

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
February 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:00 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe via Facebook Live.

Roll call as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. Carter, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Irene Pisula Foschia, grandmother of Katie MacDonald, 5th grade teacher at the Middle School and mother-in-law of JoAnn Pisula, retired Elementary teacher.

Mr. Rojtas 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, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on upcoming events that will be happening throughout the district.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Joe Nguyen, Junior Representative to the School Board

Reported for Barrett Elementary:

- February 2nd students took a schoolwide field trip to the Byham Theater for a Black History Month Program
- February 7th there was a PTO meeting to discuss field trips and evening programs for parents
- February 8th Title I family program took place to discuss family and love
- February 9th Barrett celebrated National Pizza Day with the students who had positive behaviors and attendance
- February 16th Kindergarteners attended a field trip to the Children's Museum
- February 21st there were Winter Wipeout activities for students who had positive attendance for the past two months
- February 22nd Mr. Dulin organized Middle School students to read to students in Kindergarten and 1st grade
- February 23rd a Black History Month Interactive Wax Museum Program for students and adults was held
- February 24th an Adult Bingo fundraiser took place from 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Park Elementary:

- February 14th students had the Scholastic Book Fair
- Students had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of Black History Month activities
- Visiting artists from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust are currently working with 1st, 3rd and 4th grade classes
- Students and staff are all looking forward to Read Across America Week, St. Patrick's Day, and the My Special Person Dance

Breanne Francis, Senior Representative to the School Board

Reported for the Middle School:

- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) was incorporated into general music curriculum
- March 9th an English Second Language (ESL) professional development will be provided for staff by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU)

High School:

- January 31st Kennywood visited to recruit summer work staff
- February 2nd twenty (20) students attended a Black History field trip
- February 3rd the Army National Guard visited with students in lunches and the Partner-Up Senior group met
- Junior students were presented with SAT information in their Social Studies classes
- February 10th the Boys Basketball team became section champs with a win against South Park

- February 10th the Expect Respect and the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) groups held a joint meeting
- February 13th the Prom fundraiser, selling Pittsburgh Popcorn began, students can receive a free ticket depending on the amount sold
- February 17th the Art Club had a field trip to the Carnegie Museum of Art
- February 15th CCAC and Job Corps provided students information during lunches
- February 24th at 9:00 AM the annual Black History presentation by the Harmony Club of Homestead performed
- The Girl's Bowling team advanced to the regional competition
- February 23rd twenty seven (27) students participated in Barrett's Black History Month presentation
- Student Government has celebrated Kindness Week by placing a Kindness Tree in the lobby and messages of kindness through the building

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer recognized Austin Blick, 7th grader, for being honored as a recipient of the Pittsburgh Cares "Kids Who Care" award.

He also recognized Katie Heddleston and Amy Stoker, two parents of our students, for their life saving efforts for a spectator who had a cardiac event at an away boys basketball game.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga reported that Pennsylvania System of Schools Assessment (PSSA) testing for Barrett, Park and the Middle School would take place on the following dates:

English Language Art (ELA): April 24th – 26th

Math: May 1st and 2nd

Science: May 4th and 5th

He noted that Keystone testing dates would be presented at March's meeting.

He concluded his report, stating that Administration and the Social Studies department are in the process of revising curriculum.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko updated on a couple of assessments that are administered to some special populations of students throughout Pennsylvania:

- The WIDA ACCESS test is an English language proficiency assessment administered to eligible students in grades K-12 to assess their development in the areas of reading, listening, speaking and

writing. The District had about 20 students that were administered the WIDA ACCESS test that concluded on February 17th. Proficiency results will help continue planning English instruction for the students involved in the District's English as a Second Language program.

- The Pennsylvania Alternate State Assessment (PASA) will be administered to eligible students between March 13th and May 5th. Students are eligible based on their significant cognitive disabilities and their need for intensive instruction that is significantly different from the general education curriculum. Special Education teachers are completing training and preparation activities, and there are students at each Steel Valley building that will be taking the PASA.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Erin Noblet congratulated the retirees referenced on the agenda and commented on Middle School issues.

Jim Deutsch commented on multiple items on the agenda.

Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Adams moved and Mrs. Karstetter seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

January 23, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

January 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Colasante. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Mr. McLaughlin moved and Ms. Adams 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 February 2023 for \$677,016.99

1.1.02 General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks for January 2023 for \$1,359,948.19

1.1.03 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for January 2023

1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheet for January 2023

1.1.05 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report January 2023

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

- 1.1.07 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for January 2023
- 1.1.08 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for January 2023
- 1.2 Motion to accept the Letter of Authorization to confirm that Kristin Van Strien, acting on behalf of Van Strien Consulting, LLC, is authorized to represent the Steel Valley School District in matters related to the Federal Universal Service Discount Program known as E-Rate for the funding year of 2023-2024 at the rate of \$4,000 per year.
- 1.3 Motion to approve the budgetary Statement of Work for the Steel Valley School District to procure and implement Act 80 data sorting and reporting information utilizing Method Automation for \$1,225.
- 1.4 Motion to acknowledge that the 2019 Pension Bond proceeds were completely used to make PSERS payments in the prior year ending June 30, 2022, and in the current year ending June 30, 2023. These payments will result in a reduction of the restricted fund balance for pension payments to \$0.00 for the year ending June 30, 2023, unless further action is taken by the Board to designate fund balance as restricted.
- 1.5 Motion to approve the designations of fund balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, by releasing the restricted balance of \$1,929,300 in conjunction with PSERS payments made with proceeds of the 2019 pension bonds, releasing the \$1,500,000 assigned in prior years and adding assigned fund balance of \$2,000,000 for increasing health care, PSERS and charter costs.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Mr. Colasante 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 purchase of one (1) Evolv Express single lane metal detector at a total cost of \$120,898, which includes installation, training and software. Total amount will be billed annually in the amount of \$34,459 in year one (1) and the final three (3) years will be billed in the amount of \$28,813.
- 2.3 Motion to approve the purchase and installation of twelve (12) HALO Smart Sensor all-in-one security and health devices to be installed throughout the High School and Middle School at a cost of \$18,865.00.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

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

- 4.1 Motion to reaffirm the Principles of Governance and Leadership as set forth in Policy 001: Advocate Earnestly, Lead Responsibly, Govern Effectively, Plan Thoughtfully, Evaluate Continuously, Communicate Clearly and Act Ethically.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the agreement between Steel Valley School District and ProCare Therapy to provide daily services of a License Professional Nurse (LPN) at a rate of \$64/hour to a student at Barrett Elementary that requires one-on-one nursing services due to medical needs.
- 5.2 Motion to approve a Letter of Agreement for The Meadows School to provide educational services in the event that a student from Steel Valley is hospitalized at The Meadows Psychiatric Center.
- 5.3 Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for a student to attend New Story School at a rate of \$341/day until it is determined that the educational placement is no longer necessary or appropriate, retroactive to February 13, 2023.
- 5.4 Motion to approve Rideshare Agreement with KidzRide, LLC to provide transportation as needed to students experiencing unique circumstances and that are unable to be transported through the district's current transportation company.
- 5.5 Motion to accept a donation from the Campbell Educational and Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 for the Middle School and High School Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Teams.
- 5.6 Motion to approve the Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports ("Project SEEKS SES") Grant Participation Agreement that is between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and Steel Valley School District funded by the Allegheny County

Health Department, not to exceed the amount of \$585,000, effective February 23, 2023, through July 31, 2024.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger thanked the Campbell Foundation for all their support.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Carter thanked Jonette Bost on the Black History Living Wax Museum that was held at Barrett Elementary on February 23rd.

The upcoming Community Meeting will be held on March 8th at 7:00 PM at Barrett Elementary.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Sharon Kampe, High School Choir, Middle School Music/Chorus/Music Tech teacher, 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.
- 7.2 Motion to approve Joanna Graham to be a substitute teacher for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$150/day, effective immediately. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.3 Motion to approve Derek Kleinhans to be placed on our substitute call list for the paraprofessional department of \$12.00/hr, retroactive to February 14, 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.4 Motion to appoint the following Core-Subject Assessor for High School Cyber Program \$1,000 stipend positions for the following subjects, Barb Ferson for History; Michelle Maddigan for Science; Ryan Dunmire for Math; Jodi Geyer for ELA, effective for the 4th quarter grading period of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.5 Motion to approve the elimination of the Accounts Payable secretary position, effective January 18, 2023.
- 7.6 Motion to create the ESSER III funded Dean of Students position for the Senior High School. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.7 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Sara Altman from High School Musical Instrumental and Vocal supplemental positions, effective immediately.
- 7.8 Motion to approve the list of Spring Athletic Coaching position for the 2022-2023 school year.

- 7.9 Motion to approve JoAnn Molnar to be a long-term substitute for Special Education at the High School at a prorated salary of \$48,722 based upon Step 4 with a Bachelor's degree according to Policy No. 328.1 plus benefits, for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, retroactive to January 10, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.10 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Tammy Law, 2nd grade teacher at Park Elementary, 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.
- 7.11 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Linda Terrick, Kindergarten teacher at Park Elementary, 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 July 7, 2023.
- 7.12 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Jill Watson, special education teacher at Park Elementary, 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, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Adams asked about the job description for the High School Dean of Students position.

Mr. Bulger thanked and congratulated the retirees for their years of service.

Citizen Comments

Erin Noblet commented about behaviors in the Middle School.

Christine Schott commented on updates on the website.

Jim Deutsch had questions about policies and administration.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:08 PM