

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Steel Valley High School Library
February 29, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bulger, President, at 7:05 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,
Mr. Rojtas, Ms. Guy and Mr. Bulger

Absent: Mrs. Yuhas

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 Carole Haddad, aunt of Marissa Petro, 2nd grade teacher at Barrett Elementary; Michael Eyles, father of Christine Ruffing, 2nd grade teacher at Park Elementary; Katherine R. Salapa, retired Food Service employee at Barrett Elementary and mother-in-law to Susan Salapa, retired Middle School ELA teacher; Robert George Shoemaker II, father of Rob Shoemaker, Special Education teacher at the Senior High School; James Sklencar, husband to Mary Jo Sklencar, retired Paraprofessional at Park Elementary.

Ms. Guy 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:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger introduced Sarah McCluan, Assistant Director, Marketing & Strategic Communication and Andrew Chiapazzi, Communication Specialist from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU). They updated the public and the Board on the District's marketing and communication projects over the past year.

Mr. Rojtas thanked the AIU for the wonderful job they do with putting out district communication, specifically with using Instagram. He stated that different social media sites are utilized by different age groups.

President's Report

Mr. Bulger started his report by thanking Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) for conducting the Superintendent search. He commended PSBA for their professionalism.

Student Representatives to the School Board Reports

Dalton Kraft, Senior Representative to the School Board:

Report for High School:

- Forty-one (41) ninth grade students attended a tour of Steel Center Career & Technical Education
- Ten (10) students visited CNX Resources as a continuation to their workforce education program
- Sixty-one (61) students attended the Polar Plunge at Acrisure Stadium to support Special Olympics
- Fifteen (15) students attended a mock trial at the Federal Courthouse on February 22nd
- Department meetings were held this week to discuss course changes and budgets for the 2024-2025 school year
- Local scholarship packets are being prepared and should be available to students the 1st week of March
- Empire Beauty School visited students during lunches
- Eight (8) students visited Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) to observe a double bypass surgery
- Steel Valley hosted an indoor Color Guard and Percussion show on February 10th
- The Girl's Bowling Team went undefeated during the regular season and were section champs
- Student Council sponsored field trips to Dragoon's Den to support inclusion across grade levels
- The Counseling Department began meeting with students this week with the goal of discussing academics with every student
- Juniors were provided information about the National College Fair
- Senior Recognition took place for Winter sports

Report for the Middle School:

- Middle School PTO held a meeting on February 13th
- Satchel Pulse groups have been identified
 - Counselors, Social Workers and TCV Staff will work with Tier 2 and Tier 3 the week of February 20th
- March 18th a Glow Dance was held for 7th and 8th graders
- Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) prep class was held for 6th graders after school
- Beverly's Birthday donations drive took place during the month of February
 - 1,483 donations were collected
- Ironman Cards, Spirit Wear, Pierogi fundraisers also took place in February

Layla Rager, Junior Representative to the School Board:

Report for Barrett:

- Celebrated Black History Month with a living wax museum on February 22nd
- Title 1 Paint and Pizza event had 45 families attend
- TCV Trauma Informed Behavior Specialist, Akeilla Goater, started on February 28th
- \$1,500 fundraising goal was raised for the American Heart Association

Report for Park:

- Students learned about famous African Americans as they participated in class discussions, worked on research reports
- My Special Person Dance was held on February 23rd at the Senior High School

Interim Superintendent's Report

Mr. Macuga reported that on March 4th the Senior High School will begin a "restorative" Tardy Room. Students arriving after the tardy bell at 7:55 AM will be escorted by district personnel to classroom 204. While in the classroom, staff will provide students with lessons on the importance of being on time, strategies to improve overall attendance, time management strategies, support services and home connections to establish a positive working relationship between home and school.

Director of Pupil Services' Report

Mrs. Kozusko reported that Mon Valley School hosted the Golden Hammer Awards on February 15, 2024. Students attending one of Mon Valley's vocational programs are voted by their teachers for this award based on their responsibility, independence in their vocational program, ability to maintain safety and preparedness to enter the workforce.

The Office of Pupil Services is pleased to announce that Steel Valley High School students were recognized in 4 of the 8 vocational programs, and five (5) Steel Valley students brought home the Golden Hammer Award. Those students are:

- Kenyon Cash-Payne for Building and Grounds
- Michalique Kennedy for Food Service
- Hezekiah Smith for Industrial Production and Maintenance
- Joseph Ketterman for Industrial Production and Maintenance
- Keneicia Cash-Payne for Nurse's Aide

Citizen Comments

Christine Schott thanked the AIU for all they do for the district with communications and marketing. She wished the retirees on the agenda the best of luck. She asked about details on the PreK program and Tardy Room.

Maureen Fry commented on the creation of new positions referenced in motions (7.10, 7.11, 7.12)

Jim Deutsch commented on motions (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 7.6 and 7.10)

Barb Ferson provided details on the Steel Valley Running Club (SVRC) that was referenced in motion (3.2)

Solicitor's Motion

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

minutes:

1. Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the proper officer to execute a contract of employment with Bryan Macuga as Superintendent for a term of four (4) years, four (4) months and two (2) days, commencing on February 29, 2024 and ending midnight on June 30, 2028 with a starting salary of \$140,000

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Macuga gave a statement on his appointment of being Superintendent of Schools for Steel Valley School District.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

minutes:

January 22, 2024 Worksession Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Dunmire, Ballas, Hughes, Karstetter, Rojtas, Guy, Bulger

Negative: None. Abstain: Colasante. Motion carried.

