

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
March 30, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rojtas, Vice President, at 7:03 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams (entered at 7:18 PM), Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Colasante,
Mrs. Karstetter, Mr. Rojtas, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas

Absent: Mr. Carter, Mr. Bulger

Zoom Teleconference: Mr. Wehrer

Also attending: 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 Joe Panaia, retired Custodian and uncle of Gale Emery, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board Secretary; Jerome T. McKinney, father of Judith Besnak, Custodian at Park Elementary.

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:

McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Vice President's Report

Mr. Rojtas started his report by expressing his condolences to the families of the students and staff members who lost their lives in a random school shooting that happened in Nashville, TN earlier this week.

He continued with his report stating that Steel Valley School District has always taken the safety of our students and staff very seriously and does a good job of implementing the proper education and tools to ensure that safety is a priority.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Darwin Burns, substitute for the Senior and Junior Representatives to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- “Read Across America” programs were held throughout the building and several board members read to the children
- Four (4) Kindergarten registration nights were held to kickoff the beginning of next year
- March 20th – Students who won Penguin tickets from Bingo attended the game
- March 22nd – Queen of Heart visited the Kindergartners
- March 23rd – Junior Achievement Career Day and had over thirty (30) guests assist
- March 27th – UPMC Caremobile was stationed outside for students and community members

Reports for Secondary Schools:

- March 2nd and 3rd – Steel Valley hosted the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PEMA) District Band conference at the Senior High School.
- March 3rd – First scholarship meeting was held.
- March 3rd – Expect Respect Group had a meeting.
- March 6th – Spring sports began official practices
- March 15th – Representatives from Kane Regional Hospital visited students during lunch periods to provide employment information.
- March 16th – Ms. Logan began her duties as Dean of Students for the Senior High School
- March 17th – The Art Club visited the Pittsburgh Glass Center
- March 22nd – 17 students participated in SAT testing
- March 23rd – Members of the National Guard visited students during lunch periods
- March 30th – April 2nd – Steel Valley Drama presented “The Little Mermaid” musical

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Wehrer started his report by encouraging everyone to attend the High School Musical “The Little Mermaid.”

He congratulated the High School Boys Basketball team for being Section Title Champions for the 2022-2023 school year season. This is the 5th section title for the Steel Valley High School Boys Basketball team and 2nd section title for Coach Dale Chapman. Mr. Wehrer also congratulated Senior Makhai Valentine on a tremendous basketball season.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga reported on the schedule for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing. Barrett Elementary, Park Elementary and the Middle School will follow the following schedules:

English Language Arts (ELA) – April 24th – 26th

Math – May 1st – 2nd

Science – May 4th – 5th

On the days for the ELA and Math assessments, the Middle School (5-8 grades) will have a modified daily schedule. Barrett and Park Elementary will operate on their regular schedule.

Keystone Exam testing for the Senior High School will be on May 16th – 18th.

Algebra – May 16th

Literature – May 17th

Biology – May 18th

He concluded his report by giving an update on the Senior High School Academic Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. *College in High School Introduction to Film* course will be added and *Drama through Literature* will be eliminated. The *College in High School Psychology* course will return, because the instructor received their certification from the University of Pittsburgh. Several classes within the technology department have changed their course description, but no classes have been added or eliminated. *Advanced Placement (AP) English 12* will be replaced with *Honors English* because we will not have students take the AP exam. Lastly, *College in High School Calculus II* and *College in High School Physics* will run next year provided enough students request the courses.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported that an Early Intervention Transition meeting was held last month for families with children that receive Early Intervention services through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. This meeting was held to provide information and assistance to these families as their children might need to receive special education services through the school district. Additional evaluations might need to occur and documentation needs to be created to ensure that the district is prepared to support these students as they enter Kindergarten in August. The district is expecting to have approximately twenty (20) students enter Kindergarten that have been receiving Early Intervention services.

The district's Extended School Year (ESY) program is planned to run July 3rd – 27th. Except for the first week due to Independence Day, ESY will run Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 AM through 12:30 PM. All students that receive special education services must be considered for ESY, and eligibility is based on set

criteria provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Planning is still underway for ESY, and additional information will be provided to families with students that are eligible to attend. The district has approximately fifty-three (53) students that are eligible to attend ESY within the district and about twenty-six (26) students that are eligible to attend ESY in specialized schools outside of the district.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Erin Noblet commented on motion (5.2)

Jim Deutsch commented on motions (7.4), (7.5), (7.6), (1.2), (1.3) and (5.2)

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Colasante moved and Ms. Adams seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

February 21, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

February 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas

Negative: None. Abstain: Guy, Yuhas. 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 March 2023 for \$636,419.16

1.1.02 General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks for February 2023 for \$ 70,910.88

1.1.03 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for February 2023

1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheet for February 2023

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

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

1.1.08 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for February 2023

1.2 Motion to approve Mockenhaupt Benefits Group as the district actuary for required GASB 68 and 75 based on 7/1/2022 census data. To be paid at a total rate of \$4,200.

