

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
June 29, 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.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Karstetter, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas,
Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Colasante, Mr. Carter, Mr. Rojtas,

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Frank L. Dasta, III, cousin of Mary Yuhas, School Board Director; Leslie Ann Tichon-Perla, daughter of Mr. John J. Tichon, retired Director of Secondary Education, Leslie was also a 1989 Steel Valley graduate; Lisa A. Marino, cousin of Sara Fite, Registrar, Administration Building.

Mrs. Yuhas 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, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger started his report by thanking Mr. Weber on the finalizing the 2023-2024 budget.

Mr. Bulger informed that public that a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) from the ACT 34 hearing for the proposed new elementary school, that was held on June 22, 2023, will be listed on the district website on Friday, June 30, 2023. He also reiterated that the public has until July 24, 2023 to submit any additional

questions. Mr. Bulger thanked parents, staff and students for all their involvement in the end of year activities for the Seniors. Lastly, Mr. Bulger asked the public to reach out to your local legislators regarding the due date of the State Budget.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer reported that administration and support staff are working hard over the summer to make sure all the buildings are ready for the beginning of the school year.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga reported on the changes to the Secondary and Elementary handbooks. He also reported on the In-person Summer Program that ran from June 7th through June 29th.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported on the Extended School year (ESY) program that will run from July 3rd – July 27th. The district has approximately 53 students that are eligible and expected to attend the ESY program. Five (5) special education teachers and nine (9) paraprofessionals will provide services to these students during the ESY program. The district has about 26 additional students that are eligible and attending ESY programs in specialized schools outside the district.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Donna Dreshman commented on motion (1.2) asking if there have been any finance meetings held with the community and also asked if anyone being hired tonight is related to anyone on the Board.

Jim Deutsch commented on motion (1.2) asking if transportation was included in the budget. Mr. Weber stated that the transportation that we provide is in the budget.

He commented on motions (5.1 and 5.2) and asked about the changes. Mr. Macuga explained the changes that were presented.

Duane Schulte commented on motion (1.7) regarding the tuition for an employee's student to attend Park Elementary.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

May 22, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

- 1.1 Board to approve the list of bills:
 - 1.1.01 General Fund Invoices for June 2023 for \$369,309.81
 - 1.1.02 General Fund, Food Service and Scholarship Hand Checks for May 2023 for \$1,182,015.95, \$59,387.73 and \$6,200 respectively
 - 1.1.03 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheets for May 2023
 - 1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for May 2023
 - 1.1.05 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report May 2023
 - 1.1.06 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for May 2023
 - 1.1.07 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for May 2023
 - 1.1.08 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for May 2023
- 1.2 Motion to approve the Proposed Final 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 adopt a Food Service Budget for the 2023-2024 year. The Food Service revenues are projected at \$1,225,431 and the Expenditures are projected to be \$1,213,597. The deficit of \$11,835 will be absorbed by the Fund Equity Balance.
- 1.4 Motion to approve the contract Maher Duessel to perform the financial and single audit compliance and three real estate audits in the amount of \$36,700 for the year 2023
- 1.5 Motion to approve a refund to Norris E. Kelley, Lot & Block 133-L-149, in the amount of \$1,924.78 for year 2022.
- 1.6 Motion to approve the 3-year subscription to utilize ArbiterSports, LLC effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$4,725.00.
- 1.7 Motion to approve the tuition rate of \$4,574.20 for the child of employee # 5785, to be enrolled as a student at Park Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year, consistent with Board Policy No. 202.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented.
- 2.2 Motion to ratify the proposal from Tom Brown Performance Floors, Inc. to remove and install a new Middle School gymnasium floor, due to an insurance claim that was filed due to water damage.
- 2.3 Motion to approve the disposal of old athletic equipment, uniforms and weight equipment.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yuhás asked for a list of uniforms that the Athletic Department is disposing in motion (2.3).

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve fundraising requests as presented.
- 3.2 Motion to approve an overnight trip for the Marching Band trip to Tennessee to visit Nashville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and Dollywood from March 19 – March 24, 2024.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger commented that the itinerary for the Nashville Band trip looks very nice and fun for the students.

4.0 Special Assignments

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

- 4.1 Motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter reported on the Steel Valley students that received recognition for the Top of the Shop awards for the 2nd Semester for 2022-2023 school year AM session. Nate Yuhás for Heating, Ventilation, Air-

Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC); Elbachir Benboujema for Automotive Technology; Jasmin Harris for Veterinary Assistant.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the Senior High School Faculty and Secondary Student Handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year as presented, pending any changes to the handbooks for corrections prior to printing.
- 5.2 Motion to approve the Elementary Student and Faculty Handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year as presented, pending any changes to the handbooks for corrections prior to printing.
- 5.3 Motion to approve the agreement for the Provisions of Alternative Transportation Solutions with EverDriven Technologies, 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.
- 5.4 Motion to accept the Title I Parent and Family engagement grant in the amount of \$8,370.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

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

- 6.1 Motion to accept donations for the 2023 Senior Breakfast that was held on May 26, 2023 in the Senior High School Cafeteria from the following companies: Appalachian Running Company, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Carnegie of Homestead, Chick-fil-A at the Waterfront, Colasante's Flowers in the Park, Giant Eagle, Erica's Hair Therapy, J.W. Fisher Insurance Company, Pizza Company, Star Nails Salon, Steel Valley Wellness, To Dye For Salon, Toth Carpet and Nicholas Electric.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger thanked everyone involved with the Senior breakfast.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Kevin Walsh, Barrett Elementary Principal, under the terms and conditions of the current Early Retirement Incentive Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) that was approved on March 30, 2023, effective February 29, 2024.

