

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Steel Valley High School Library**  
**September 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:17 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

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

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

Flag Salute

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Ja'Quan Washington-McNeil, Steel Valley graduate Class of 2008; Jeffrey Louis Fite, father of Sara Fite, Registrar at the Administration Building; Grant Alexander Mocharko, cousin of Katie Pugh, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Park Elementary; Genevieve T. (Connolly) Mihalycso, mother of Tammy Law, retired 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher 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:

Adams, Colasante, Dunmire, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

**President's Report**

Mr. Bulger reported of the resignation of Mr. Edward Wehrer as Superintendent of Schools and how the Board will follow the proper procedures to appoint the Assistant Superintendent to be the interim.

Mr. Bulger spoke about an email that was sent from the Borough of Homestead's Council President to Munhall and West Homestead councils in regards to asking the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to explore the possibility of forcing a merger with West Mifflin School District. Mr. Bulger made it clear to the public that conversation of a merger with West Mifflin was never brought to the attention of the Steel Valley School Board of Directors and it is not something that is being considered.

**Superintendent**

No Report

**Student Representatives to the School Board**

No Report

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

Mr. Macuga reported that Progress Reports were distributed/posted yesterday. High School and Middle School Reports are posted on Sapphire and Elementary reports were sent home with students

Baseline assessments are in the process of being completed. These assessments will be utilized by the classroom teachers to develop instruction that meets the learning needs of students and will also determine students that might be in need of additional interventions on a particular topic or skill.

The A-TSI plans for the Middle School and Barrett Elementary are on the agenda to be approved this evening. Each plan has an attendance, behavior and academic focus. Data for the listed focus components will be consistently reviewed to determine intervention effectiveness.

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

Mrs. Kozusko started her report stating that Across Allegheny County, the number of English Language Learners (ELL) is growing. In Steel Valley, we ended last school year providing English Language instruction to 28 students. As of today, we have 37 students that require instruction as English Learners as well as an additional 7 students that still require a level of monitoring. For the first time, we have students in all grade levels that require instruction to improve their English language proficiency. The Pupil Services Department is planning to offer additional staff training opportunities in the upcoming months to support teachers and other staff as they support our English Learners in their English language proficiency.

She continued her report explaining how the district moved forward to purchase access to Satchel Pulse, an online system that provides tools for effectively screening and managing social emotional learning interventions for students. A virtual training was provided earlier this week to building implementation teams to begin the roll out in the buildings. In the upcoming weeks, teachers will be completing online screenings so student strengths and needs can be identified and supports can begin to be provided to students. The district's purchase of 3 years of access to Satchel Pulse is funded through the Project SEEKS SES grant which was provided to ten (10) school districts in Allegheny County to address trauma, behavior, and mental health concerns that have been exacerbated as a result of COVID-19. Additional supports funded through the grant will be provided to students throughout the year.

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

Christine Schott thanked Mrs. Kozusko on the information regarding the influx of ELL students in the district. She also commented on motions 7.15; 7.16. She thanked Mr. Wehrer for the great impact he had on the district during his 12 years as being the Superintendent.

Jim Deutsch commented on motions 2.2; 5.1 and 7.6.

### **Solicitor's Report**

No Report

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Colasante moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:**

August 14, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Adams, Dunmire. Motion carried.

August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Dunmire. Motion carried.

## **1.0 Financial Management**

**Ms. Guy moved and Mr. Rojtas seconded the motion to approve the following**

- 1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:
  - 1.1.01 General Fund Invoices for September 2023 for \$373,796.51
  - 1.1.02 General Fund, Food Service, External Groups & Activities Hand Checks August 23 for \$1,559,260.23, \$15,569.14, \$5,653.76 & \$5,923.84
  - 1.1.03 August Balance Sheets
  - 1.1.04 August General Fund and Food Service Income Statements
- 1.2 Motion to approve a refund to James Claude Weber & Kristen Marie Weber Lot & Block 133-B-183, in the amount of \$872.30 for year 2022
- 1.3 Motion to approve a refund to Gerald and Jessica Lepre Lot & Block 133-G-105, in the amount of \$1,182.07 for years 2021 and 2022
- 1.4 Motion to approve a refund to Bradley W. & Christine L. Pietryga Lot \$ Block 131-D-238, in the amount of \$289.88 for year 2022
- 1.5 Motion to approve the Resolution to appoint Mr. Jonathan Drager, Director of Finance and Operations, as district Treasurer, retroactive to September 18, 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

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

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented
- 2.2 Motion to approve Tremco to contract roof repairs and replacement at Barrett Elementary for \$135,664

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve the attached fundraisers as presented
- 3.2 Motion to approve the continuation of a Middle School activity, Dungeons and Dragons Club, for students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3.3 Motion to approve an overnight field trip for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Washington D.C. on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger commented on how the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Washington D.C. is a great experience for the students. He thanked Dr. Bethany Fenyus for doing a great job organizing as well as the PTO for assisting with fundraisers.

Mr. Colasante welcomed Mr. Dunmire. Steel Valley School District's retired teacher and WPIAL Championship Basketball Coach, to the School Board.

#### **4.0 Special Assignments**

Mrs. Karstetter said that Steel Center Career & Technical Education has hired an Auto Mechanic teacher. She explained that it doesn't replace the Diesel program, however, at least they were able to keep an automotive repair program.

