

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

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

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Mr. Colasante, Mr. Dunmire, Mrs. Karstetter, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhás,
Mr. Bulger

Absent: Ms. Adams, Mr. Rojtas

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of William T. Bouton, father of Sara Sullivan, 6th grade Math teacher at the Middle School; Evelyn Kondas, aunt of Denise Williams, Business Information teacher at the Senior High School and Kim Weightman, former district media person, wife of Mr. Andrew R. Kondas, Jr., retired Middle School Principal; Nicholas Novak, nephew of Lana Gainer, Special Education teacher at the Middle School.

Mrs. Yuhás 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:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger reported that the Board met and received a timeline in regards to the Superintendent search.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Joe Nguyen, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for High School:

- The Powder Puff football game took place on October 11th. At the game the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) tailgate was held. It was well attended and the students enjoyed complimentary hot dogs, hamburger and other refreshments.
- Mrs. Ranade's classes helped to direct a science lab with Middle School Students during chemistry week.
- Westminster College visited with senior students.
- The Army National Guard visited lunches.

Report for the Middle School:

- The Middle School Student Government sold lollipops for the "Cancer Sucks" fundraiser to raise money for local community members battling breast cancer.
- The Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) club held its first meeting after school on Wednesday, October 18th
- The 5th and 6th grade Halloween Dance will be held on Thursday, October 26th. The dance is sponsored by the Middle School PTO.
- The Behavior Tracking System was implemented on Monday, October 23rd. Success coaches, teachers, and administration are to identify students in need of higher-level behavior support. Success coaches will run 5th and 6th grade groups during Academic Reinforcement period, twice per week starting Friday October 27th.

Layla Rager, Junior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- Trunk or Treat was held on October 30th and the Halloween Parade was held on the 31st
- Kindergarten had their ABC Boot Camp Fashion Show on October 20th with a great turnout from parents and guardians.
- Mr. Dulin and Mr. Clarke started weekly Brave Bear meeting groups with the boys and Ms. Yazmin with the girls, these group sessions are held during lunches so no instructional time is being used.

Reports for Park:

- The Cash Bash that was held in October was a huge success
- 4th grade had a Halloween Dance and PTO held Trunk-or-Treat in the High School Parking lot
- Students were able to hear from local firefighters on Fire Safety Day.
- Veterans Day assembly will be held on November 7th

Interim Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga's report was a presentation on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) overview. Providing an explanation of what MTSS is and the components of each tier.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported on how the Elementary and Middle School gifted program has been very busy so far this school year. Based on their theme of The Great Outdoors, they started the year investigating water. The Elementary students had a visit from Alcosan where they created and tested their own watersheds. Grades 7 and 8 took a trip to Phipps to participate in conservation days where they had an opportunity to sample water in a pond to check for several elements. Grades 5-8 explored Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens where each student was given a bowl, net and magnifying glass. After swishing their nets in the pond, they were able to complete macroinvertebrate identification using a dichotomy chart. Both Elementary and Middle School students are currently building waterslides with a specific set of criteria and constraints. The goal is to try and design a waterslide without leaks with an end goal on safety as 6 beads must make it safely to the bottom of the slide.

Upcoming activities include water sampling from our own pond before and after winter to compare the salt content. Alcosan will be back to the school to present sludge eating bugs.

The program also received full grant funding for two activities: Science Center's Mobile Fab Lab will come back to the gifted classroom in the middle school and students will take a glass blowing field trip to the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Erin Noblet commented on motions 2.2, 5.2 and 5.3

Jim Deutsch commented on motions 7.5 and 7.6

Shawn McCallister commented on motions 2.2, 5.2, 5.3 and 7.6

Solicitor's Motions

Motion 1.

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

Motion to approve the settlement agreement.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 2.

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

Motion to approve the settlement agreement.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger thanked all the candidates who applied for the open School Director seat.

Motion 3.

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

Motion for the Board to open nominations of qualified electors to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Directors.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter nominated Stephanie Hughes to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Director.

Mr. Colasante nominated Rick Smith to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Director.

Motion 4.

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

Motion for the Board to vote Stephanie Hughes to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Directors

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 5.

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

Motion for the Board to adopt the Resolution as presented to appoint a School Director

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 6.

Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mrs. Karstetter seconded to approve the following:

Motion to adopt the Resolution to expel a minor female student from October 6, 2023 through October 5, 2024

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Colasante moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

September 25, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

September 28, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

1.1 Board to approve the list of bills:

1.1.01 General Fund Invoices for September 2023 for \$57,000

1.1.02 General Fund, Food Service, External Groups and Activities Hand Checks for September 2023
\$1,902,859.76, \$48,234.23, \$19,566.71, \$4,003.04

1.1.03 September Balance Sheet

1.1.04 September General Fund and Food Service Income Statements.

1.2 Motion to approve a refund to Monarch Properties Fresno, LLC Branden Windecker Lot & Block
181-B-38, in the amount of \$589.05 for year 2023

1.3 Motion to approve a refund to John F. Halbleib Lot & Block 130-L-28, in the amount of \$969.81
for year 2022 and \$999.00 for year 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, 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.
- 2.2 Motion to approve the agreement between Thompson-Safety and Steel Valley School District, for the monthly service of seven (7) Automated External Defibrillators (AED) districtwide.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter confirmed that the Senior High School cafeteria renovation was still set for November 1st.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve the attached fundraisers as presented.
- 3.2 Motion to approve an overnight field trip for the Senior High School History Club to Washington D.C. on April 5th, 6th, 7th, 2024.
- 3.3 Motion to authorize funds from the School Board in the amount of \$850 to Steel Valley Student Council for the disc jockey services at the Semi-Formal that will be held at St. John's Cathedral Center in Munhall on January 6, 2024

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter thanked Mr. McKern and the High School History Club for choosing Washington D.C. to be their History Club Field trip this year. The students who missed the 8th grade trip because of it being cancelled due to COVID will have the experience to go there now for the Senior year.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter reported on the updates of the construction of the Steel Center Career & Technical Education building.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve Amendment 1 to the Healthy and Thriving Schools partnership agreement between UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Steel Valley School District.

- 5.2 Motion to approve the agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and Steel Valley School District, for the AIU to provide technology support services, effective November 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 5.3 Motion to approve the agreement between Steel Valley School District and TCV Community Services for the provision of Mental Health Staffing Supports for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 5.4 Motion to approve River Academy Student Education agreement with Steel Valley School District to provide educational and related services to certain identified students from Steel Valley School District .
- 5.5 Motion to approve the Waterfront Learning Services Addendum to the AIU Services Agreement 2023-2024 so customized and individualized virtual education services can be provided to students.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Ms. Guy commented on 5.3 stating that this service would be beneficial to the student that was expelled.

6.0 Communication & Technology

No report.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for employee #5734, retroactive to October 12, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.2 Motion to approve a Leave of Absence for employee #5910, retroactive to August 23, 2023, not to exceed 1 year in duration.
- 7.3 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for employee #5905, retroactive to October 11, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.4 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Michal P. Pavasko, districtwide custodian at Barrett Elementary, under the terms and conditions of current Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) that was approved on September 22, 2022, effective February 6, 2024.
- 7.5 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Nina Kochanowicz, from the Full-time Special Education, Learning Support position, retroactive to October 18, 2023.
- 7.6 Motion to approve Bryan Macuga to the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools, retroactive to October 9, 2023.

- 7.7 Motion to approve the attached list of day-to-day substitute teacher and substitute nurse for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.8 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 2023-2024 school year when needed. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.9 Motion to approve the list of Winter Athletic coaching positions for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.10 Motion to approve the M.O.U. between the District and the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association as presented.
- 7.11 Motion to approve the hire of Maria Martinez to the full-time, Special Education position with an assignment for the 2023-2024 school year of Learning Support at Barrett Elementary, at a salary of \$50,213 based upon Step 4 with a Master's degree according to 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 to create Steel Valley Security Guard positions.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger thanked Maya Adams for the time she served on the School Board.

Mrs. Karstetter welcomed Mr. Macuga to his position as Interim Superintendent.

Citizen Comments

Christine Schott congratulated Mr. Macuga on his new position. She asked about the cafeteria updates. She also thanked Mr. Tozzi for being the Bowling coach.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:01 PM