

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
January 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:09 PM

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Carter, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhás and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Karstetter, Mr. Rojtas

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 Shirley Dean Birdy, retired health and physical education teacher; Audrey Marie (Andreyo) Lesutis, mother of Al Lesutis, 3D Design, Robotics and Architectural Design teacher at the Senior High School; Felix M. Stano, uncle of Regina Takos, Park Elementary Librarian and Michael Takos, paraprofessional at Barrett Elementary; Gary Piskor, cousin of Donna Kiefer, former School Board Director and retired custodian and William Kiefer, substitute custodian.

Mrs. Yuhás moved and Mr. McLaughlin 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, Carter, Guy, Yuhás and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized January for being School Board Appreciation Month. Mr. Bulger said that he appreciates working with all of the members who serve on the Board, administration, teachers and staff.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Dalton Kraft, Junior Representative to the School Board

Reported for Park Elementary:

- Students completed the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) and Dibbles testing.
- Students have started their intermural activities.

Joe Nguyen, Junior Representative to the School Board

Reported for Barrett Elementary:

- January 18th – Queen of Hearts met with Kindergarten to discuss good behaviors and how to be polite.
- January 23rd – Report Cards were distributed.
- January 31st – Parents and students spent the evening making tacos from the Moe’s Taco Kit Fundraiser.
- January 31st – students will dress like they are 100 years old for the 100th day of school.

Breanne Francis, Senior Representative to the School Board

Reported for the Middle School:

- January 25th – “Listen, Lucy” presentation was held. The presentation focused on mental health.
- Week of January 23rd – MAP testing was conducted.
- January 30th – 5th and 6th grade students will start to enter the building through the Middle School entrance. All Middle School students will exit through the band hallway.
- February 3rd – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Incentive day is scheduled during lunch periods. Students who have earned a ticket for positive behavior will have access to a hot chocolate bar.

High School:

- January 7th – Semi-Formal Dance was held at St. John’s Cathedral in Munhall, 180 students attended. The staff at St. John’s was very pleased with the behaviors of all the students that attended.
- January 6th, 13th and 20th – The Expect Respect group met.
- January 13th – PBIS team provided breakfast for staff as a thank you for a smooth implementation.
- January 19th – PNC Partner-Up Program had a junior session.
- Upcoming High School Student Council’s service projects:
 - Beverly’s Birthdays Campaign
 - February will be celebrating Kindness month encourage students and staff to be extra kind to each other and to “Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today”
 - March 21st will celebrate “Rock Your Socks Day” for Down Syndrome Awareness by having a

sock sale and all proceeds will be donated to Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh.

- Later in the spring there will be a sale of blue light bulbs for Autism Awareness.
- High School Student Council thanked the Steel Valley School Board for always supporting their projects and expressed their appreciation to the Board by serving cake and coffee.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer expressed his gratitude to the High School Student Council for serving cake and also introduced Mrs. Noblet and the Middle School Student Council for a School Board Appreciation presentation.

Mr. Wehrer continued with his report with talking about motion (5.2) the districtwide planning conference that will take place from Monday, August 7th – Thursday, August 10th, 2023 at the University of Pittsburgh. This conference will chart the path of the district over the course of the next 5 to 10 years, using the Appreciative Inquiry Summit model, which will focus on positivity and creativity. Mr. Wehrer would like all the stakeholders that are employed by the district to attend along with some parents and students. Twelve-month employees are expected to be there unless they are on vacation. For employees that do not work twelve months out of the year, it is not mandatory, however, they are encouraged to attend. Employees will be paid at their hourly and daily rates.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga thanked the student governments for their recognition.

Steel Valley High School conducted Keystone Exam assessments in December to provide students with another opportunity to achieve proficiency on the Literature, Biology and Algebra assessments.

Students in grades K-8 completed benchmark assessments for the 2nd quarter. The results of these assessments will be utilized to guide instruction to meet the learning needs of our students.

