

**Worksession Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Conference Room
July 19, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kubancsek, Vice President, at 7:00 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Bajus, Mrs. Ballas, Mr. Natale, Ms. Youngblood,
Mrs. Kubancsek

Absent: Mr. Ducar, Mr. Olson, Mr. Terrick and Mrs. Cannon

Mr. Ducar and Mr. Olson arrived at 7:02 p.m. and Mr. Terrick arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Also present: Dr. Kinavey, Mrs. Watkins, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Colebank,
Mrs. Borges and Mr. Keesecker

Items on the agenda were discussed. No action was taken.

Board Meeting Minutes

No questions

Financial Management

- Mr. Natale – questions on gutter repairs at the concession stand and payment to Mickey Pavasko. Mr. Keesecker reported that the gutters at the concession stand were damaged over the winter and a bid of \$1900 was received from Mr. Schamus to make the repairs.
- Payment to Mickey Pavasko was questioned. Mr. Keesecker reported that we purchased a small tractor from Mr. Pavasko.
- Mrs. Kubancsek asked about pager bill from American messaging bill for \$33.35. Mr. Colebank reported that we have no pagers and would look into the reason for the bill.

Operations

- Mrs. Ballas asked about money back on investments. None that anyone is aware of.

Co-Curricular Leadership

No questions

Special Assignments

- Mr. Olson stated that any questions on the Steel Center and Southeastern Area School budgets can be referred to him. Voting ballots should be returned to Mr. Cherpak.

Educational Leadership

Mrs. Ballas:

- Reported that the Board members will look over the handbooks for possible corrections. Mr. Colebank reported that many pages were deleted from the handbooks and changes were name and date changes only.

Questioned whether the Barrett staff will be oriented on the Getting Results Plan at Barrett. Mrs. Borges noted that an inservice day in August will be used for orientation for Barrett staff. Mrs. Ballas would like a report.

Asked for a report on our cyber school. Mr. Colebank reported that we started with 44 students using cyber school outside the district and we reduced that number to 34 with our own cyber school.

We also had 116 students taking a single course in our cyber school. We had several families request that their children attend Agora Cyber School. After contacting the parents, only one student will attend Agora and 26 will be using our cyber school.

Asked about charter school. Mr. Colebank reported that a lot of students returned from charter schools to Steel Valley. The cost in 2010-2011 was approximately \$10,580 for a regular education student and \$20,000 for a special education student. With the reduction of staff and our negative fund

balance for the 2011-2012 school year, we should be paying approximately \$7,000 for a regular education student and \$14,000 for a special education student, which would be less than the district will pay in charter school costs.

Asked for an update on the alumni organization. Mr. Terrick reported that he sent an email to Board members on the subject.

Mr. Colebank asked when the Board would entertain field trip requests. He has an 8th grade field trip request for Washington, D.C. The Board asked him to talk with Mr. Cherpak and possibly put it on the August agenda.

Mrs. Ballas asked for a delinquent tax report update. Mr. Fetzko reported he is in the process of sending out 30-day notices and taking people to court. He also has two sheriff sale letters. Mr. Fetzko reported that he is involved in the trials for re-assessment at the Waterfront and asked if they could wait until the end of July for a delinquent tax report.

Questions about several ways to recover delinquent taxes. Mr. Fetzko discussed a vacant lot and Mr. Ducar suggested bringing it to the Board. There was discussion about the West Homestead property where the hillside is caving in. Mr. Fetzko is looking into this matter and a possible deed transfer. He will research it. Restraint used to be the norm and sell all the belongings, but the Federal court found that unconstitutional. Another suggestion was to have the renter pay rent to the district instead of homeowner. Mr. Fetzko said we could look into that. He has an attorney that will focus on delinquent tax collection.

Mr. Bajus suggested taking things off the books that are uncollectable. Mrs. Ballas wants to know what is collectable. We need to collect all that we can.

Mr. Fetzko is looking into suing at the magistrate level for six years of taxes. He would have to find someone who owns the property within a six-year period.

- Mr. Ducar asked for an update on Mr. Fetzko's actions.
- Mr. Natale reported that the boroughs want to fight the assessments together using an independent solicitor. Mr. Natale asked the borough officials to come and talk with the full Board, but none of them showed up tonight.

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman - did we have an assessment hearing on June 28? Mr. Fetzko reported it is July 28 for Macy's. Our assessor came up with an assessment \$2 million under the assessment which means Macy's has already won. Was last week's Capital Improvement meeting about air conditioning, improvements, new pool. There was discussion about opening the pool to the public. What is the name of the tire company? What is the status of the floor at Barrett. Mr. Keesecker and Mr. Ducar reported that they will meet in August and get it taken care of. Is the Getting Results Plan because of the test scores. Mr. Colebank reported that once a school is on warning list, the district is required to complete a plan each year.

Adjournment

The worksession ended at 7:39 p.m. with the board members adjourned into an executive session for the discussion of personnel and legal matters.