

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
April 23, 2013

An executive session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. for the discussion of legal and/or personnel matters.

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President, at 7:12 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

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

Absent: Mrs. Kiefer and Mr. Terrick (arrived at 7:32 p.m.)

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Marnell, Mr. Colebank,
Mrs. Borges, Mrs. Baughman and Mrs. S. Fisher

Flag Salute

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Ruth Fleming-McAlister*, grandmother of Jill Fleming-Salopek, assistant high school principal; *James W. Law*, brother-in-law of Tammy Law, 2nd grade Park School teacher; *David W. Cotter*; father of Madalyn Cotter, high school freshman and cousin of Jean Kearns, food service; *Mary Ellen Billy*, mother of Brandon Billy, student at Park School; *Robert E. Olson*, uncle of Tom Olson, Board member and Amanda Olson, middle school math teacher; *Gus A. "Bumsey" Piskor*, brother of Donna Kiefer, Board member, and uncle of Donald Packer and Butch McKee, high school custodians; *Robert Johnston*, uncle of Joyce Kornacki, substitute secretary.

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, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Report

Mrs. Cannon:

- Called for a moment of silence for the City of Boston.
- Students from Mrs. Ruffing's and Mrs. Awenowicz's kindergarten classes led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance by speaking and signing. They also sang the ABCs in a new way. They said the letter, made the sound of the letter, signed the letter, and signed an object that starts with that letter. Kindergarten Teacher Jennifer Awenowicz taught the other kindergarten teachers the ABC Phonics program, and they are now incorporating it into their classes as well.

Student Representatives' Reports

Miss Kristen Moten:

- Reported that music education majors from Seton Hill University visited Barrett Elementary School on April 4. This collaboration between Steel Valley and Seton Hill has been ongoing for 12 years to develop positive classroom management techniques prior to their student teaching. Music Teacher Sharon Kampe provided a workshop on classroom management tips from Lee Canter's Assertive discipline and the Positive School Wide Behavior Support program for the Seton Hill students.
- The Barrett PTO hosted a "Red Carpet Event" for students who earned good grades with no discipline referrals.
- Officer Fife from the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission and Homestead Police Officer Meals made a presentation for the Barrett students on the blue bird. Students will participate in decorating special boxes that these birds can use to nest.
- Volunteers from Target read a Dr. Seuss story to the first graders at Barrett.
- The middle school students are taking the PSSA Science exams. Students are being selected for the NFL Hall of Fame field trip with Charlie Batch.
- May is the Middle School Choral Concert in the high school auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The High School Band Concert will be held May 8th.

- Senior Melissa Cerda reported that the safety bug assembly would be held on April 29, and the mock crash would be held on May 7 in conjunction with the prom, which is scheduled for Friday, May 10. These activities are provided to assist students with information to make good decisions.
- High school students will be taking the GRADE assessments April 24-May 3. The AP exams will be given the weeks of May 6 and 13. The Keystone exams will be held May 14, 15 & 16. Finals will be conducted for all students during the week of May 20.
- The Dr. Griffin Senior Awards Banquet will be held on May 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral Center.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- Director of Academics, Information & Technology Mr. Colebank congratulated the Extra Effort Award winners who attend Steel Center Vo-Tech School for the 3rd quarter of the school year. Certificates of Recognition were given to Sara Lombardi for her extra effort in baking; Anthony Cutone for his extra effort in Carpentry; Colby Templeton for his extra effort in Computer Information Systems; and Anthony Romagna for his extra effort in Retail Food Merchandising and Production. This was Anthony's 2nd extra effort award this school year.
- Mr. Colebank reported on the success of the winter sports teams. The Girls Basketball team finished 8-4 in their section and 14-7 overall. The Lady Ironmen advanced to the playoffs. CeCe Dixon was named first Team All Section, Feb 15, Athlete of the Week and Daily News Player of the Week. The girls GPA was 3.5.
- The Boys Basketball team had a successful season after moving up from Class AA to Class AAA. The team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs, but lost a hard fought double overtime in the 1st round game to South Park. Junior Dorian Broadwater was named 2nd Team All Section and Trib Spotlight Athlete of the Week. The team had an overall GPA of 3.3.
- The Boys and Girls swim teams almost doubled their participation from last year. They had a lot of new swimmers with outgoing, positive attitudes. Tim Sablotny, one of our foreign exchange students from Germany, qualified for WPIALs in the 100 breaststroke. The swim team had an overall GPA of 3.6.
- Congratulated a group of Barrett teachers and the counselor for their great idea, *iPads for Speech Students to Improve Classroom Success*. Their proposal was funded by The Consortium for Public Education in the amount

of \$2,500. Certificates of Recognition and pins were presented to Kristie Spotti, Tameka Akins, Maribeth Meals, Sue Wilder, Lori Oleksak and Alyson Fisher.