#### **5.0 Educational Leadership**

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) Title I School plan for Barrett Elementary and A-TSI non-Title I Middle School plan.
- 5.2 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding which summarizes the partnership being created between Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and Steel Valley High School for the development of United Champion Schools (UCS) program designed to lead to more inclusive and accepting school environments, effective from September 28, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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

Ms. Adams shared that tonight's meeting will be her last public meeting. She decided to finish out her term for 2023. She thanked everyone she served with on the Board.

#### **7.0 Personnel Management**

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

- 7.1 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for employee #5877, effective October 24, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.2 Motion to approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for employee #5771, retroactive to August 21, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.3 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for employee #5881, retroactive to September 13, 2023, not to exceed 60 days in duration.
- 7.4 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marcia Zucconi, from the ESSER III funded long-term substitute, half-time English Language Learner (ELL) position, retroactive to September 5, 2023.
- 7.5 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Olivia Elk, from the ESSER III funded long-term substitute, Special Education position, effective on a mutually agreed upon date.
- 7.6 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Edward Wehrer from the position of Superintendent of Schools, effective October 9, 2023.
- 7.7 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of William McLaughlin from the position of School Director, effective immediately.
- 7.8 Motion to eliminate the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute, half-time 5<sup>th</sup> grade, half-time ELL position, retroactive to September 5, 2023.
- 7.9 Motion to create two (2) additional ESSER III funded, long-term substitute positions: 5<sup>th</sup> grade position and an ELL position for the 2023-2024 school year. These positions will cease to exist after the last day of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.10 Motion to appoint Andrea Muha to be the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute 5<sup>th</sup> grade position at a salary of \$40,019 according to the collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to August 21, 2023, current clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.

- 7.11 Motion to appoint Madison Tonini to be a long-term substitute position at the Middle School with an assignment of 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts (ELA) for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester at a salary of \$43,061 according to the collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to August 21, 2023, current clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.12 Motion to appoint Jaelyn Raia as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.00 per hour plus benefits as per the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Agreement, retroactive to August 22, 2023; once documentation for meeting highly qualified status is confirmed the rate will change to \$14.50 per hour, current clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.13 Motion to appoint Makayla Falk to be a long-term substitute 2<sup>nd</sup> grade position at Barrett Elementary at a prorated salary of \$40,019 according to the collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to September 26, 2023, current clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.14 Motion to appoint Elizabeth Yura to the 3.5 hours a day cafeteria general worker at \$13.05/hour for a 90-day probation period then will change to \$14.50/hour, no benefits, 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 rescind the updated annual stipend amount for \$4,200 for the Program Coordinators for the after-school programs at the elementary schools; the stipend amounts for the 1-hour per week session program for the \$264 and the 1.5 hour per week session program for \$396 will remain in effect.
- 7.16 Motion to approve day-to-day substitute teacher rates to be \$20/hour with a standard work day of 7.5 hours.
- 7.18 Motion to approve the attached list of applicants to be placed on the substitute call list 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.
- 7.19 Motion to approve the supplemental positions for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.20 Motion to appoint Deanna Mudry to the Cyber Support/Assessor Foreign Language – French stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.21 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Education Association PSEA/NEA.
- 7.22 Motion to approve the MOU between the District and Steel Valley Secretarial/Aides Education Support Professionals.
- 7.23 Motion to approve the MOU between the District and Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association.
- 7.24 Motion to approve the lists of school volunteers, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and affidavits.
- 7.25 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of McKayla Donofrio, from the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute special education position, effective October 9, 2023.
- 7.26 Motion to appoint Mallory Weiss to be the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute special education position at a prorated salary of \$41,687 according to the collective bargaining agreement, effective October 2, 2023, current clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.27 Motion to appoint Diana Wiesen to the 3.25 hours a day cafeteria general worker at \$13.05/hour for a 90-day probation period then will change to \$14.50/hour, no benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.28 Motion to appoint Antwon Williams as a full-time district custodian, effective September 29, 2023, according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.

Mr. Bulger noted that on motion (7.19) regarding supplemental hires the name of the Band Assistant Director is to be pulled.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:  
Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger  
Negative: None. Motion carried.

- 7.17 Motion to approve the attached list of day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year at the approved hourly rate. 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.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:  
Adams, Dunmire, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Yuhas, Bulger  
Negative: None. Abstain: Guy from one (1) name on the list. Motion carried.

Mr. Rojtas commented on the resignations of Mr. Wehrer and Mr. McLaughlin. He thanked both of them for their commitment to the district.

Mrs. Karstetter apologized for arriving late Monday's Worksession meeting. She reiterated the 3-minute rule during citizen comments. She explained that this is Board Policy and everyone should be respectful to each other.

Mr. Rojtas commended Administration on their efforts to fill vacant positions.

### **Citizen Comments**

Christine Schott welcomed Mr. Macuga on being appointed the Interim Superintendent and thanked Ms. Adams for serving as a School Director. She also asked about the plans for the new elementary school.

Richard Smith commented on special education services at the Middle School.

Jim Deutsch commented on the new elementary school cost, transportation and the Superintendent search.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:37 PM