January 25, 2024 Regular Meeting

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Mrs. Ballas 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, Food Service, External Groups and Activities Hand Checks for January 2024
\$849,583.95, \$35,153.44, \$14,808.59, \$20,844.08

1.1.02 January Balance Sheet

1.1.03 January General Fund and Food Service Income Statements

1.2 Motion to approve a refund to Daniel Lloyd Lot & Block 130-L-301 and 130-L-302, in the amount of \$100.00 for year 2023

1.3 Motion to approve a refund to Thomas F. Simmons Lot & Block 130-R-237, in the amount of \$21.33 and Lot & Block 131-C-257, in the amount of \$624.30 for year 2023

1.4 Motion to approve a refund to ACCP Limited Partnership Lot & Block 130-K-195, in the amount of \$864.17 for year 2023

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Mrs. Hughes moved and Mrs. Karstetter 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, Rojtas, Guy, Bulger

Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

3.1 Motion to approve the attached fundraisers as presented

3.2 Motion to approve a new Senior High School student activity, Steel Valley Running Club (SVRC), for students in 9th through 12th grade

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Bulger and Mrs. Karstetter shared their excitement for the SVRC and thanked Barb Ferson for sponsoring this new club.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mrs. Karstetter reported on the updates of the construction of the Steel Center Career & Technical Education building. She also recognized the Steel Valley students that were awarded the following awards:

Student of the Month for December 2023:

Tyler Pagano for Advertising & Design

She also acknowledged Alexis Palucis for being a Work-Based Learning CO-OP Student for Advertising &

Design.

On February 21st the National Technical Honor Society hosted a Vitalant Blood Drive and will be hosting another one on April 30th. These blood drives assist with student scholarship opportunities by awarding two (2) students with a \$500 scholarship to buy books, tools and other essential items to further their careers or education.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Motion to approve the payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2024

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Karstetter commented on the Senior Breakfast and how it is a nice celebration for the Seniors.

6.0 Communication & Technology

Mr. Dunmire commented on how it was nice to see that Steel Valley had 60+ students and staff attend the Polar Plunge at Acrisure Stadium.

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 Edward Wellman, Instructional Resource Math teacher at Barrett Elementary, effective June 3, 2024, 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.
- 7.2 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Jane Banyas, 1st grade Elementary Teacher at Park Elementary, effective June 3, 2024, 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.
- 7.3 Motion to accept, with regret, the retirement of Regina Takos, Librarian, at Park Elementary, effective January 23, 2025, under the terms and conditions of Article XXVIII Retirement Incentive Program as well as the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) referenced under Article XXVIII - C. in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement that was approved at the May 25, 2023 School Board meeting
- 7.4 Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marisa Smith, from the full-time Special Education teaching position, effective February 16, 2024
- 7.5 Motion to approve an Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee #5745, retroactive to February 2, 2024, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- 7.6 Motion to approve the list of applicants presented to be hired as the Steel Valley School District Inhouse Security Guards at rate of \$16.50 to \$17.00/hour with the option of individual health benefits or the option of \$500/month opt out, effective upon receipt of current clearances and pre-employment screenings
- 7.7 Motion to appoint Jordan Bon to a long-term substitute position as the Reading Specialist at Park Elementary at a prorated salary of \$44,855 based upon 3rd year non-tenured status with a Master's degree plus benefits, contingent upon receipt of clearances and pre-employment screenings until the end of the 2023-2024 school year
- 7.8 Motion to appoint Carly Fuga to a long-term substitute position at a prorated salary of

\$40,019 based upon 1st year non-tenured status with a Bachelor's degree plus benefits, retroactive to January 17, 2024 through March 20, 2024

- 7.9 Motion to approve Jeremiah Schroeder and Deborah Ciocca to be day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year at the approved rate of \$20.00/ hour, contingent upon receipt of clearances and pre-employment screenings
- 7.10 Motion to create a Pre-K Program that will consist of hiring one (1) teacher position and one (1) paraprofessional position, effective for the 2024-2025 school year
- 7.11 Motion to create an Instructional Resource Math position for Park Elementary, effective for the 2024-2025 school year
- 7.12 Motion to create a full-time teaching position with a 2024-2025 assignment of 5th Grade at the Middle School
- 7.13 Motion to create two (2) full-time Special Education positions with 2024-2025 assignments at Barrett Elementary
- 7.14 Motion to appoint Catherine Campbell to full-time English Second Language (ESL) position at a prorated salary of \$50,213 based Step 4 status with a Master's degree plus benefits, contingent upon receipt of clearances and pre-employment screenings

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

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

Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Colasante commented on the retirement of Edward Wellman. He also added how he is excited for the PreK program.

Mr. Rojtas shared his excitement for the PreK program.

Mr. Bulger thanked all the retirees and also added that there is a high demand for English Second Language (ESL) certified teachers.

Citizen Comments

Christine Schott congratulated Bryan Macuga on his appointment to Superintendent. She also shared with the public that the Senior High School Musical will be *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* and the show dates are: Thursday, March 14th, Friday, March 15th, Saturday, March 16th at 7:30 PM and Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 PM.

Jim Deutsch commented on the budget and also asked about live streaming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:22 PM