

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
May 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:02 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Karstetter, Mr. Rojtas,
Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhás, Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Carter

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Macuga, Mrs. Kozusko, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Weber and
Mrs. Emery

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Mr. Bajus, Former Steel Valley School Board Director for 6 years, Mr. Bajus is preceded in death by his daughter, Marie Elizabeth Bajus Heddleston, who taught Title I Reading at Park Elementary; John R. Bost, brother of Jonette Bost, 2nd grade teacher at Barrett Elementary; Vivian (Cuningham) Tatters, grandmother of Tiffany Cibula, Paraprofessional at Barrett Elementary; Catherine Watson, mother-in-law of Jill Watson, Special Education teacher at Park Elementary.

Mrs. Yuhás moved and Mrs. Karstetter 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, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Matthew Weber presented the Preliminary School District Budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger thanked Mr. Weber for his presentation and welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the excitement and activities that come with the end of the school year. He thanked Mr. Richard Bazzy and the Best of the Batch Foundation for their generous scholarships. Mr. Bulger gave examples of a couple school districts that are issuing furloughs and cutting programs. He also noted that our millage rate was not raised to the max.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Breanne Francis, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- Ten students participated in the Kids of Steel (KOS) race on April 30th at PNC Park, and they did a nice job running and completing the race.
- Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams were completed and the students and staff did a nice job with the completion of the exams and student attendance and behaviors were as expected.
- Kindergarten field trips to the Dragons Den took place throughout the first two weeks of May.
- The Queen of Hearts visited the Kindergarten for the final time this year, and we appreciate the relationship with WQED.
- The Kindergarten magic show took place on May 5th in the Campbell gym.
- The second graders went to Funslides for their field trip on May 8th.
- The first graders went to Triple B Farm for their field trip on May 9th.
- The fourth graders completed their field trips to the Dragons Den on May 10th.
- The third graders completed their field trips to the Dragons Den on May 12th.
- Fourth grade step-up day took place on May 15th.
- Merit Day took place on May 16th and we had the valedictorian and salutatorian as special guests to speak to the students.
- The Spring Concert will take place today May 25th.
- The Barrett field day will take place tomorrow May 26th.
- There will be free ice cream at the Batch Foundation concluding the last day of school on May 31st.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer thanked Ms. Adams, Ms. Guy, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Bulger for working on the negotiation team for the new teacher contract. Mr. Wehrer acknowledged Steel Valley students who attend Steel Center for Career and Technical Education with certificates for being recognized as students of the month.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga started his report by explaining the classroom changes for Middle School. Staff members were surveyed at the end of May about school climate and environment. Student transitions and hallway behaviors were the primary areas of concern. Based on those survey results, early last week administration met with Middle School staff members to review classroom changes for the 2023-24 school year. The classroom changes will provide a more consistent and structured format for the Middle School. The school will be divided into two main sections for grades 5 and 6 and grades 7 and 8; these changes will limit student transitions and the interactions between grade levels. We expect these changes to result in decreased student hallway behaviors and an improved school environment.

Students in grades 3-8 successfully completed the PSSA State Assessments during the months of April and May. It was reported to me by staff that students applied their best efforts throughout the duration of the assessments and that our proctors and building administrators created optimal testing environments for our students. Results of the assessments will be sent to the district near the end of June.

High School Keystone Exams concluded last May 17th and staff members are in the process of completing make-up assessments. Mr. Strom and his staff also created a positive testing environment and a strong student effort was evident for all three days of testing.

The final student day of the school is May 31st and while the end of the year brings about fun activities and events, I want to encourage our students, in all buildings to make certain they are taking care of their academic requirements and finishing the school year on a positive note.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

No report

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Maureen Fry commented on motion (1.4). Mr. Bulger explained the Act 34 process.

Breanne Francis commented in favor of the New Elementary School and questioned residents who oppose the school, asking them why don't we want the best for the students?

Erin Noblet commented on the hiring of Lynn Kennedy as a Paraprofessional; commented on motion (5.2) asking if the Special Education plan includes a Gifted Education Plan; commented on motion (7.15) asking if any of the support staff substitutes being hired were nurses.

Duane Schulte, Councilman for Homestead, commented on finances regarding new school. Bulger explained our debt services.

Jennifer Vinay thanked the Board and Administration for having her as the Yearbook Advisor and how she enjoyed being part of all the exciting moments like WPIAL Championships, State Championships, graduations,

plays / musicals, etc. It was an experience of a lifetime and she also thanked her husband Steve for assisting with the yearbook layouts every year.

Jim Deutsch commented on motion (1.2).

Mr. Capp commented on the cost of the construction of the new school.

Christine Schott commented on items on motions (5.1) and (2.2). She added that a new school is needed.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

April 24, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

April 27, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: McLaughlin. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:

1.1.01 General Fund and Food Service Invoices for May 2023 for \$251,163.94 and \$840.65

1.1.02 General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks for April 2023 for \$981,282.08 and \$48,606.27 respectively

1.1.03 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for April 2023

1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheets for April 2023

1.1.05 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report April 2023

1.1.06 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for April 2023

1.1.07 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for April 2023

1.1.08 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for April 2023

1.2 Motion to approve the Preliminary General Fund Budget for 2023-2024 with a millage rate of rate of 27.6980, an increase of .8067 mill. The General Fund Revenues are projected at \$44,798,047.00 and the Expenditures are projected to be \$45,026,376.98. The Deficit of \$228,329.00 will be partially absorbed by the General Fund's Fund Balance.

