

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
December 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:08 PM held at Steel Valley High School Library and public was invited to observe.

Roll call as follows:

In attendance: Mrs. Ballas, Mr. Colasante, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Karstetter, Mrs. Yuhas,
Mr. Bulger

Absent: Ms. Guy, 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 Mary Catherine (Strucaly) Lebeda, retired Food Service.

Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded to place appropriate books into the district school libraries in memory of the above departed.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger commented on the motion to appoint Richard Dunmire to the open seat on the School Board

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Dalton Kraft, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for High School:

- Cafeteria renovations took place on November 11th
- St. Vincent and St. Francis Universities visited Senior students
- Three (3) students competed in Hometown High-Q on November 8th
- Parent teacher conferences were held on November 9th
- The 41st Annual Veteran's Day assembly was held on November 10th
- At the end of the first 9 weeks there were 41 High Honor Roll; 68 Highest Honors with distinction; 67 Honor Roll
- Truancy elimination meetings were held on November 9th to discuss ways to help students increase regular attendance

- The Marines and National Guard met with students during lunches
- Life Skills students had an outing to a local grocery store to shop for their Thanksgiving lunch
- The fall play “Knock Knock” runs from November 16-19
- CCAC/Job Corps visited lunches on November 30th
- Groups of students in grades 9-12 visited the Batch Foundation to help with the annual Toy Drive
- The Winter Semi-Formal dance is scheduled for January 6th

Report for the Middle School:

- Satchel Pulse screeners have been completed and tiers are being identified
- Teacher observations and walkthroughs have started
- Steel Valley Middle School’s Ironmen Cafe has returned. The Ironmen Cafe runs every Wednesday where the staff can purchase snacks and refreshments. The Ironmen Cafe helps teach students important job and life skills, such as teamwork, social skills, and money management.
- Student government hosted a canned food drive for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. 1,129 food donations were collected. The winning homeroom, with 293 donations, was Mrs. MacDonald’s 5th grade homeroom.
- Student government will also participate in their annual Kindergarten Service Project on Friday, Dec. 8th. Student government members will travel to Park and Barrett to facilitate activities with Kindergarten students.

Layla Rager, Junior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- They completed their second attendance challenge
 - 45% of students had a pizza party for having 0 tardies, 0 unexcused absences in a 2-week period
- They held a Title 1 event which was named Pastries with Parents. They worked together on literacy skills while doing fun activities with their parents.

Reports for Park:

- December 7th is the Holiday Concert
- December 11-15 is Santa’s Workshop
- December 20th is the Polar Express / PJ Day and sing-along

Interim Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Macuga introduced the Fall Sport teams, players and coaches. He invited the Coaches to speak. Girls Soccer Coach, Kaitlin Wyke and Bill Abraham said a few words about their players and season. Coach Dan Boehme spoke on behalf of his Cross-Country team and finally Coach Ray Braszo talked about his Football season and players.

Mr. Macuga presented certificates to the following Steel Center and Career and Technical Education students: Student of the Month (September) – Logan Brady; (October) – Martaz Johnson; (November) – Nate Yuhas, Tristan Banks and Tiera Menefee.

He also presented certificates to the following Fall athletes:

Girls Volleyball:

All Section 2nd Team – Isabella Ruston; All Section 3rd Team – Abigail Fitzgerald and Ryan Cameron.

