

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
March 26, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President, at 7:05 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Bajus, Mrs. Ballas, Mrs. Kiefer, Mr. Olson,
Ms. Youngblood, Mr. Natale and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mr. Ducar and Mr. Terrick

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mrs. Watkins, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Colebank and
Mrs. Borges

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Regis V. Shalley*, former band director at Munhall High School; *William D. Stevens*, father of Roslyn Stulga, elementary art teacher; *Sonny Lomans*, uncle of Colette Youngblood, board member; *Karen Hartz*, former art teacher in the Steel Valley School District; and *Alice "Bette" Palaschak*, mother of Susan Ballas, board member.

Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the purchase of memorial books to be placed into the district libraries in memory of the above departed. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ballas thanked everyone for their expression of sympathy and concern on the recent passing of her mother.

President's Comments

None

Student Representative to the School Board

Ms. Melissa Cerda

Ms. Kristen Moten

- Mrs. Spotti, speech teacher at Barrett Elementary School, was approved for a Great Idea Grant through The Consortium for Public Education. Her class will receive \$2,500 to purchase four iPads, protective covers and apps.
- Barrett families celebrated Read Across America on March 5 with a Title I Family Night. The evening included Dr. Seuss reading activities, trivia, parent discussion groups with the principal and a PTO sponsored book swap. Each student left with a Truffula tree of cotton candy, too.
- Both Barrett Elementary and Park Elementary Schools received a grant from the NFL *Fuel Up to Play 60* program to promote more physical activity and health eating habits at school. The grant will provide pedometers for all staff members to track their walking miles. Each building will purchase a Wii Dance, Dance Revolution game, projector and a fruit smoothie machine for their cafeteria. Recently each school held Milk Mustache Monday to promote drinking milk.
- Today Barrett held its All School Revue entitled *JAZZ: A Swingin' Celebration*. The Barrett PTO is planning a red carpet event to honor student achievement. Report cards will be distributed on April 5.
- The SV Drama Club presented the musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, and all performances were well attended. Former Steel Valley graduate and current actor, Montae Russell, spoke to the Drama Club students on March 19.
- Students in grades 9-11 are preparing for this year's Keystone exams: May 14 Literature; May 15 Algebra; and May 16 Biology.
- The 8th grade students would be taking the PSSAs from April 9-11. Mr. Walsh will meet with the students to discuss the expectations.
- On May 24, all fifth grade students will participate in *Step Up Day at the middle school*.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- High School Principal Mr. Macuga congratulated the Extra Effort Award winners at Steel Center Vo-Tech School for the 2nd quarter of the school

year. Certificates of Recognition were given to Asata Owens for her extra effort in Baking; Ryan Ackerman in the Building Trades; Brittany Taylor in Food Service; and Anthony Romagna in Retail Food Merchandising and Production.

- Mrs. Sharon Fisher, Barrett Elementary School Principal, discussed the collaboration between Point Park University and the school district. Dr. Janice Glunk and her Reading Methods II and Differentiated Reading Instruction students from Point Park have been tutoring 24 fourth grade students at Barrett Elementary School. Next year, they would like to continue the partnership in the primary grades. On behalf of the district, Mr. Wehrer thanked Dr. Glunk for remembering her roots and bringing extra help to our schools.
- Mr. Wehrer recognized Alyson Fisher, Brandi Chalus, Matt Janov and Cindy Deluca for their teamwork in writing the *Fuel Up to Play 60* grant. Both Barrett and Park Elementary Schools received \$5,000 to increase healthy eating choices and physical activity in our schools. The funds will be used to purchase a gaming system, projector, speakers, dance and fitness games. Mrs. Fisher noted that well nourished and active kids can be more successful in school. Barrett Elementary School will hold a Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, April 4, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Families will participate in aerobic activities, such as Zumba and yoga, and healthy snacks will be provide.
- Senior English Teacher Gary Goga discussed the graduation requirements for the Senior Project. Students choose a topic of interest or a career to research. The students participate in job shadowing experiences, write a five-page paper and present their findings in front of the class. Seniors Aarron Garland-Moore, Tyler Kirkland and Leena Zahir were recognized for their outstanding presentations. Aarron researched a career as an orthopedic surgeon; Tyler's presentation focused on a career in photography; and Leena was invited to job shadow at Thorpe Reed law firm. The staff has been impressed with the talent of the senior class.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that Barrett Elementary school would hold a Health and Wellness Fair on April 4. An All School Revue, *JAZZ: A Swingin' Celebration*, was performed at Barrett today.

