

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rojtas, Vice President, at 7:01 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Ms. Adams, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Colasante, Mr. Rojtas,  
Mr. Bulger (Zoom Teleconference)

Absent: Mr. Carter, Mrs. Karstetter, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas

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

Flag Salute

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Mark Eged, father-in-law of Mary Yuhas, School Board Director.

**Ms. Adams 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, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Vice President's Report**

Mr. Rojtas started his report by thanking Mr. Sullivan, Director of Facilities and Transportation; on all the work his staff has been doing over the summer to have all the buildings of the district ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer explained that the students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch during school will receive extra food benefits called Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits to cover the summer of 2023. Families with students who were enrolled at Steel Valley through the end of the school year will receive a letter with information about the program.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

No report.

### **Director of Pupil Services' Report**

Mrs. Kozusko reported that the Office of Pupil Services is continuing to work on preparation activities for the upcoming school year. Some of these activities involve efforts related to the Project SEEKS SES grant. More information will be provided in the upcoming months.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Item**

Jim Deutsch commented on motions (1.3 - 1.6) regarding the Munhall real estate tax refunds. Mr. Fetzko explained the process of the how refunds are issued.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

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

June 26, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Colasante. Motion carried.

June 29, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Colasante. 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 Invoices for July 2023 for \$242,976.52

- 1.1.02 General Fund and Food Service Hand Checks June 2023 for \$1,120,606.02 and \$17,482.77 respectively
- 1.1.03 General Fund and Food Service Balance Sheets for June 2023
- 1.1.04 General Fund and Food Service Income Statements for June 2023
- 1.1.05 Athletics Fund Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report June 2023
- 1.1.06 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for June 2023
- 1.1.07 HS Student Activities Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for June 2023
- 1.1.08 External Groups Balance Sheet & Disbursement Report for June 2023
- 1.2 Motion to approve Sapphire Software to provide training to Steel Valley School District in Sapphire's Student Information System (SIS) through four (4) training courses for a total of \$3,330.
- 1.3 Motion to approve a refund to Richard Deninno Lot & Block 181-E-81, in the amount of \$575.14 for year 2020 and \$598.71 for 2021 and \$616.68 for 2022.
- 1.4 Motion to approve a refund to Autumn Cordero Lot & Block 133-L-95, in the amount of \$524.44 for 2022.
- 1.5 Motion to approve a refund to Ethan McElhinny Lot & Block 91-S-32, in the amount of \$243.06 for year 2021.
- 1.6 Motion to approve a refund to Melany R. Alliston-Brick Lot & Block 133-R-149, in the amount of \$442.63 for year 2021 and \$1,958.06 for 2022.
- 1.7 Motion for the Board to authorize a letter of support for the New Waterfront Apartment Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

**Mr. Colasante moved and Ms. Adams 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, Rojtas, 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, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

#### **4.0 Special Assignments**

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

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

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

#### **5.0 Educational Leadership**

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

- 5.1 Motion to accept a donation of \$450.14 from DonorsChoose to purchase digital and print subscription of Scholastic News and Tine Kids, grades 5-6, to be used as instructional materials for 5<sup>th</sup> grade social studies.
- 5.2 Motion to approve The Watson Group Institute Services Agreement for 2023-2024 providing educational and related services for certain identified students from Steel Valley School District.
- 5.3 Motion to approve the Steel Valley Wellness Group, Licensed Professional Counselor Business Contract, for 2023-2024 for continuation of services provided by Steel Valley Wellness Group, LLC.
- 5.4 Motion to approve the New Story Schools Agreement for 2023-2024 providing educational and related services for certain identified students from Steel Valley School District.
- 5.5 Motion to approve The Bradley Center 2023-2024 Agreement for Educational Services providing educational and related services for certain identified students from Steel Valley School District.
- 5.6 Motion to approve the first amendment to the technology support services agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and the district, effective from August 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

#### **6.0 Communication & Technology**

Mr. McLaughlin reminded residents that there was not a Community Meeting in July. He said that the planning for Funder Under the Bridge was underway. The event will be held on October 15, 2023. He is excited for this year's fundraiser, and is grateful for the partnership the district has established with the Waterfront.

## **7.0 Personnel Management**

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Brandi Forster, long-term, substitute, half-time 5<sup>th</sup> grade and half-time English Lerner Language (ELL) teacher at the Middle School, effective August 15, 2023.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Sisley, full-time Music teacher and Band Director for the Middle School and Senior High School, effective on a mutually agreed upon date, but no later than September 18, 2023.
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ronald McKee, Jr., full-time custodian, retroactive to July 17, 2023.
- 7.4 Motion to rescind the hire of Jennifer Weigand from ESSER III, long-term substitute, Special Education, Emotional Support teacher position at Barrett Elementary, effective immediately.
- 7.5 Motion to approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee #5822, effective August 21, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.6 Motion to approve the one (1) time, one-year contract extension for Edward Wehrer, Superintendent of Schools, for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.7 Motion to appoint the following cyber support/assessor stipend positions for the 2023-2024 school year for the following subjects: Clay Karadus for Social Studies; Jeff Deabner for Science; Beth McCallister for Math; Jodi Geyer for English; Jamie Fleck for Foreign Language, Spanish; and Lisa Lawson for Special Education Cyber Support. The remote support positions will be reviewed quarterly for student's participation and effectiveness. Changes to the support program can be made at the end of each nine-week period.
- 7.8 Motion to approve the hire of Andrew Roberts to a full-time, teaching position with an assignment of Music at the Senior High School and Middle School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$50,231 based upon Step 4 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.
- 7.9 Motion to approve Jenna Aykul for the Steel Valley School District 2023 Extended School Year (ESY) program as a substitute Special Education teacher at the rate of \$40/hour, retroactive to July 13, 2023.
- 7.10 Motion to approve Georgeann Reid and Elizabeth Novotny as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year at the approved daily rate of \$150.00/day, 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 Fall Sports Coaches and Supplemental positions for the 2023-2024 school year.

- 7.12 Motion to approve the hire of Emma Keaney to the ESSER III, long-term substitute, Special Education, Life Skills position at the Middle School, at an annual salary of \$40,019, 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 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 Malia Mueller to a full-time teaching position with an assignment of Music in the Senior High School and Middle School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$43,424 based upon third year, 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.
- 7.14 Motion to appoint Kimberly Winters as the Barrett Elementary School Principal at a prorated annual salary of \$101,000, with the benefits of the Act 93 Agreement, 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.
- 7.15 Motion to appoint Jon Drager as the Director of Finance and Operations and as the district Treasurer for a term of 3 years at the prorated base salary of \$115,000, effective on a mutually agreed upon date through June 30, 2026, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.16 Motion to approve Austin Riley to the grant-funded, Supervisor of Pupil Services position, at a prorated salary of \$75,000, with the benefits of the Act 93 Agreement, effective August 21, 2023, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file. This position will assist the Pupil Services department and will terminate on June 30, 2024.
- 7.17 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of JaQuay Carter from the position of School Director, effective immediately.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, McLaughlin, Colasante, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Citizen Comments**

Carol O'Hare asked about the new school if there were other engineers that were considered for the design of the building.

Jim Deutsch asked about Kindergarten enrollment, transportation and building plans for the new elementary school.

**Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 7:43 PM