Girls Soccer:

All Section – Sam Hardman; All Section and All WPIAL – Kylie Salopek

Boys Soccer:

All Section – A.J. Karstetter; Honorable Mention – Nate Yuhas

Cross Country:
 All Section – Alex Brown
 Football:
 Offensive Player of the Year – Donald Barksdale
 Defensive Lineman of the Year – Michael Crist
 Offense 1st Team – Michael Crist, Donald Barksdale, Carlos Scott, RaSaun Hough
 Defense 1st Team – Michael Crist, RaSaun Hough, Carlos Scott, Del Shields
 Special Teams 1st Team – A.J. Karstetter
 Offense 2nd Team – Del Shields
 Defense 2nd Team – Donald Barksdale, Samir Smoot
 Special Teams 2nd Team – Carlos Scott
 Offense Honorable Mention – J.J. Heddleston
 Defense Honorable Mention – Quaron Pierce, Cayson Simpkins
 Special Teams Honorable Mention – Samir Smoot
 Courage Award – J.J. Heddleston
 Allegheny Football Conference Coach of the Year – Coach Ray Braszo

Director of Pupil Services’ Report

Mrs. Kozusko started her report explaining that each October, school districts and charter schools in Pennsylvania are required to report their expenditures related to exceptional students for the prior school year [Act 16 of 2000 (24 PS §13-1372(8))]. Act 16 requires that we report the number of students with disabilities for which eligible costs related to their education fall in one of five cost categories. For the 2022-2023 school year, the district spent up to \$27,535.15 to educate 393 students. The district spent over this amount to educate 34 students. Please see the breakdown below:

Category	Dollar Amount	Number of Students Reported
1A	\$1.00 - \$5,042.49	55
1B	\$5,042.50 - \$27,535.15	338
2	\$27,535.16 - \$55,070.31	30
3A	\$55,070.32 - \$82,605.51	2
3B	\$82,605.52 and over	2

She continued her report by announcing that the Ironmen Cafe reopened for business on Wednesday, November 15th. Students involved in the Middle School Life Skills/Autistic Support program returned to make rounds through the High School and Middle School to sell a variety of drinks and snacks to staff. Students returning to their jobs are taking leadership roles in assisting new students to learn the ropes in operating the Cafe. Thanks to staff Ms. Bell, Ms. Keaney, Ms. Kennedy, and Ms. Furrick in supporting the students as they run the Ironmen Cafe.

She concluded her report stating that the High School Life Skills Program hosted their 3rd annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 21st. In addition to creating and hand-delivering invitations, planning the menu, creating a shopping list, determining a budget, and shopping for and purchasing ingredients, the students led the efforts in cooking a traditional Thanksgiving meal including turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, yams, and gravy. A big thank you goes out to the students and staff in the Life Skills program for putting together a great event. The luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Solicitor's Motions

Motion 1.

Motion for the Board to appoint Richard Dunmire to fill the open seat of Region 2 of the Board of School Directors.

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

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Motion 2.

Motion for the Board to adopt the Resolution as presented to appoint a school director.

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

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried

Board Meeting Minutes

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

minutes:

October 23, 2023 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Karstetter, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Ballas, Hughes. Motion carried.

October 26, 2023 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Colasante, Karstetter, Yuhás, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Ballas, Hughes. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Mrs. Ballas moved and Mrs. Yuhás 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 October 2023 \$686,584.86, \$47,093.18, \$22,285.38, \$10,171.91

1.1.02 General Fund, Food Service, External Groups and Activities Hand Checks for November 2023 \$534,946.02, \$210,019.23, \$12,227.64, \$8,807.63

1.1.03 October Balance Sheet

1.1.04 November Balance Sheet

1.1.05 October General Fund and Food Service Income Statements

1.1.06 November General Fund and Food Service Income Statements

1.2 Motion to approve the renewal of an agreement with AMCA Systems, LLC for the use of the ACA TaxTrack Software for the 2023 tax year.

1.3 Motion to exonerate the duties of the real estate Tax Collectors of the boroughs of Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead from collecting the remaining 2022 unpaid taxes which will be sent to the delinquent tax collectors.