- The annual Literacy Fair will be held on April 25 starting at 5:00 p.m. in the Senior High School. Parents can register their kindergarten age children for the 2031-2014 school year. Incoming kindergarten students will be given a tour of the Franklin Primary Center.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology

Mr. Colebank:

- Reported that a presentation on Keystone exam results would be conducted at the April 16 worksession.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Mrs. Kathy Ligeros of 210 Elizabeth Street, commented on Item 1.4 pension costs are excessive; asking legislature to reconsider; Item 3.1 games of chance license must be acquired; Mrs. Berchok will return to do the National Honor Society; Item 6.5 the district has always paid one-half of the cost of crossing guards as stated in school code.
- Ms. Donna Dreshman, Munhall, commented on the Solicitor's Report and number of appeals, Mr. Fetzko mentioned five appeals: Eat 'n Park; Shop 'n Save; Scholastic, Guardian and Target, pending appeals are Sandcastle, Eat 'n Park, Lowe's Home Improvement, Town Center, Hampton Inn and Macy's, appeals can still be done until April 1; Item 2.3 is this the original company that put the turf in, the answer-this a one-year maintenance fee; Item 2.4 is this a feasibility study, Mr. Wehrer answered no-it is to look at the physical plant and give us their opinion on a one, five and 10 year capital replacement plan for physical plant, all three reasons are listed; Item 2.6 Donna Dreshman attended the bid opening and asked about the document not provided, the answer is they filled out an affidavit but forgot to notarize; Item 5.1 what will be the first day of school-August 27 transition, 1st, 6th and 9th graders only, June 6 is graduation; June 5 is the last actual student day; Item 5.5 is this a new fund and would this be put into the Foundation fund-the answer is the account is to be used for education and historical field trips and it is not put into the Foundation; Item 6.0 are we hiring relatives; Item 6.5 when was the last time the guards had an increase, and any phone hook up requests?

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Natale seconded the motion to accept the bids from Anthony Barna and Gary Bodnar as presented to perform appraisals for tax assessment appeals pending in the Court of Common Pleas. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Fetzko discussed upcoming appraisals.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2013 worksession meeting and the minutes of February 26, 2013 regular meeting. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for March 2013 in the amount of \$283,629.08
- 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for February 2013 in the amount of \$460,453.48
- 1.1.03 Food Service invoices for March 2013 in the amount of \$43,072.39
- 1.1.04 Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2013
- 1.1.05 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending February 28, 2013
- 1.1.06 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$15,692.08
- 1.1.07 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$140.00
- 1.1.08 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,045.00
- 1.1.09 Band Trip/hand checks in the amount of \$342.00

- 1.2 Exonerate the Homestead, Munhall, and West Homestead tax collectors for year 2012 for uncollected amounts of \$352,920.48, \$1,039,081.92 and \$158,652.66
- 1.3 Authorize payment to Otis Elevator Company in the amount of \$19,615.00 to be paid from the Capital Projects account, for repair of the elevator in the high school
- 1.4 Adopt a resolution urging pension reform
- 1.5 Adopt a resolution calling for Reform of the Commonwealth's Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding Formula

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

Mr. Bajus moved and Mrs. Kiefer seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 The purchase of a John Deere Front Loader in the amount of \$3,668.21
- 2.3 ProGrass LLC to repair and maintain the surface of Campbell Athletic Field at a cost of \$3,800
- 2.4 Retain Integrated Services & Consultants, Inc. at a cost of \$9,200 to (1) to develop a one, five and ten year capital replacement plan, (2) review Steel Valley School District operations for efficiency gains and (3) assist Steel Valley School District in the evaluation of possible Act 39 contracts
- 2.5 Services of Honeywell for ventilation of the team room's equipment space not to exceed \$9,000

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative on Item 2.4 Bajus, Kiefer, Youngblood and Cannon. Motion carried except 2.4 failed.