- Earlier this month, the home of a 2nd grader from Barrett Elementary School caught fire. As the after school math tutoring program was ending, two of our teachers, Sue Wilder and Dr. Carole Policastro, smelled smoke. Both teachers ran into the burning house to look for the family. No one was at home at the time.
- Second grade teacher Jonette Bost is the student's teacher. Ms. Bost comforted the student and the family when they returned to their home. She made sure they had something to eat and gave them gift cards that she had in her wallet. Mr. Wehrer presented the "Steel Valley Angels" with Certificates of Recognition for their bravery and compassion.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that the Steel Valley Literacy fair will be held on April 25 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Senior High School.
- Park School will hold its All-School Revue on May 15 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.
- On May 19, a Prince and Princess Tea is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. This event will benefit the Steel Valley Literacy Team's efforts. Characters from *Beauty and the Beast* will be available for photos with children.
- Celebration in Education will be held on May 22 at Park Elementary School. On May 23, the Park School Band and Choral concert will be held in the high school auditorium at 1:00 p.m.
- The Annual Step-Up day for all fifth grade students will be conducted on May 24 at the Middle School.
- Announced that April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a complex disorder of the brain with so many levels to the disability from slight to severe. Before 1990, the chance of a child having autism was 1 in 2,000. In 2012, it's 1 in 88 and 1 in 55 for boys. Last school year, the school district added a K-2 autistic support class. Next, Mrs. Borges would like to add a sensory room where students can go to de-escalate and calm down. With the donation from Mr. Campbell, we are using iPads in the classroom with the students.

- Mrs. Lori Oleksak, autistic and life skills support teacher, discussed the use of the five iPads in her classroom. Students trace letters on the iPad to increase their fine motor skills. The iPad is used to play learning games, sorting, counting and as a reward. Mrs. Oleksak finds that students are more inclined to use technology to complete tasks. Her presentation showed various students using the iPads and being fully engaged.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Ms. Donna Dreshman - solicitor's report and values and appeals; Item 2.1 what was revised--dates; Item 2.3-ISC deleted because Board wants further discussion; Item 3.1 was revised due to some late submission for fundraising; Item 6.0 Personnel Management and are there any relatives of the Board; Item 6.7 what is the average raise in the contract: first and second year freezes; year three is a 3% increase; Item 6.8 same format and when will the Act 93 contract be finalized.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to accept Anthony Barna's appraisal bid of \$3,500.00 for each appraisal of Office Depot and Amity Square realties located in the Waterfront. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Natale seconded the motion to accept the appraisal bid of Anthony Barna for appraisal of Commercial Net Leasing 130-G-100 (Shop' n Save) for consultation at \$200.00 per hour, and if appraisal needed, not more than \$2,500.00. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ducar moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 worksession meeting and the March 26, 2013 regular meeting. Upon roll call the following members voted

affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Abstain: Ballas on March 19 minutes and Ducar on March 26 minutes. 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 April 2013 in the amount of \$323,781.25
- 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for March 2013 in the amount of \$326,854.30
- 1.1.03 Food Service invoices for April 2013 in the amount of \$37,225.13
- 1.1.04 Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2013
- 1.1.05 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending March 31, 2013
- 1.1.06 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$11,536.29
- 1.1.07 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$1,410.30
- 1.1.08 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,035.00
- 1.1.09 Band Trip/hand checks in the amount of \$2,206.65
- 1.2 Authorize payment from the Capital Projects account to Westmoreland Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$14,291.80, for the electrical upgrade at Park Elementary School.

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

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 The purchase of a Patriot Portable Lift from Aqua Creek products at cost of \$6,000.00
- 2.3 Deleted
- 2.4.1 Award the quote to J.A. Rutter Company to top dress the high school football practice field at a cost of \$3,442.44
- 2.4.2 Award the quote to advanced Turf Solutions to seed and fertilize the high school football practice field at a cost of \$1,132.90

2.4.3 Award the quote to Manny Lopez to deep tine, spread and grade the high school football practice field at a cost of \$4,000.00

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

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 Participation of the high school choir to sing with Foreigner at its May 24 concert at the Carnegie Library of Homestead's Music Hall
- 3.3 The Future is Mine and Mrs. Susan Olsen to participate in the Annual Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center on April 25 & 26, 2013

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

4.0 Special Assignments

None

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 The agreement from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to lease one classroom at Barrett Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year
- 5.2 Adopt a resolution to authorize the Superintendent to sign all contracts, agreement, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and authorize the use of electronic signatures by the Superintendent

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, 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 A family medical leave of absence for Emilee Garcia retroactive to April 9, 2013, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- 6.2 A child rearing leave of absence for Amanda Linder for the 2013-2014 school year
- 6.3.1 Erin Dawso as a day-to-day substitute teacher retroactive to April 22, 2013, for the remainder of the school term
- 6.4 Bradley Pietryga and Kasey Poorman as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2012-2013
- 6.5 Accept the resignation of Calley Lasure from the position of Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach effective immediately
- 6.6 Motion to deny Grievance #3-20-2013 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement as alleged
- 6.7 The collective bargaining agreement between the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association and the Steel Valley Board of School Directors as presented retroactive to July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015
- 6.8 The collective bargaining agreement between the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals and the Steel Valley Board of School Directors as presented retroactive to July 1, 2014
- 6.9 Deny Grievance #12-232 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement as alleged

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Ducar, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: Ducar on 6.9. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – Will Franklin be closed and Mr. Wehrer says not until 2013-14 year because of transition time; Item 5.1 the AIU lease would affect Barrett in the 2013-104 year; swimming pool status and Mr. Wehrer says working on it; Act 93 is close to being ratified; the audit is close; preliminary budget is close; alternative ed will it stay where it is at the Batch Center?

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:08 p.m. by a motion by Ms. Youngblood, seconded by Mr. Natale with the Board members adjourned into an executive session for the discussion of personnel, student and legal matters.