

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
January 25, 2024

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

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Mr. Dunmire, Mrs. Ballas, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Karstetter,
Ms. Guy, Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mr. Rojtas

Also attending: Mr. Macuga, Mr. Fetzko, Mrs. Kozusko, Mr. Drager (Zoom Teleconference)
and Mrs. Emery

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The School Board acknowledged the passing of Denise Larson, mother of Erika (Tkach) Podnar, Physics teacher at the Senior High School; William Jay “Bill” Glunk, husband of Jan Glunk, former Superintendent of Schools for Steel Valley School District; Josephine K. (King) Slekar, retired 1st grade teacher at Park Elementary; Angelo J. Takos, father of Michael Takos, Paraprofessional at Barrett and father-in-law of Regina Takos, Librarian at Park Elementary

Mrs. Yuhas 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:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger introduced DRAW Collective to present the most recent plans regarding the New Elementary school.

President’s Report

Mr. Bulger recognized January as being School Board appreciation moth. He thanked all the sitting Board members for all the hard work they do for the district. Mr. Bulger also thanked Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) for all the assistance they have been providing for the Superintendent search.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Dalton Kraft, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for High School:

- Student Assistance Program (SAP) meetings were held on January 4th and 18th

- Half-Price Books will provide the High School Library with discounted new books
- Report cards were distributed to students and posted on Sapphire on January 19th
- Thirty-seven (37) students attended the Senior Snow Tubing trip on January 25th

Joe Nguyen, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for the Middle School:

- Observations for non-tenured teachers have been completed
- A Scheduling Committee is being identified to discuss scheduling needs for 2024-2025 school year
- A proposal has been submitted to add an additional Special Education teacher position in the Middle School
- Middle School play “*Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Your Teachers (But Were Afraid To Ask)*” took place from January 11th to January 13th
- Student Government participated in *Beverly’s Birthdays* from January 29th to February 9th
- Middle School PTO is holding the Ironmen Card and PTO Spirit Wear Fundraisers

Layla Rager, Junior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- Barrett has started the 3rd attendance challenge to increase student attendance from January 17th through February 15th
- Staff has the option to wear jeans on Fridays by donating \$20, the goal is to donate to local small businesses and create relationships with those businesses
 - First 9 weeks they collected \$650 and donated it to Live Fresh
 - Second 9 weeks they donated \$650 to Knights Barber Shop
 - Both locations now have a "We Support Barrett Elementary" signs that are displayed in their business windows
- Literature was sent home with report cards to show parents how many absences, unexcused absences and tardies their student/students have on file
 - 0 absences - perfect attendance
 - 1-4 - outstanding attendance
 - 5-9 - missing valuable instruction time
 - 10-17 - child is chronically absent
 - 18 + - please call the school to set up a meeting
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing was administered for the 2nd time, showing growth in many students from the 1st time it was given

Report for Park:

- Intramurals have started after school
- Scholastic Book Fair was scheduled

Interim Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Macuga reported that the Senior High School and Middle School have been officially exited from the Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan designation by Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). He thanked everyone involved in the process to make this possible.

Director of Pupil Services’ Report

Mrs. Kozusko started her report by explaining each year, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires school districts across the United States to provide information regarding the number of students receiving special education services. Students that are enrolled in the district and have an active Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) to receive special education services on December 1st are included in this count. This

number is used by the Department of Education to determine the amount of Special Education Part-B Individuals Education with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funds that are allocated to the district.

Preliminary data received indicates that there were 410 students enrolled in Steel Valley receiving special education services on December 1st. This number is an increase of two (2) students from last year's count. Currently, 28.65% of the district's student population receives special education services, which is about 9 percentage points higher than the state average.

We will continue to look at supports that can be provided to students so that we can intervene prior to special education identification.

Citizen Comments

Donna Dreshman commented on motion (1.8) and asked if anyone being hired tonight was related to anyone on the Board. She asked about stairwells and elevators for the new elementary school.

Jim Deutsch commented on motion (7.3) as well as the construction of the new elementary school.

Christine Schott commented on the new elementary school and if it will be a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

minutes:

December 4, 2023 Reorganization and Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Dunmire. Motion carried.

