

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
April 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rojtas, Vice President, at 7:07 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

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

Absent: Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Carter, Mr. Rojtas

Zoom Teleconference: Mrs. Carstetter

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 Elizabeth “Liz” (Womack) Johnson, Aunt of Loren Ford, Custodian at the Administration Building.

Mrs. Yuhas moved and Ms. Adams 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, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President’s Report

Mr. Bulger welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on upcoming end of the year events, including Prom and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) mock crash. He added that Commencement will be held on May 31st at 7:00 PM at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field.

He noted that as of April 24th of last year, enrollment is up 15 students and charter student enrollment is down 9 students.

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) had their election and Mr. Bulger was elected to his 3rd term.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Breanne Francis, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- April 3rd – PTO meeting about the end of the year fundraisers and field trips.
- April 11th – Bear Paw raffles began and students had opportunities to win nice prizes throughout the month.
- April 14th – Parents were given coffee as they dropped off their children in the morning for Parent Appreciation.
- April 19th – Title I Family Night was held to share with parents different reading strategies to share with their children while in a home setting.
- April 20th – Kindergarteners enjoyed a show on Jazz as they participated in a field trip downtown with the Cultural Trust.
- April 21st – Charlie Batch came to provide encouragement and test supplies to students to kickoff PSSA testing.
- April 21st – “Special Person and Me” dance took place in the evening with over 100 families participating.

Reports for Secondary Schools:

Report for Middle School:

- April 4th – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team held a Dodgeball tournament for students. All students were permitted to attend; students who consistently exhibited positive behaviors and had regular attendance were permitted to participate.

Report for High School:

- April 13th – Scholarship committee met.
- April 21st – 82 students attended a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center.
- April 20th – Representatives from the Industrial Arts Workshop visited lunches.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer reported that the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is going to be held on Friday, April 28th at 1:30 PM in the Senior High School auditorium.

The Griffin Awards will be on Thursday, May 4th and 1988 Steel Valley graduate; Harriet Freeman Jackson is going to be the guest speaker.

Middle School play, "A Wrinkle in Time" will run from May 18th – May 20th.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga started his report with a reminder that the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing dates for Barrett, Park and Middle School will be May 1st and 2nd for math and grades 4 and 8 only will have science on May 4th and 5th.

During the Math assessment, Steel Valley Middle School will have an early release at 1:07 PM. Park and Barrett Elementary Schools will be operating on regular schedules during the PSSA math assessments.

Keystone Exam testing for Steel Valley High School: May 16th will be Algebra; May 17th will be Literature; and May 18th will be Biology. Information related to the Keystone Exams will be sent home to families before May 1st.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported that the school district offered crisis prevention and de-escalation training to staff members during professional development opportunities on March 24th and April 5th. On March 24th, fifteen (15) paraprofessionals received training to assist them in keeping up-to-date on verbal de-escalation methods and physical intervention techniques. On April 5th, nineteen (19) special education teachers and four (4) paraprofessionals received this training. Staff require training each calendar year to maintain their certification in Crisis Prevention Institute's Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. Training activities will be planned for additional staff during the 2023-24 school year.

The school district's Special Education Plan is currently being completed for the years 2023-2026. Each school district in Pennsylvania is required to complete a special education plan every 3 years that describes the special education program and services that are provided within the district as well as programs and services outside of the district buildings that are provided to students based on higher levels of need. The school district's special education plan will be available on the district's website in draft form for public view and comment within the next couple days.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Jim Deutsch commented on motions (7.8), (7.7), (7.5), (1.4) and (1.3)

Donna Dreshman commented on motions (2.2), (1.2)

Erin Noblet asked if there will be a Middle School Award Ceremony and commented on motions (5.2), (7.5), (7.8)

Board Meeting Minutes

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

March 27, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

March 30, 2022 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas

Negative: None. Abstain: Bulger. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

1.1 Board to approve the list of bills:

1.1.01 Revised General Fund Invoices for March 2023 for \$318,223.58

1.1.02 Revised General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks for February 2023 for \$1,285,038.23 and \$ 70,910.88 respectively

1.1.03 General Fund Invoices for April 2023 for \$257,921.08

1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks for March 2023 for \$756,268.00 and \$50,422.6 respectively

1.1.05 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for March 2023

1.1.06 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheets for March 2023

1.1.08 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for March 2023

1.1.09 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for March 2023

1.1.10 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for March 2023

1.2 Board to approve a refund to HPT LP, Lot & Block 130-H-150, in the amount of \$10,211.60 for year 2021 and \$10,517.94 for year 2022 for a total of \$20,729.54

