

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
October 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:04 PM

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Colasante, Mr. Carter, Mrs. Carstetter,
Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Rojtas

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Joseph J. "Silver Fox" Ruffing, father of Donna Perhacs, High School Food Service, Grandfather of Cara Karstetter, School Board Director; Kathy Rusnak, Aunt of William McLaughlin, School Board Director.

Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mr. Colasante 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, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger started his report reminding everyone that there are no School Board meetings in November. He added that the next meeting will be the first Monday in December and at that meeting the School Board will reorganize itself.

Mr. Bulger thanked the leadership in our schools, teachers, parent groups and community for all their participation in our Fall activities for our students.

Mr. Bulger also shared exciting news about a phone call he received from Representative Austin Davis about Governor Tom Wolfe's announcement that Steel Valley School District was awarded \$1,000,000 from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RCAP) grant. He explained that this money would be used for the design and all of the pre-work that will be conducted for the new elementary school project. Mr. Bulger concluded his report by thanking Representative Austin Davis, Senator Costa and Governor Tom Wolfe and their staff for all the hard work they put towards having this grant passed through legislation.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Dalton Kraft, Junior Representative to the School Board

He started his report for Park Elementary:

- (22) Firefighters visited Park to teach the students about fire safety
- Students were excited to participate in Trunk or Treat, Halloween parade and the Halloween dance
- Park PTO had a successful Cash Bash
- Veteran's Program will be held November 15th

Joe Nguyen, Junior Representative to the School Board

He started his report for Barrett Elementary:

- October 12th, the Title I parent event, *Snacking and Yacking*, took place with a session in the morning and a session in the afternoon. Special guest Shallegra Moye, from the University of Pittsburgh and also representative on the 3R's team, provided professional development to the staff on racial equity and equality. The events were well attended.
- October 14th, the Kindergarten had an ABC fashion show in the gymnasium for parents and grandparents
- October 17th, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile was available to the community
- October 26th, students participated in Trunk or Treat and fun activities in the gymnasium from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- October 28th, students participated in the Fall Festival parade

Breanne Francis, Senior Representative to the School Board

She started her report for the Middle School:

- Mrs. Walker is now teaching Second Step Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons weekly in 5th and 6th grade classes. Bullying was the first topic that was covered and is a point of emphasis moving forward
- Middle School PTO hosted a Halloween Dance on Tuesday, October 26th, around (180) students attended.

High School:

- (13) Students applied to be part of the PNC “Partner Up” program
- October 4th, a truancy elimination meeting with administration and counselors took place
- October 13th, (38) students took the PSAT exam in the library
- October 14th, representatives from the Marines visited students while they were in lunch
- Representatives from St. Vincent College, Point Park University and Slippery Rock University visited with seniors
- Representatives from Urban Air, that is due to open at the Waterfront, visited lunches to recruit student employees

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Wehrer reported that October 31st is scheduled to be a clerical day for teachers and staff and November 1st will be an Act 80 day. There will be no school for students on those days.

He added that the Steel Valley High School football team has their Conference Championship game on Friday, October 28th against Serra Catholic High School.

Mr. Wehrer concluded his report thanking Mr. McLaughlin and everyone involved with the *Funder Under the Bridge* event that took place on Sunday, October 23rd.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Macuga reported that on the Act 80 Day scheduled on November 1st, secondary staff members would be submitting a scope and sequence for their courses of instruction to administration. This information will be utilized to begin the process of creating a curriculum development cycle for the core subjects.

Cyber school staff members and administration are in the process of enhancing the current cyber program, revising procedures and aligning content to be more consistent with the academic content students receive within the traditional learning environments.

Lastly, staff members at Barrett, Park and the Middle School continue to pilot the textbook programs INTO Math and INTO Reading. Following the completion of the pilots, the textbook committee will determine the Reading and Math series the district will be adopting for the 2023-2024 school year.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko started her report thanking Mrs. Casey Walker, the Steel Valley District Counselor, for piloting the implementation of Second Step at the Middle School in grades 5 and 6 as well as in the Life Skills and Autistic Support classrooms.

She also thanked Mrs. Heather Clark, Elementary and Middle School Gifted teacher, for her continued efforts to expand the learning opportunities for the students included in the gifted program.

She concluded her report with thanking Mrs. Erin Noblet, Middle School Life Skills teacher and all the staff supporting the students in the Autistic Support and Life Skills Support program, for their work with the students involved with the *Ironmen Café*.