December 7, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Dunmire. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Mrs. Ballas moved and Mr. Dunmire seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 1.1 Motion to approve the list of bills:
 - 1.1.01 General Fund, Food Service, External Groups and Activities Hand Checks for December 2023
\$534,946.02, \$210,019.23, \$5,556.95, \$5,535.20
 - 1.1.02 December Balance Sheet
 - 1.1.03 December General Fund and Food Service Income Statements
- 1.2 Motion to approve a refund to Roy McDonald Lot & Block 131-N-104, in the amount of \$324.15 for year 2022 and \$333.87 for year 2023
- 1.3 Motion to approve a refund to Jennifer Leigh Coles Lot & Block 131-P-142, in the amount of \$54.29 for year 2023
- 1.4 Motion to approve a refund to Jacob Dindak Lot & Block 131-P-156, in the amount of \$10.54 for year 2022 and \$10.85 for year 2023
- 1.5 Motion to approve a refund to Courtney Handlovitch Lot & Block 132-A-302, in the amount of \$287.26 for year 2022 and \$298.58 for year 2023

- 1.6 Motion to approve a refund to CMC Diversified Holdings Lot & Block 92-D-10, in the amount of \$919.75 for year 2022 and \$947.34 for year 2023
- 1.7 Motion to approve a refund to Christina Diduch Lot & Block 131-P-180, in the amount of \$19.10 for year 2022 and \$21.75 for year 2023
- 1.8 Motion to approve the Resolution for Steel Valley School District to participate in a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project, Waterfront Apartments Tax Increment Financing District (TIF District) with Homestead Borough, West Homestead Borough and Continental Real Estate Companies

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Mrs. Hughes moved and Mrs. Ballas 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:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Motion to approve the attached fundraisers as presented.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the engagement letter from C&G Strategies to provide Steel Valley School District with the government affairs services regarding the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant for \$3,000 monthly retainer effective January 1, 2024 until terminated
- 5.2 Motion to approve payment of \$800 to put towards the cost of the disc jockey services and photo booth for the Prom to be held at Stratigos Banquet Centre on May 3, 2024
- 5.3 Motion to approve the agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Steel Valley School District to provide transportation reimbursement for Life Skills students who participate in the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) activities, retroactive to January 17, 2024

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

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 accept, with regret, the retirement of Dr. Lori Kenavey, Reading Specialist, at Park Elementary, under the terms and conditions of Article XXVIII Retirement Incentive Program in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement and the Early Retirement Incentive M.O.U., effective June 28, 2024
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Michael Takos, from the full-time Paraprofessional position, under the terms and conditions of the current Early Retirement Incentive M.O.U. that was approved on December 7, 2023, effective June 3, 2024
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Austin Riley, from the ESSER III funded, Supervisor of Pupil Services Department position, retroactive to January 2, 2024
- 7.4 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Katie Myers Besterce, from the full-time Paraprofessional position, retroactive to January 12, 2024
- 7.5 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Susan Onder, from the Registrar position, retroactive to January 8, 2024
- 7.6 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 5936, retroactive to January 16, 2024, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- 7.7 Motion to approve the hire of Matthew Besnak as a full-time districtwide custodian, effective January 26, 2024, according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file
- 7.8 Motion to create an additional full-time special education teacher position for Steel Valley Middle School
- 7.9 Motion to rescind the Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 5939, dated November 16, 2023
- 7.10 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 5939, retroactive to December 11, 2023 PM
- 7.11 Motion to approve Tiffany Vranick as the Registrar at the Administration Building at an annual salary of \$29,248 plus benefits, effective January 29, 2024, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Dunmire, Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Guy, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger made the announcement that the February 20th and 22nd meetings will be moved to February 26th and February 29th.

Citizen Comments

Christine Schott commented on the new process on how to receive checks for activities.

Jim Deutsch commented on the Superintendent search asked about the list of applicants. Mr. Bulger stated that there will be two (2) rounds of interviews and the first round will be held on January 16, 2024. Jim Deutsch also commented on busing for the new school.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:53 PM