

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, 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. Colasante, Mrs. Karstetter, Mr. Rojtas, Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas,
Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. McLaughlin

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

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Ronald Tkach, uncle of Mary Yuhas, School Board Director.

Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mr. Rojtas 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, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger read the response letter that he sent to Munhall Borough Council President, Rick Brennan, in regards to the new elementary school.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer reported the first day for teachers and paraprofessionals will be August 21, 2023. There will be a transition day for K, 5th and 9th grade held on August 24th and the first day for all students will be on August 25th.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga reported on the itinerary for the inservice day and Act 80 day that are lined up for teachers and staff for the week August 21st.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko thanked the administrative team for the collaboration and collective efforts to get things ready for the start of the school year, particularly related to interviewing candidates to fill our vacant positions. The teamwork is much appreciated.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Item

Erin Noblet commented on motions 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 regarding the new elementary school. She commented on motions 5.1 through 5.5. Lastly, she asked if any substitute nurses were being hired in motion 7.5.

Donna Dreshman asked about the cost of the appraisals that were referenced in the Solicitor's motion #1. She asked how many people applied for the open School Director seat. Mr. Bulger answered that eight (8) people sent in a letter of interest, one (1) person pulled their name the night of the Worksession meeting and two (2) did not show, therefore, five (5) people were interviewed.

Jim Deutsch commented on motion 7.21.

Michael Capp commented on the preparation of documents for the new elementary school.

Solicitor's Motion

Motion 1.

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

Motion to appoint Anthony Barna, MAI, SRA to do appraisals for Steel Valley School District for Blocks and Lots 130-K-118; 89-M-85; 89-S-175; 130-C-125; 130-E-300-3; 130-D-60.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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

Motion 2.

Mr. Rojtas 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:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 3.

Mr. Rojtas nominated Rick Dunmire to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Director.

Mrs. Yuhás nominated Susan Ballas to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Director.

Motion for the Board to vote Rick Dunmire to fill the vacancy in the members of the Board of School Directors

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 4.

Mr. Rojtas moved and Ms. Guy 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:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

July 24, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas

Negative: None. Abstain: Guy, Yuhás, Bulger. Motion carried.

July 27, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Guy, Yuhás. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Ms. Guy 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 August 2023 for \$26,350.68
 - 1.1.02 General Fund, Food Service, External Groups & Activities Hand Checks July 2023 for \$608,524.93, \$5,243.85 \$3,701.11 & \$3,222.22
 - 1.1.03 July Balance Sheets
 - 1.1.04 July General Fund and Food Service Income Statements

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, 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 the attached contract with the Borough of Munhall stating that Munhall Borough shall make all reasonable attempts to employ two officers whose primary assignments shall be the District's School Resource Officers (SRO) for the contract period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Compensation will be outlined per contract.
- 2.3 Motion to approve the attached contract with the Borough of Homestead for one officer whose primary assignment shall be the District's School Resource Officer (SRO) for the contract period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Compensation will be outlined per contract.
- 2.4 Motion to approve the Project Initiation & Information proposal for the remaining document completion beyond 50% of Design Development, bidding phase services and, if applicable, construction administration phase services with DRAW Collective. Board of Directors will determine, upon the receipt of bids, whether they will award contracts and continue into the construction phase.
- 2.5 Motion to approve proposals from Professional Service Industries, Inc. (Interek-PSI) for the pre-demolition survey, abatement and air monitoring for asbestos and hazardous materials at the Franklin Administration site.
- 2.6 Motion to authorize DRAW Collective and their consultants to proceed with preparation of the documents for Phase 1 of the project for demolition of the Franklin Administration building. Contracts for this work will not be awarded unless a bid is accepted for the construction of the New Elementary School. The intent to bid this work separately from the New Elementary School is to coincide with the application for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Rojtas referenced motion (2.2) regarding Munhall Borough attempting to provide the school district with two (2) SROs, reiterating how safety in our schools is a priority.

- 2.7 Motion to approve the request for Garrett Wilkerson, from Joe R. Pyle Car Auction, to rent the Senior High School Parking lot to have people park their cars and be shuttled to Bellisario's Auto Sales located at 1055 Forest Avenue, West Homestead, PA 15120, to attend a classic car auction.

Upon roll call the following members voted:

Negative: Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger.

Motion Denied

Mr. Bulger added that he did not think the facility rental referenced in (2.7) was a good idea.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

Mr. Colasante said he is going to start a Basketball Program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders after Labor Day.

Chief Parker stated that the SRO training hosted by the district was held on August 7th – 11th. He said that 45 people attended the training from 21 different districts, one attendee came from Massachusetts.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter reported that Steel Center for Career and Technical Education had to eliminate their Diesel program due to staffing issues.

She also reported that the construction bids have been received for the renovations for Steel Center for Career and Technical Education school and they are moving forward with the next phase.

Mr. Colasante added that there is a shortage for teachers and paraprofessionals nationwide. Mrs. Karstetter agreed and stated that she sits on the Board for Steel Center for Career and Technical Education with ten (10) other districts and they all are experiencing the same shortages.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) non-Title I School plan for the Senior High School.
- 5.2 Motion to approve the Steel Valley Cyber Academy 7th – 12th grade Parent / Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year as presented, pending any changes to the handbooks for corrections prior to printing.