A Textbook Pilot Program meeting will occur next week with the textbook piloting staff members to discuss the positives and negatives of the textbook programs Into Math and Into Reading.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported that preliminary data received from our district count indicates that there are 408 students enrolled in Steel Valley School District that are receiving special education services. This number is an increase of 45 students from last year's December 1st count, which was 363.

The district is also working to increase efforts to ensure we are appropriately identifying students that are eligible for protections under the McKinney-Vento Act and provide supports to these students and their

families. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children and youth are identified as experiencing homelessness when they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes: unaccompanied youth, which are children or adolescents that are not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

In years past, the district's average annual number of identified students experiencing housing instability was 15. This year, a team of individuals has been assembled to continue to work on ensuring that students and families experiencing housing instability are identified and that we then take steps to link them with supports available in the community.

Mrs. Kozusko concluded her report stating that this year, we have already identified just under 40 students that have experienced a time of housing instability during this school year. Our team will continue to work on expanding our efforts to provide supports to students and families in our community.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Maureen Fry inquired about the Solicitor motion #1 regarding the sell by auction of the unused and unnecessary lands of approximately 0.20145 acres of landlock vacant land in the extreme northwest corner of the Steel Valley School District's athletic field, Munhall, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fetzko answered her question and gave details of the location of the property.

Jim Deutsch inquired about motion (2.3). Mr. Wehrer explained the use of a construction manager for the different bidding and construction phases of the new elementary school.

Jim Deutsch inquired about motion (5.3). Mr. Wehrer explained how we have an agreement with Pressley Ridge, an approved private school (APS), which is utilized for some of our students.

Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Guy moved and Ms. Adams seconded the motion to approve the following meeting

minutes:

December 5, 2022 Reorganization and Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: McLaughlin. Motion carried.

December 8, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Carter. Motion carried.

Solicitor’s Report

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

1. Motion to sell by auction unused and unnecessary lands of approximately 0.20145 acres of landlock vacant land in the extreme northwest corner of the Steel Valley School District’s Athletic field, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The terms of the sale are that the successful bidder shall pay the amount of the bid at the close of the sale, and is responsible to pay or to reimburse all costs incurred including but not limited to surveying cost, subdivision cost, Deed preparation fee, recording cost, and all transfer tax, and any other incidental cost that may be required to effectuate the sale. The School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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

2. Motion that the Solicitor and the proper School District Officers are authorized to take all of the necessary steps to effectuate the sale of the unused and unnecessary lands, to comply with the advertising requirements of the Article VII, Section 707 of the Public-School Code of 1949 as amended, and to set the date and time of the auction within said advertisement, and to convey the Deed to the successful bidder, if any.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

- 1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:
 - 1.1.01 General Fund Hand Checks for November 2022 in the amount of \$4,449,614.92
 - 1.1.02 General Fund Revenue Report for November 2022
 - 1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for December 2022
 - 1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2022
 - 1.1.05 General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2022
 - 1.1.06 General Fund Balance Sheet for November 2022
 - 1.1.07 General Fund Balance Sheet for December 2022
 - 1.1.08 Food Service Hand checks for November 2022 in the amount of \$85,947.25
 - 1.1.09 Food Service Revenue Report for November 2022
 - 1.1.10 Food Service Revenue Report for December 2022
 - 1.1.11 Food Service Expenditure Report for November 2022