1.3 Motion to approve the attached Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion, in the amount of \$331.50

- 1.4 Motion to approve the Maximum Act 34 Building Construction Cost of \$40,620,000 and the Maximum Project Cost of \$56,316,755 with regards to the New Elementary School construction project as defined in Resolution dated May 25, 2023.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Ms. Guy moved and Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented
- 2.2 Motion to approve the 40-hour service block for the HALO sensors that were installed in the Middle School and Senior High School, for \$7,400
- 2.3 Motion to approve the quote from Otis Elevator Company to replace the electronic panels for the Senior High School elevator in the amount of \$101,360
- 2.4 Motion to approve the advertisement for the Act 34 hearing to be held on June 22, 2023, for the construction of the new elementary school building.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve fundraising requests as presented
- 3.2 Motion to award the Athletic Trainer's Services to NovaCare for a two-year contract with a 3rd year option service contract for academic years 2023-2024 for \$47,000, 2024-2025 for \$50,000 and 2025-2026 for \$52,500, effective August 1, 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter moved and Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 4.1 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Steel Center for Career and Technical Education Combined Budget (Administrative, Operating, Perkins, and Workforce Development – Adult Education) and approve the Southwest Area Special School 2023-2024 Administrative Budget as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter commented on the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education graduation. Mr. Bulger thanked Mrs. Karstetter for sitting on the Board of Directors for Steel Center and Technical Education and representing Steel Valley School District so well.

5.0 Educational Leadership

Ms. Adams moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 5.1 Motion to approve the first amendment to the finance services agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the district, effective July 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023
- 5.2 Motion to approve the Steel Valley School District's Special Education Plan as required under 22 PA Code 14.104
- 5.3 Motion to approve the AIU Comprehensive Services Agreement and Special Education Addendum for 2023-2024
- 5.4 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Services Agreement between The Day School at The Children's Institute and Steel Valley School District to provide special education and related services to students to fulfill Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- 5.5 Motion to approve the agreement between the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) and Steel Valley School District, for the CCIU to provide Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) reporting services at a cost of \$4,500

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. McLaughlin spoke about the Community meeting that was held in April and the Community meeting that was held in May with the Meet the Candidates night. He also stated that the Senior Parade was going to be on Tuesday, May 30th at 6:00 PM.

7.0 Personnel Management

Ms. Guy moved and Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 7.1 Motion to appoint Hannah Gigler to the full-time, Special Education position with an assignment for the 2023-2024 school year of Learning Support at Park Elementary, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$41,338 based upon first year of non-tenured status with a Master's degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining

- agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.2 Motion to appoint Ellen Davis to the full-time, Secondary Music position for the Senior High School and Middle School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$40,019 based upon first year of non-tenured status with a Bachelor's degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.3 Motion to appoint Lynn Kennedy as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.90 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits, retroactive to April 24, 2023; clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.4 Motion to appoint the attached list of teachers and paraprofessionals for the 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) Program. Teachers will be paid at the rate of \$40/hour and paraprofessionals will be paid at their current hourly rate and an additional \$4.00/hour to their hourly rate from the preceding year, per the MOU approved on June 23, 2022, effective July 3, 2023.
- 7.5 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Altman from the High School Fall Play Director and the High School Musical Director positions, effective immediately; and the Steel Valley Auditorium Stage Tech position, effective, June 30, 2023.
- 7.6 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jennifer Vinay from the Yearbook Advisor for the Senior High School position, effective June 30, 2023.
- 7.7 Motion to approve Calli Folino as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year at the approved daily rate of \$150.00 per day, retroactive to May 8, 2023; clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.8 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee #5890, retroactive to April 25, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.9 Motion to approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee # 5799, retroactive to May 12, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.10 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee #5707, effective May 30, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.11 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals ESP/PSEA/NEA
- 7.12 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Education Support Personnel Association, PSEA/NEA.
- 7.13 Motion to appoint Nina Kochanowicz to the full-time, Special Education position with an assignment for the 2023-2024 school year of Learning Support at Barrett Elementary, at a salary of \$41,338 based upon first year of non-tenured status with a Master's degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus

benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.

- 7.14 Motion to appoint Brandt Dykstra to a full-time teaching position with an assignment of Elementary Art teacher at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools, at a salary of \$43,061, based upon second year of non-tenured status with a Master's degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the start of the 2023-2024 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.15 Motion to approve the list of applicants presented to be placed on our substitute call list to be called in as a substitute for support staff when needed. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- 7.16 Motion to approve Katie Myers to be an one-on-one paraprofessional for the In-Person Summer Program at Park Elementary, at her current hourly rate with an additional \$4.00/hour, per the MOU that was approved at the June 23, 2022, school board meeting, funded by the ESSER III grant effective, June 7, 2023.
- 7.17 Motion to appoint Alexander Grace to the ESSER III, long-term substitute, 4th grade position at Park Elementary, at an annual salary of \$40,019, based upon first year of non-tenured status with a Bachelor's degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, effective at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year, pre-employment screenings and clearances are on file.
- 7.18 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Marguerite Luvara, English teacher at the Middle School, under the terms and conditions of Article XXVIII Retirement Incentive Program in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement and the Early Retirement Incentive M.O.U., effective June 5, 2023.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

- 7.19 Motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Education Association (SVEA) for four (4) school years beginning 2024-2025 and ending 2027-2028

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Rojtas, Yuhás. Motion carried.

Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Karstetter, Mr. Bulger thanked Jennifer Vinay for all the fantastic work she did over the years on the yearbooks.

Citizen Comments

Duane Schulte questioned the rates of the bonds for the construction of the new elementary school.

Maureen Fry asked about how many students graduated this year. Mr. Macuga stated that 97 students walked and 102 graduated. She also asked about Kindergarten enrollment.

Richard Owston commented how he is not in favor of the decision to move the classrooms in the Middle School.

Christine Schott commented on the classroom moves in the Middle School and how many teachers call off, especially in May.

Jim Deutsch asked about the Superintendent search.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:59 PM