position of the High School/Building & Grounds Department Secretary position, effective immediately.
- 7.3 Motion to approve the creating of the position of High School/Middle School Secretary.
- 7.4 Motion to approve an intermittent Family Leave of Absence (FMLA) not to exceed 60 days in duration for Employee No. 808 retroactive to February 4, 2021.
- 7.5 Motion to hire a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator.
- 7.6 Motion to hire Appoint Kimberly Devine as Districtwide Paraeducator at a rate of \$10.70 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for 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. Employment effective on a mutually agreed upon date.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger confirmed with Mrs. Borges that they are still looking for (1) Districtwide Paraprofessional position. Mr. Bulger urged people if they are interested or looking for a job, Steel Valley School District is a great place to work and please look on our website and for qualifications and to apply.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Deutsch spoke about the budget and asked about charter schools.

- Mr. Zenone said that will be presented in the budget meeting next month.

Mr. Deutsch asked how many students we have in charter schools currently.

- Mr. Zenone responded around 300 students.

Mr. Deutsch asked how many of 300 students are propel students.

- Mr. Zenone replied with 175 students. There was an increase in the elementary students and decrease on the secondary level.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:11 PM