- 7.2 Motion to approve the elimination of the Special Education position at the Franklin Center, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.3 Motion to approve the creation of a Special Education, Emotional Support position for the Senior High School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.4 Motion to approve the job description for the Director of Finance and Operations position, retroactive to June 3, 2023.
- 7.5 Motion to rescind the hire of Hannah Gigler from the full-time, Learning Support position at Park Elementary, effective immediately.
- 7.6 Motion to rescind the hire of Brandt Dykstra from the full-time, Elementary Art teacher position from Park and Barrett Elementary, effective immediately.
- 7.7 Motion to rescind the hire of Ellen Davis from the full-time, Secondary Music teacher position from the Middle School and Senior High School, effective immediately.
- 7.8 Motion to appoint Mr. Clay Stone as the Middle School Principal at an annual salary of \$90,000, effective July 1, 2023; clearances and pre-employment paperwork are on file.
- 7.9 Motion to approve the hire of Madelyn Blosser to a full-time teaching position with an assignment of Special Education, Learning Support at Park Elementary, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at an annual salary of \$43,424 based upon third 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.
- 7.10 Motion to approve the hire of Jesse McCreery to a full-time teaching position with an assignment of Elementary Art at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at an annual salary of \$43,424 based upon third 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.
- 7.11 Motion to approve the hire of Briahna Bell a full-time teaching position with an assignment of Special Education, Life Skills at the Middle School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at an annual 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.
- 7.12 Motion to approve the hire of Jennifer Weigand to the ESSER III, Long-term Substitute, Special Education, Emotional Support position at Barrett Elementary, at an annual salary of \$41,687, based upon second 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 for 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, this position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.

- 7.13 Motion to approve the hire of Amorena Pascoe to the ESSER III, long-term substitute, Middle School Guidance Counselor, at an annual 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, effective for 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, this position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year
- 7.14 Motion the Board to approve Olivia Elk to be approved as a teacher for the In-Person Summer Program at Park Elementary, at a rate of \$40/hour, retroactive to June 7, 2023.
- 7.15 Motion appoint Renee Gelston, Jamie Luterman and Winifred Stegena to be the General Cafeteria Workers for the 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) Program at their regular hourly rate, effective July 3, 2023.
- 7.16 Motion the approve Mary Veltri to be a substitute custodian at the rate of \$12/hour for the 2023-2024 school year when needed, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.17 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Kevin Walsh from the Senior High School Head Baseball Coach position, retroactive to June 5, 2023.
- 7.18 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Edmond Tozzi, Jr. from the Senior High School Head Softball Coach position, effective immediately.
- 7.19 Motion to approve Rylee Varhola, to be appointed to the ESSER III, long-term substitute, 4th grade position at Barrett Elementary, at an annual salary of \$45,233, based upon Step 1 status with a Bachelor’s degree according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, effective for 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, this position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024.
- 7.20 Motion to approve Olivia Elk, to be appointed to the ESSER III, long-term substitute, Life Skills position at Barrett Elementary, at an annual salary of \$41,687, based upon second 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.

- 7.21 Motion to approve Austin Riley to be a teacher and Lynan Cochrane and Tiffany Cibula to be paraprofessionals for the 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) program. Teachers will be paid at a 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 school year, per the MOU approved on June 23, 2022, effective July 3, 2023.
- 7.22 Motion to appoint Andrea Muha as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$14.50 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits, effective for 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.
- 7.23 Motion to create Cyber Support/Assessor stipend positions for the Steel Valley Cyber Academy program at a rate of \$1,250 per nine weeks, administration will evaluate at the conclusion of each grading quarter to determine the effectiveness of these positions, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Wehrer spoke on the retirement of Mr. Kevin Walsh, Barrett Principal, thanked him for all his service to the district and the community. He welcomed Mr. Clay Stone on becoming the Middle School Principal; he explained how Mr. Stone has been working for the district since April of this school year as the Supervisor of the Pupil Service Department and how he and his family live in the community.

Mr. Bulger added that Mr. Stone did great things as the Assistant Principal at Sunrise School that is located in Monroeville, PA.

Mr. McLaughlin commented on the transfer of Mr. Clay Stone from being the Supervisor to the Pupil Service Department to becoming the Middle School Principal and reassured Mrs. Renee Kozusko, Director of Pupil Services, that the Board will hire a replacement.

Mr. Macuga and Ms. Adams also thanked Mr. Walsh for all he has done for the district as a Principal and wished him well on retirement.

Lastly, Mrs. Karstetter thanked everyone who attended the ACT 34 meeting that was held on June 22, 2023. She was grateful to everyone that spoke that evening and adhered to the 5-minute rule. She asked that the people that are on the agenda to speak tonight continue with the respect that they presented at the ACT 34 meeting by keeping their citizen comments to 3-minutes as it is represented in the Board Policy.

Citizen Comments

Donna Dreshman asked about motion (7.23) questioning how many stipend positions were being created. She asked if the Senior High School swimming pool is still leaking. Mr. Wehrer said that depends on the water levels of the pool. She concluded her comments with asking if there will be more meetings regarding the new elementary school. Mr. Bulger explained that people are welcome to ask questions about the school at the scheduled Worksession and School Board meetings.

Jim Deutsch commented on the cost of the school and asked for the projection cost of transportation that will be needed if we build a new school. Mr. Wehrer explained that this is being evaluated and nothing has been decided.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:59 PM