Solicitor's Report

No report.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Mrs. Maureen Fry asked if the county taxes were paid on the property referenced in the Solicitor's motion (1). Mr. Fetzko said that is correct, it is the school and borough taxes that need paid and will be paid under this resolution. Mr. Fetzko said that the delinquent school taxes are \$22,276 and the delinquent borough taxes are \$10,807.86. Mrs. Fry concluded her comments asking if anyone being hired tonight is related to anyone on the School Board or Steel Valley administration. The Board and administration responded, no.

Mr. Jim Deutsch commented on motion (1.2) regarding the additional assistance from Maher Duessel, our auditors. Mr. Bulger and Mr. Weber explained that this is to complete the Annual Financial Report (AFR). Mr. Deutsch commented on (1.3) the subsurface soil exploration. Mr. Wehrer explained that initial site work and samples were taken and now that we know where the new school will be built, the architects have specific sites for the borings.

Mr. Deutsch asked what safety and security equipment was being purchased in motion (1.4). Mr. Weber answered hand radios, batteries for the hand radios and metal detector wands. Mr. Deutsch added if all the doors in the district able to be locked. Mr. Wehrer said that Chief Parker is working with all of our School Resource Officers (SRO) to make sure they do.

Mr. Deutsch asked for the explanation of motion (5.2). Mr. Bulger explained that PAeducator.net is a job search engine for education in Pennsylvania. People searching for career opportunities in education can upload their resumes and certifications to this website for employment. It cost the district \$1,750.

Mr. Deutsch commented on the half-time hire in motion (7.1). Mr. Wehrer explained that a full-time position for English Language Learner (ELL) is not needed and that Brandi Forster, who is currently teaching as the half-time 5th grade teacher in the Middle School, will also become the half-time ELL teacher.

Mr. Deutsch commented on motion (7.2) the hiring of a paraprofessional and also asked about the elimination of the half-time speech teacher position in motion (7.12). Mr. Wehrer explained that we have been looking to fulfill the half-time speech teaching position and it seems no candidates were interested, so administration decided to make it a full-time position.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

September 19, 2022 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

September 22, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Abstain: Guy. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

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

1. Motion to approve to facilitate the sale of 104 Waterfront Ridge Lane, Munhall PA 15120 and bring the realty back on the paying tax role, the District will do a one-time waiver of the interest

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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

2. Motion to approve the Act 57 of 2022 Resolution as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

- 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for October 2022 in the amount of \$526,161.07
- 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for 21-22 paid in September 2022 in the amount of \$138,665.55
- 1.1.03 General Fund hand checks for September 2022 in the amount of \$1,956,295.10
- 1.1.04 General Fund Revenue Report for September 2022
- 1.1.05 General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2022
- 1.1.06 General Fund Balance Sheet for September 2022
- 1.1.07 Food Service invoices for October 2022 in the amount of \$44,516.34
- 1.1.08 Food Service Hand Checks for September 2022 in the amount of \$25,143.94
- 1.1.09 Food Service Revenue Report for September 2022
- 1.1.10 Food Service Expenditure Report for September 2022
- 1.1.11 Food Service Balance Sheet for September 2022
- 1.1.12 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for September 2022
- 1.1.13 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for September 2022
- 1.1.14 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for September 2022
- 1.1.15 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for September 2022
- 1.2 Motion to approve Maher Duessel to provide additional services for the compilation of the PDE 2057 (Annual Financial Report), beginning November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022 in the amount of \$3,000
- 1.3 Motion to approve the Cernica Engineering, Inc. proposal for the subsurface soil exploration for the consolidated elementary school project at a cost of \$22,982.63
- 1.4 Motion to approve the purchase of safety and security supplies in the amount of \$5,167.70

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. 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, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

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, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter reported that the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education renovations to the building are on track and there have been no disruption to classes.

Mr. Bulger said that he knows that Steel Center for Career and Technical Education applied for the RCAP grant and he asked Mrs. Karstetter if they received funds. Mrs. Karstetter said she would inquire if they did at their upcoming Board meeting on Tuesday, November 1st.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

5.1 Board to approve the revised 2022-2023 School Calendar to make Juneteenth on June 19, 2023, a holiday

5.2 Board to approve the agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and Steel Valley School District, for the AIU to provide access to the website, www.PAeducator.net, to accept online applications for employment from certified and/or non-certified individuals for the cost of \$1,750 retroactive to September 1, 2022