- 5.3 Motion to approve the Holy Family Specialized Learning Educational Services Agreement for 2023-2024 providing educational and related services for certain identified students from Steel Valley School District.
- 5.4 Motion to approve the following rates for contracted school psychology services: \$600 per full evaluation; \$500 for re-evaluation; \$400 for gifted evaluation; and \$60/hour for other services, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 5.5 Motion to approve the contract with Teachercentric, Inc., for a three-year license for their web-based Satchel Pulse social emotional learning curriculum at a cost of \$31,860 for three years. The Board directs Administration to adopt Satchel Pulse which provides ready-made lessons to be implemented at Tier I as well as creates targeted intervention plans with additional resources to address student needs within Tiers II and III, designed specifically for small groups or in a one-on-one setting for grades K-12.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Communication & Technology

No report.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Alaina (Casey) Walker, ESSER III, Long-term substitute, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School and Senior High School, effective August 18, 2023.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marina Donovan, from the position of full-time paraprofessional, effective August 18, 2023.
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Joyce Fletcher, from the position of full-time paraprofessional, effective August 18, 2023.
- 7.5 Motion to approve the attached list of day-to-day substitute teachers / nurses for the 2023-2024 school year at the rate of \$150/day. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 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 2023-2024 school year when needed. New applicants are contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.

- 7.7 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Traci Riley from the Food Services position of Cook at Park Elementary, effective August 18, 2023.
- 7.8 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Clay Karadus from the Cyber Support/Assessor Social Studies stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.9 Motion to appoint Barb Ferson to the Cyber Support/Assessor Social Studies stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year. The remote support position will be reviewed quarterly for the student's participation and effectiveness. Changes to the support program can be made at the end of each nine-week period.
- 7.10 Motion to approve the hire of McKayla Donofrio the ESSER III, Long-term Substitute, Special Education, Emotional Support position at Barrett Elementary, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$41,687 based upon second 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. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.
- 7.11 Motion approve the hire of Dylan O'Neill the ESSER III, long-term substitute, Middle School Guidance Counselor position, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$43,061 based upon second year, non-tenured 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. This position is funded by federal ESSER III funding and will terminate at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year.
- 7.12 Motion to appoint Andrea Tannehill to the Full-time, Special Education position with a 2023-2024 assignment of Learning Support for the Senior High School at an annual salary of \$41,338, based upon first year of non-tenured 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. 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 appoint Marcia Zucconi to a half-time building substitute teacher and a half-time, long-term substitute (LTS) English Language Learner (ELL) position for the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$22,427.50 (50% of \$44,855) based upon third year non-tenured status with a Master's degree for the half-time, LTS ELL position according to policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, and \$75/day for being half-time teacher substitute (50% of \$150/day for the teacher substitute rate), 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.

- 7.14 Motion to rescind the hire of Amorena Pascoe from the ESSER III, Long-term Substitute, Middle School Guidance Counselor position, effective immediately.
- 7.15 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Derek Kleinhans from the position of full-time paraprofessional, effective immediately.
- 7.16 Motion to appoint Lesa Brownfield as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.00 per hour plus benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. Once documentation for meeting highly qualified status is confirmed, the rate will change to \$14.50 per hour.
- 7.17 Motion to appoint Brittany Slater as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$14.50 per hour as per the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Agreement with documentation for meeting highly qualified status, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.18 Motion to appoint Margaret Knight as a districtwide paraprofessional at a rate of \$13.00 per hour plus benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing required employment screenings and compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. Once documentation for meeting highly qualified status is confirmed, the rate will change to \$14.50 per hour.
- 7.19 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Education Association (PSEA/NEA).
- 7.20 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Act 93 Group.
- 7.21 Motion to approve the amendment to the Assistant Superintendent’s contract.
- 7.22 Motion to approve the following changes to the After School Programs at the Elementary Schools, which run for a 10-week session in the fall and a 10-week session in spring. The annual stipend for the Program Coordinators at each elementary school will be \$4,200. The stipend for the 1-hour per week per session programs will be \$264. The stipend for the 1.5-hour per week per session programs will be \$396.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

- 7.4 Motion to appoint Flora Walker to the 3.25 hours a day cafeteria general worker at a rate of \$13.05 for a 90-day probation period, effective August 24, 2023. After the probation period is complete the rate changes to \$14.50 per hour, no benefits. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Adams. Motion carried.

- 7.8 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Clay Karadus from the Cyber Support/Assessor Social Studies stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Adams, Colasante, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Yuhas. Motion carried.

Mr. Wehrer stated that motion (7.12) was mistyped on the agenda and that it is not an ESSER position and that is a full-time position. Mr. Bulger asked that the motion be re-read.

- 7.12 Motion to appoint Andrea Tannehill to the Full-time, Special Education position with a 2023-2024 assignment of Learning Support for the Senior High School at an annual salary of \$41,338, based upon first year of non-tenured 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.

Mr. Rojtas amended motion and motion was carried.

Citizen Comments

Michael Capp spoke about costs for the new elementary school.

Donna Dreshman commented on finances and new hires.

Erin Noblet complimented Mr. Clay Stone, Middle School Principal, on his presentation at Meet the Principal Night and asked about Middle School intramurals.

Jim Deutsch spoke about costs for the new elementary school.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:37 PM