Ms. Youngblood wants more information on Item 2.4. Mrs. Ballas want to revisit Item 2.4 and Mr. Bajus wants to see the budget before considering Item 2.4.

- 2.6 **Mr. Bajus moved and Mrs. Kiefer seconded the motion to award the bid for the installation of air conditioning in the**

middle school cafeteria, per bid specifications, to be paid from the Capital Projects account.

Upon roll call the following members voted for Honeywell: Bajus, Kiefer, Natale, Cannon and the following members voted for Hruska: Ballas, Olson and Youngblood. Motion failed.

Mr. Natale moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to revote on Item 2.6. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: Kiefer. Motion carried.

Mr. Natale moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to award the bid for the installation of air conditioning in the middle school cafeteria, per bid specifications, to be paid from the Capital Projects account. Upon roll call the following members voted as follows: Honeywell: Bajus, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Hruska: Ballas. Negative: None. Motion carried. Honeywell is awarded the bid.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 3.1 Fundraising requests as presented
- 3.2 Payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2013
- 3.3 Districtwide video services from HUDL at a cost of \$1,695

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

4.0 Special Assignments

Mr. Olson - No update and offered congratulations to the Extra Effort Award winners.

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Adopt the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented
- 5.2 The revised schedule for May 14, 15 and 16, 2013, for the High School Keystone Exams
- 5.3 A delayed start for Barrett Elementary School students on May 9 and 16, 2013, in order to provide professional development for staff on the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
- 5.4 Accept the funds for the *Fuel Up to Play 60* grant from the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association and the H.J. Heinz Foundation in the amount of \$10,000
- 5.5 Accept a \$1,200 donation from Paul Lienhardt to establish a fund to enhance historic educational opportunities for students in the school district
- 5.6 Adopt the 2013-2014 Middle School Academic Handbook
- 5.7 Adopt the 2013-2014 High School Academic Handbook
- 5.8 The donation of a 32" television from Dan and Sue Kinzel for Park Elementary School
- 5.9 The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's 2013-2014 Program of Services Budget totaling \$3,809,028

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

6.0 Personnel Management

Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:

- 6.1 Family medical leave of absence for Susan Wright from April 4, 2012, through May 10, 2013, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- 6.2 Luke Healey and Ashley Levino as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2012-2013 school year at a pay rate of \$90 per day for the first 30 days and \$120 per day beginning with the 31st day, contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- 6.3 Kimberly Devine as substitute staff for the KtO program for the 2012-2013 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances

- 6.4 Adam Mitchell as a volunteer for Boys Volleyball for the 2012-2013 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- 6.5 Pay 50% of the cost for crossing guards in Munhall Borough with an increase to \$10 per hour

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Cannon thanked the crossing guards and appreciates what they do.

Mrs. Ballas stated that her vote on Item 2.6 was not to delay the installation of air conditioning.

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – Item 5.3 Revision was changed from delayed start to 12:30 dismissal and agrees with the pay increase for crossing guards; decision with Franklin – no decision made yet; some date in May is last day district can close Franklin; Item 3.3 video service-providing a service to construct highlight tapes and upload video to a database; is swimming pool running yet – not in operation.
- Ms. Julie Robson- senior at the high school an issue involving the firing of Mr. Francis. Mr. Fetzko cannot talk about personnel; Ms. Robson stated that his job was taken away from him, it was unjust and presented 528 names on a petition to reconsider Mr. Francis getting job back. The Board will consider this in executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by a motion made by Ms. Youngblood seconded by Mrs. Kiefer.