

Worksession Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of School Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
Public was Invited to Observe via High School Facebook Live
September 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 6:30 PM and held in the Steel Valley High School Library and the public was invited to observe via Facebook Live.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. Blick, Mr. Bulger, Mr. Colasante, Ms. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Ligeros, Ms. Youngblood

Absent: Mr. Rojtas, Mrs. Yuhas

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Colebank, Mr. Keesecker, Mr. Macuga, Mr. Strom, Mr. Walsh, Dr. Shaughnessy, Ms. Cooper

Flag Salute

Items on the agenda were discussed. No action was taken.

Presentation

Ms. Susan Cooper reported that the HS/MS HVAC project is in the home stretch. The first air system, which is larger, has been switched over and is operating in span mode. The second air system is being switched over tonight and will be operational tomorrow. The factory will start up the heating and cooling roof top units. Once the factory starts up the units, they will be starting on the next phase-- boiler units. The two (2) new boilers are installed and will be up and running soon. Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Colebank about the status of the security cameras. Mr. Colebank reported that two (2) cameras are looking at the back of bulkheads and three (3) cameras still need adjusted. Other than ceiling tiles being put back in place, the general contractor is basically done.

Mr. Bulger asked about the finances for the project. Ms. Cooper reported that the project came in within budget and with \$40,355 left in the contingency fund. Mr. Keesecker noted that this project was one of the smoothest he's been involved with.

Minutes

No meeting minutes for approval.

Mr. Bulger noted there is an additional agenda item under the Solicitor. He explained there are three (3) properties owned by West Homestead Borough. The Borough has someone willing to buy the properties, and they are asking that the property taxes be exonerated. The properties will be sold to a developer who will build homes on the properties on 9th Avenue. The school district would then get these properties back on the tax rolls.

1.0 Financial Management

Mr. Bulger asked if we know the charter school enrollment numbers. Mr. Wehrer stated that he is not aware of any figures.

2.0 Operations

Mr. Wehrer commented that he believes the Board should not rent our facilities until our students are back in the buildings. He suggested tabling Item 2.1.

The principals and Mr. Keesecker reported on the status of the buildings.

High School

Mr. Strom and Mr. Keesecker examined the high school building for the health and safety of students and staff. They need five (5) to six (6) more plexiglass dividers, and plexiglass dividers in the cafeteria. They are gathering more signage to direct students in the hallways. In the morning, Mr. Keesecker will be picking up all the plexiglass partitions for the buildings, and he will have them placed on the teachers' desks. He noted that we would be ready for school to start on October 5 with all materials delivered except for bottle fillers. Signage will be in place tomorrow in the entranceway and cafeteria, and sanitizer in all the classrooms. Mr. Strom noted that the classrooms are large enough to accommodate 12-14 students with social distancing. Mr. Keesecker discussed implementation of the custodial checklist for the buildings. The checklist would be mounted in the rooms showing when it was cleaned and by whom. Mr. Colasante asked if the weekly walk throughs will be continued, and Mr. Keesecker confirmed that weekly walk throughs would be occurring.

Middle School

Mr. Macuga participated in the walk through of the secondary buildings. He noted that plexiglass is needed in 11 classrooms and 40 mobile units in the middle school cafeteria to divide the tables, which adds another layer of protection. He is confident that students can social distance in the cafeteria, and the seats are marked for three (3) students per long table. The tables are adequately spaced. A gate will be installed in the middle school office to provide the secretaries with another layer of protection from students coming behind the counter. Mr. Keesecker noted the gates are built and he will install them. Two (2) bottle fillers are available in the middle school, which were provided by PTO last year. Administration will be working on markers for spacing in the middle school entranceways. Signage will be posted directing students in the hallways, and tape will be placed on the floors for a positive flow throughout the hallways. Stairwells will be one way.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked about the procedure for breakfast. Mr. Strom replied they would keep students out of the cafeteria. Middle school is using the cafeteria and gym for grab 'n go breakfast. Students will eat in the gym and then head to class. Students who don't access the breakfast program will go directly to their classrooms. Mr. Macuga noted that students may bring an empty bottle from home and utilize the touchless bottle fillers throughout the day.

Barrett Elementary School

Mr. Walsh reported that windows are opened as much as possible for airflow. All air filters have been replaced. The gym, hallways, and cafeteria have been marked for social distancing. Cafeteria is set up for one grade in the cafeteria at a time for meals. Lunch tables will have 24 partitions. Secretary has plexiglass, and four (4) mobile units are available. He would like to have more mobile units of plexiglass. Students will be social distancing outside before entering the building. Security guard will take the students' temperatures. If someone is ill, they will be escorted to the nurse's office. Nurse's office was moved to a larger area with a tile floor. Dispensers need replaced and new ones installed in different areas. Bottle fillers are being shipped on October 5, and there will be one (1) on each floor. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle. There are extra masks available for students who do not have them. Cleaning supplies have been received. Mr. Walsh feels they are prepared. Mr. Keesecker stated that he and Mr. Wehrer had a good walk through at Barrett. Barrett is in good shape.

He will have plexiglass tomorrow. Marking off for 6-foot distances has been completed. Grades K-2 will have breakfast in the cafeteria and grades 3-4 will receive grab 'n go breakfast in the gym.

Park Elementary School

Dr. Shaughnessy and Mr. Keesecker completed a walk through of the building yesterday. Dr. Shaughnessy received input from the staff regarding their classrooms over the last few weeks. Plexiglass in the cafeteria is completed, but still needed in the classrooms. A bottle filler is available outside the gym, and new bottle fillers will be installed on the first and second floors. Three (3) air conditioning units need repaired or replaced and this will occur next week. Mr. Keesecker noted that issues at Park School include a roof leak, which has affected two (2) classrooms and two (2) air conditioning units. The roof was repaired last week. The damaged areas were scraped and patched and will be painted tomorrow. Hruska Plumbing has two (2) air conditioning units to replace the damaged ones. The third air conditioner, a Mitsubishi unit, needs an electronic board replaced. Mr. Keesecker has addressed cleaning issues with the custodians.

3.0 Co-Curricular

No discussion.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Ligeros reported that classes are going well at Steel Center. They have not had any positive COVID-19 cases. They are wearing face coverings, washing hands and social distancing.

5.0 Educational Leadership

Mr. Bulger noted the school district is receiving a grant for \$20,000 from Pennsylvania Department of Education for a pilot program for Dyslexia, and Barrett Elementary School is receiving good programs for the students. Mr. Wehrer informed the Board that the voting agenda has the proper order for Items 5.1 and 5.2.

6.0 Communications and Technology

Mrs. Fitzgerald reported that she has heard a lot of positive feedback from parents in favor of synchronous learning. They like that it is synchronous, and that we are heads above other school districts.

Additional Comments

None

Adjournment

Mr. Colasante made a motion to adjourn the worksession meeting and it was seconded by Ms. Youngblood. Approved by a voice vote. Meeting ended at 7:26 PM.