- 1.3 Board to approve Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) to provide professional consultation and clerical services to Steel Valley School District in the selection of a Superintendent of Schools, for a fee of \$15,000
- 1.4 Board to approve the agreement between Frontline Education and Steel Valley School District for an annual fee of \$7,000, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, for the Forecast5 Comparative Analytic subscription.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.1.07 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report March 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Yuhas. Motion carried

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Board to approve the facility usage requests as presented.
- 2.2 Board to authorize district officials to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the school district and the local police departments, effective for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.
- 2.3 Board to approve the purchase of a Double Stack Convection Steamer for the High School cafeteria kitchen for \$24,619.00 and a Double Stack Convection Oven for Park Elementary cafeteria kitchen for \$8,407.00, funded through the State Funds and Equipment Grant awarded to the district in February 2023. These items do not have to be bid upon or quoted because they are part of the COSTARS program.
- 2.4 Board to approve that the Steel Valley School District Board of Education fully supports the Resolution in support of Senate Bill 180 and House Bill 180 (SB180 and HB180) - School Meals for All, so that all kids throughout the state of Pennsylvania can receive the food they need to be successful in school and further work to remove the stigma that has always existed in the school meals program.
- 2.5 Recommend the Board to approve the Senior High School Food Service serving line renovations. New equipment for the renovations will be \$156,073.00, shipping and delivery included. These items do not have to be bid upon or quoted because they are part of the COSTARS program.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger elaborated on motion (2.4) regarding free school lunches.

Mr. Colasante commented how Lisa Runco, Director of Food Services, does a great job in her department.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

No report

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter reported on specific events for the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education students. On March 8th they held “Discovery Day”. Over 300 prospective students and their families explored Steel Center’s 18 programs. As of the end of March, Steel Center received 500 new student applications.

May 9th is the National Technical Honor Society’s (NTHS) final Vitalant Blood Drive as well as the NTHS induction ceremony. NTHS also partnered with the Veterinary Assistant program in April to hold a school-wide animal supply and food drive that will benefit Humane Animal Rescue.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Board to approve the Extended School Year (ESY) Program that is required to fulfill Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for ESY eligible students. The program will run from July 3 through July 27, 2023.
- 5.2 Board to approve the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Support Services Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide support and assistance to the District in seeking reimbursement under Pennsylvania’s School-Based ACCESS Program for certain health services provided by the District to its students.
- 5.3 Board to approve the Waterfront Learning Services Addendum to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement 2022-2023 so virtual educational services can be provided to one student for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of approximately \$3,820.
- 5.4 Board to approve the Steel Valley School District to join the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Fuel Consortium Program.
- 5.5 Board to approve the 2023-2024 official school calendar
- 5.6 Board to approve the agreement for Global Wordsmiths to provide interpretation and translation services as required

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Ms. Adams reported on the Community Meeting that was held at Barrett Elementary on April 12th.

Mr. Bulger asked Christine Schott about the “Meet the Candidates” night that is scheduled for May 10th at the Senior High School Auditorium. Christine added that they are combining the May Community Meeting with the Meet the Candidates meeting and she is hoping local borough candidates will attend as well.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Board to appoint Derek Kleinhans as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.90 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits, retroactive to March 22, 2023, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.2 Board to approve attached list of applicants to work the In-Person Summer Program at the Middle School, Barrett Elementary and Park Elementary at the approved rates, effective to June 7, 2023, to be paid out of the ESSER III grant.
- 7.3 Board to approve the list of Supplemental positions for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.4 Board to approve Lauren Byers as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year at the approved daily rate of \$150.00 per day, effective May 15, 2023, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.5 Board to approve the elimination of the Secondary Academic Math Coach position, retroactive to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, and the elimination of the Secondary Academic Literacy Coach position, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.6 Board to approve the temporary employment of six (6) student workers from the Steel Valley School District at the rate of \$10.00 per hour to assist the district personnel in preparing the district for the 2023-2024 school year, from June 12, 2023, to August 11, 2023. Hours will not exceed 6 hours per day without approval from the Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent. Benefits are excluded.
- 7.7 Board to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Education Association (PSEA/NEA).
- 7.8 Board to create the ESSER III funded, Dean of Students position for the Middle School. This position will be additional to the Dean of Students position we currently have in the Middle School and is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will be effective at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

Donna Dreshman commented about a Finance Committee. She asked how many teachers are National Board Certified. She also asked about bullying in the district.

Christine Schott asked about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was voted on and approved at the meeting. She also talked about the garden and the “Cooking in the Garden” program that she holds over the summer.

Jim Deutsch commented on the superintendent search and policies.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:16 PM