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. McLaughlin started his report talking about the Community meeting that was held on October 12th in the High School library. Main topic of the meeting was how to utilize the district calendar on the website to be a main hub to convey information to the community about events and exciting news about the district. Mr. McLaughlin added that the next Community meeting will be held on November 16th at 7:00 PM at Park Elementary in the school gymnasium, this meeting would also be in conjunction with the Educational Leadership meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin spoke about *Funder Under the Bridge*, the event that was held on Sunday, October 23rd at the Waterfront. He thanked the Waterfront for their partnership in producing this fundraiser; he added that they supply the stage, tents, electricity; whatever we need they are there to assist. Mr. McLaughlin also thanked the School Board; Administration; Devin Miller; Amber Wedig; Jim Bulger; Kristie Ruston; Lisa Bird; Kara Kern; the Girl Scouts; Christine Rager; Girls Soccer Team; Jennifer Vinay; Andrew Chiapazzi; Mayor Falce; Pat Dolan; teachers; club sponsors; coaches; parents and

students. He noted this was the 5th year for this event and over these 5 years they managed to raise \$27,000. This year they raised about \$5,400. They are already planning next year's event.

Mr. McLaughlin said that he is proud to see how the community comes out to celebrate the school district.

Mrs. Yuhas commented how it is nice to see an event like this and other community associations come together for the children. She thanked everyone for stepping up and doing their part.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to appoint Brandi Forester to a half-time, long-term substitute English Language Learner teacher for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year at a prorated salary of \$20,009.50 (50% of \$40,019 full-time salary) 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 October 28, 2022. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.
- 7.2 Motion to appoint Tina Dolan as a districtwide Paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.90 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits, effective October 28, 2022. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.3 Motion to appoint Carol Macus to the 3.25 hour a day cafeteria general worker at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, no benefits, effective October 28, 2022. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.4 Recommend the Board to approve Marisa Tour to be a day-to-day substitute teacher at the approved rate of \$150/day retroactive to October 3, 2022 through October 7, 2022 and October 11, 2022 through October 14, 2022. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.5 Motion to approve Angela McNutt as a day-to-day substitute nurse for the 2022-2023 school year at the approved daily rate of \$150/day. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.6 Motion to approve the attached list of applicants to be placed on our substitute call list to be called in as a substitute for support staff for the 2022-2023 school year when needed. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- 7.8 Motion to approve Bethany Rinn to be a day-to-day substitute teacher at the approved rate of \$150/day retroactive to October 24, 2022. Clearances are on file.
- 7.9 Motion to appoint Victoria Metz to a two-year, long-term substitute position as a Emotional Support teacher at an annual pro-rated 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, 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 is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.

- 7.10 Motion to appoint Susan Wilder to the cyber elementary special education stipend position for the 2022-2023 school year, effective October 28, 2022. The remote support position will be reviewed quarterly for student participation and effectiveness. Changes to the support program can be made at the end of each nine-week period.
- 7.11 Motion to approve a leave of absence for personal illness or disability for Employee # 368, as referenced in Article XII item F. of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between SV Educational Support Personnel Association ESPA/PSEA/NEA and SVSD, retroactive to April 25, 2022. This leave shall not exceed 2 years.
- 7.12 Motion to eliminate the half time Speech and Language teaching position
- 7.13 Motion to create a districtwide full-time Speech and Language teaching position

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás and Bulger.

Negative: None. Motion carried.

- 7.7 Motion to approve the list of Winter Athletic Coaching positions for the 2022-2023 school year

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Carter, Guy, Yuhás and Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Karstetter. Motion carried.

Karstetter only abstained from the hiring of the Bowling Head coach, Emily Doyle, due to her being a relative.

Mr. Wehrer recognized and welcomed Ms. Victoria Metz to the district.

Mr. Bulger also added that the Middle School play was premiering tonight and will also be performed on Saturday, October 29th at 7:00 PM and Sunday, October 30th at 2:00 PM.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Jim Deutsch commented on the safety and staffing of the school district.

Ms. Autumn Wilson questioned why there has not been a teacher hired for the Life Skills classroom at Park Elementary that her 4th grade son attends.

Mr. Wehrer stated that a teacher, Brandi Brown, was hired for that position in September; however, she is contracted with McKeesport School District. It was at the McKeesport School Board meeting that was held last

night that her resignation has been accepted and they will release her from her contract on November 24th. In the meantime a certified special education substitute teacher will be working in that classroom starting on Wednesday, November 2nd, until Brandi Brown is available to us on November 29th.

Ms. Autumn Wilson also asked for another paraprofessional to be hired at Park Elementary. She also asked how a community member was able to walk into Park Elementary without being stopped by security.

Mr. Wehrer understood her concern said that Chief Parker is working with staff to make sure everyone is safe.

Mr. Shawn McCallister commented on security, the new elementary school and soccer uniforms.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:03 PM