- 1.4 Motion to approve the accelerated budget opt out Resolution certifying tax rate within the inflation index.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Motion to approve the facility usage requests as presented.
2.2 Motion to approve Horizon Information Services, PA COSTAR supplier, to provide and install replacement Head End Paging Equipment for \$29,635.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried

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.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, 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. Yuhas moved and Mr. Colasante seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 5.1 Motion to approve and authorize the advertising of the 2024 Board meeting dates as listed.
5.2 Motion to approve the service order agreement and E-Rate letter of agency between Steel Valley School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN) Services and Internet Access Service, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029.
5.3 Motion to approve the Financial Consulting Services addendum between Steel Valley School District and the AIU, for AIU to provide financial consulting services, effective November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
5.4 Motion to approve the agreement between the Steel Valley School District and TCV Community Services to provide Trauma Based Interventions Specialists effective January 2, 2024 through June 15, 2025, funding will be provided through the SEEKS Grant.
5.5 Motion to approve the renewal agreement between the AIU and Steel Valley School District for the AIU to provide technology support services, effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
5.6 Motion to create a Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the construction of the New Elementary School.
5.7 Motion to approve the proposal for Provision of Speech and Language Therapy Services for River Therapies to provide speech and language services to certain identified students from Steel Valley School District.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried

6.0 Communication & Technology

No report.

7.0 Personnel Management

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

- 7.1 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Sarah Caldwell, from the full-time Paraprofessional position, retroactive to December 4, 2023.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Sara Fite, from the full-time Registrar position, retroactive to November 14, 2023.
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Makayla Falk, from the long-term substitute 2nd grade position at Barrett Elementary, retroactive to November 13, 2023.
- 7.4 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence in conjunction with Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Employee No. 5826, effective December 18, 2023, to return to work on the first day of the 2024-2025 school year, including in-service day, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- 7.5 Motion to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee No. 5939, retroactive to November 16, 2023, not to exceed sixty (60) days.
- 7.6 Motion to create an ESSER III funded, long-term substitute, Social Worker position, retroactive to November 28, 2023. This position will cease to exist after the last day of the 2023-2024 school year.
- 7.7 Motion to approve the hire of Paula Rossi to the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute Social Worker position, at a prorated salary of \$41,338 based upon 1st year, non-tenured with a Master's degree according to the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to November 28, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.8 Motion to approve JoAnn Molnar to be a long-term substitute for Special Education at Park Elementary at a prorated salary of \$50,484 based upon Step 5 with a Bachelor's degree according to the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to November 16, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.9 Motion to approve Amy Konesky as a long-term substitute Paraprofessional position at Barrett Elementary at a rate of \$13.00/hour with an additional \$1.50 for being highly qualified plus benefits, retroactive to November 13, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.10 Motion to approve Susan Onder as the Registrar at the Administration Building at an annual salary of \$29,248 plus benefits, retroactive to November 30, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.11 Motion to approve the hire of Aaron Felder to the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute Special Education position, at a prorated salary of \$41,338 based upon 1st year, non-tenured with a Master's degree according to the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, retroactive to October 2, 2023. Clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.
- 7.12 Motion to approve Kathryn Robinson to a long-term substitute position as a Middle School Social Studies teacher at a prorated salary of \$40,019 based upon 1st year non-tenured status with a Bachelor's degree plus benefits, effective January 2, 2024, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.13 Motion to approve Hannah Terrick and Sarah Parker to be day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year at the approved \$20.00/ hour rate contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168, and passing physical and drug screening exams, which must be completed within 30 days.
- 7.14 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.

7.16 Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals as presented.

7.17 Motion to approve Jessica Halbleib to the ESSER III funded, long-term substitute Secondary Guidance Counselor position, at a prorated salary of \$41,338 based upon 1st year, non-tenured with a Master's degree according to the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement, effective on a mutually agreed upon date, clearances and pre-employment screenings are on file.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried

7.15 Motion approve the following Spring Athletic Coaching Positions for the 2023-2024 school year.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Colasante, Hughes, Karstetter, Yuhas, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Ballas, from one (1) name on the Spring Coaches list due to being a relative. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

Richard Smith welcomed Mr. Dunmire to the School Board and asked about policies.

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 8:18 PM