- 1.3 Motion to accept the proposal from Valbridge Property Advisors in the amount of \$1,200 to do an appraisal for Costco Wholesale at 501 West Waterfront Drive, West Homestead, PA 15120 and for an update on the 2023 appraisal for Dayton Hudson Corporation, Target –Waterfront at 360 E. Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120 for \$800.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.1.05 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report February 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy

Negative: None. Abstain: Yuhas. Motion carried

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

Mr. Colasante moved and Mr. McLaughlin 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, Guy, Yuhas

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter recognized Steel Center for Career and Technical Education students that received recognition for their extra efforts.

Nate Yuhas for HVACR and Mekayla Scalice for Medical Professions were both recognized as March 2023 Students of the Month.

Connor Brady for Veterinary Assistant was recognized with the Top of the Shop Award for the 1st semester of 2022-2023 for the AM session, he was also April's Student of Month.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget totaling \$2,235,963.00; estimated Steel Valley School District share is \$19,944.00.
- 5.2 Motion to approve the Steel Valley High School Academic Handbook as presented for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 5.3 Motion to approve conducting an In-person Summer Program including English/Language Arts and Math to be held at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools for students in grades K-4 and at the Middle School for students 5-8. This is a fifteen (15) day program that will run from June 7th – June 9th; June 12th – June 15th; June 20th – June 23rd; June 26th – June 29th. Park times will be 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM; Barrett times will be 8:15 AM – 11:15 AM; Middle School times will be 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM, to be paid out of the ESSER III grant
- 5.4 Motion to approve the agreement between Keystone Educational Consulting Group, LLC and Steel Valley School District to provide School Psychology services at a rate of \$80/hour.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. McLaughlin reported about the Community Meeting that was held at Barrett Elementary on March 8th. He said that the meeting was well attended and that the next meeting will be held at Barrett Elementary on April 12th at 7:00 PM.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Michael Altman, English teacher at the Senior High 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 30, 2023.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Cynthia Kortz, 4th grade teacher at Barrett 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.
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Susan Wilder, Fourth grade position at Barrett 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.

- 7.4 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ryan Brown from the position of Middle School Principal, under the terms of the Administrative Compensation Program, effective on a mutually agreed upon date.
- 7.5 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Caralee McGraw from the position of Elementary Art teacher, effective on June 5, 2023.
- 7.6 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Dale Chapman, from the position of District Van Driver, retroactive to February 27, 2023.
- 7.7 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 612 retroactive to March 17, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.8 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 1309 effective May 3, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.9 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 850 retroactive to March 3, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.10 Motion to approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 808 retroactive to March 17, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.11 Motion to approve a Leave of Absence without pay for Employee No. 819, retroactive to August 24, 2022, not to exceed two (2) years.
- 7.12 Motion to approve the elimination of the 4th grade professional position, effective June 5, 2023.
- 7.13 Motion to approve Madhura Ranade, to be a long-term substitute, chemistry teacher position for the Senior High School at a prorated salary of \$50,213, retroactive to March 14, 2023. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.
- 7.14 Motion to approve Virginia Carr, retroactive to March 23, 2023, to be day-to-day substitute teacher at the approved rate of \$150/day. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.15 Motion to approve the list of Supplemental positions for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.16 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Act 93 Group.
- 7.18 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals ESP/PSEA/NEA.
- 7.19 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Victoria Metz, ESSER III funded, long-term substitute teacher for Emotional Support for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades at Barrett Elementary, effective to April 3, 2023.
- 7.20 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Keith Caito, effective May 2, 2023.
- 7.21 Motion to appoint Jean Furlong to the 4.5 hours a day cafeteria general worker at a rate of \$12.60 for a 90-day probation period, effective April 11, 2023. After the probation period is complete the rate changes to \$14.00 per hour, no benefits. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.

7.22 Motion to approve Geraldine Wilson to be a substitute Cafeteria Monitor at a rate of \$12.00/hour, retroactive to March 20, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment paperwork are on file.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

7.17 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Education Association (PSEA/NEA)

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Rojtas, Guy,

Negative: Karstetter, Yuhas. Motion carried.

Mr. Wehrer thanked the retirees for their dedication and years of service to the district.

Citizen Comments

Maureen Fry commented on the status of the new elementary school, the status of the employment of the Middle School Principal and the superintendent search.

Jim Deutsch commented on the superintendent search and policies.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:03 PM