- 1.1.12 Food Service Expenditure Report for December 2022
- 1.1.13 Food Service Balance Sheet for November 2022
- 1.1.14 Food Service Balance Sheet for December 2022
- 1.1.15 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for November 2022
- 1.1.16 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for December 2022
- 1.1.17 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for November 2022
- 1.1.18 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for December 2022
- 1.1.19 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for November 2022
- 1.1.20 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for December 2022
- 1.1.21 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for November 2022
- 1.1.22 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for December 2022
- 1.2 Motion to approve the June 30, 2022 Financial Statements and Management Report as submitted by Maher Duessel.
- 1.3 Motion to approve a refund to Eric Matthew Lot & Block 180-N-158 in the amount of \$1,224.55 for the year 2022.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented.
- 2.2 Motion to approve Combustion Service & Equipment Co. (CS&E) to replace the Middle School Chiller and DDC control panel serving the Chiller and Boiler for the Middle School Classrooms for \$138,975. These items do not have to be bid upon or quoted because they are part of the COSTARS program. Installation will begin as soon as the equipment is received.
- 2.3 Motion to approve to approve Eckles Construction Services, Inc. to provide construction and professional services. These services relate to the following phases of the construction of the new Elementary School: Pre-Construction, Bidding, Construction and Project Closeout. The cost for services is 0.5% of total construction costs for the preconstruction and bidding phases, and 2.35% of total construction costs for the construction and project closeout phases.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve fundraising requests as presented.
- 3.2 Motion to approve payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2023.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yugas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

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

- 4.1 Motion to nominate James E. Bulger as a candidate for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yugas and 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 revised 2022-2023 school calendar to move the Early Dismissal for Students / Staff Professional Development from February 2, 2023, to January 5, 2023.
- 5.2 Motion to authorize the Administration to plan a districtwide planning conference that will take place from Monday, August 7th – Thursday, August 10th, 2023. The costs of the conference will be paid through grant funding.
- 5.3 Motion to approve Addendum #4 to the contractual agreement between Pressley Ridge Autism and Steel Valley School District, retroactive to July 1, 2021.

Mrs. Yugas asked that when the 2023-2024 calendar is being discussed and created, to try not to have calendar revisions throughout the year. Short notice changes make it difficult for our parents.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yugas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. McLaughlin reported that the 6th Community Meeting went well. We are coming up with ways of bridging the gap between the school district and the three boroughs.

Mr. Carter said that he has been in communication with Ms. Jonette Bost regarding the Black History Month Wax Museum.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to grant tenure to Tara Metin and authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the Professional Employee Contract.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Katherine Salapa from the position of Cafeteria worker, effective April 6, 2023.
- 7.3 Motion to approve Carlisa Dixon to be placed on the substitute call list for food service at a rate of \$11.00/hr, retroactive to January 9, 2023, and Antwon Williams to be placed on our substitute call list for the custodial department at a rate of \$12.00/hr for the 2022-2023 school year. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168 and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.4 Motion to appoint Jenna Dean to a two-year, long-term substitute position as the 4th grade teacher at an annual prorated 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, retroactive to January 10, 2023. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.5 Motion to approve Clay Stone to the grant-funded, Act 93, Supervisor of Pupil Services position, at a prorated salary of \$75,000, effective on a mutually agreed upon date, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days. This position will assist the Pupil Services department and will terminate on June 30, 2024.
- 7.6 Motion to appoint Olivia Elk to the ESSER III Life Skills/Autistic Support position in the Middle School as a long-term substitute for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year at a prorated 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.
- 7.7 Motion to approve Carly Radacsi as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year at the approved daily rate of \$150/day, no benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances,

compliance with Act 168, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.

7.8 Motion to approve the list of school volunteers, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and affidavits.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Carter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Wehrer thanked Ms. Kathy Salapa for all of her time and hard work she has given the district as working in the Food Service department. He noted that Kathy along with the rest of the employees in the Food Service department supported our students and families with providing breakfast and lunches during the Pandemic shut down. He is grateful for all their hard work under the Supervision of Lisa Runco. He wished Kathy well in her retirement.

Citizen Comments

Jim Deutsch commented on an open teacher position at Park Elementary. He also commented about an incident that happened between two students in the High School and provided hearsay about the outcome. Mr. Macuga, Mr. Wehrer and Mr. Bulger all stated that they were not aware of this incident and if the incident was of the magnitude that Jim Deutsch said it to be, they all would have been well informed. Mr. Bulger called Jim Deutsch out of order for misrepresentation.

Christine Schott asked with the building of the new elementary school if the garden space will still accessible. Mr. Wehrer reassured that the new elementary school will not compromise the garden space and that they have referenced this topic in multiple new elementary school meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:06 PM