

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
May 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kiefer, President, at 7:00 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Bajus, Mrs. Ballas (via telephone connection), Mrs. Cannon, Mr. Olson, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Yuhus, Ms. Youngblood and Mrs. Kiefer

Absent: Mr. Terrick (arrived 7:30 p.m.)

Also present: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mrs. Borges, Mr. Colebank, Student Representative Brandon Tomasic and Mrs. Watkins

Pledge of Allegiance

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Michael Solomon*, past president, vice president and Board member of the Steel Valley Board of School Directors (1987-2003); *Robert J. Kosko, Sr.*, past president and Board member of the Munhall and Steel Valley School Boards (1971-1977 and 1979-1987); *Denise Baranowski*, retired custodian and wife of Walt Baranowski, high school custodian; *Abraham Chapman*, father of Dale Chapman, former varsity assistant football coach and uncle of Cheryl Chapman, substitute teacher; *Vincent M. Volomino*, grandfather of Sara Sullivan, middle school math teacher; *Margaret Latzy*, mother-in-law of Bonnie Latzy, retired payroll secretary; *Wyaneika J. Latice*, mother of Leslie Hairston's grandchildren, Barrett paraprofessional; *James Taylor*, cousin of Leslie Hairston, Barrett paraprofessional, *Wendon Moon*, cousin of Leslie Hairston, Barrett

paraprofessional; *Barbara Jane Fawcett*, grandmother of Becky O'Shell, 4th grade teacher at Park School.

Ms. Youngblood 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, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board President

Donna Kiefer

- Congratulated the future singing artists who performed at the Park Rock and Roll All School Revue held on April 23. She also reported that the Spring Arts Festival was a great success.

Student Representative's Report

Brandon Tomasic

- Announced that a Kindergarten Round-Up was held to register children for kindergarten on April 16. The western themed event invited kindergartners and their parents to tour Franklin, meet the staff and complete the registration process. The guests enjoyed a snack of trail mix and root beer floats.
- On May 7, a Title I Family Carnival will be held at Barrett Elementary School from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 completed the PSSA Reading and Math assessments at Park and Barrett Elementary Schools. Fourth grade students completed the Science PSSA. Fifth grade students completed the PSSA Writing assessment.
- The Park Elementary School Wide Positive Support Team hosted an Easter egg sale on April 11. Students in grades 1-5 had an opportunity to cash in POWER cards for an Easter treat.
- On April 17, Park Elementary School supported Autism Awareness Month with a 'Blue Out'.
- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held May 2. Twenty-five new students were inducted.

- The annual Mock Crash would be held on May 7. School Resource Officer Dan Boehme will conduct an assembly in the auditorium for the juniors and seniors. The full crash scene will be conducted outside.
- The 2014 Prom will be held May 9 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at Soldiers and Sailors in Oakland. The Promenade will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- Keystone testing will take place May 13-15 in the Senior High School. Finals week is the week of May 19. The History Club leaves for Boston over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Brandon Tomasic discussed the School Board's decision for students to wear uniforms next school year. He pointed out the economic hardship this will place on families, especially a large family such as his. He added that uniforms would not fix the issues our district faces and that wearing a uniform would not change his performance.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- Introduced Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education, who highlighted the gifted support program. Ms. Marguerite Luvara, Middle School gifted support teacher, and the gifted students gave an overview of the conventions they completed in this school year.
- Steel Valley Middle School students placed 3rd at an Equations Tournament recently held at Woodland Hills High School. Steel Valley's team consisted of Robby Vinay, Becky Harhai, Morgan Farrah, Josh Fossick, and Izzie Furrick. The middle school gifted team took 3rd place in the Science Bowl Competition held at the Steel Valley High School. The team included: Kelsey McCafferty, Shannon Hartnett, Terran Moore, Izzie Furrick and Ella Kornacki. Seventh grade student Ella Kornacki placed 2nd in an Art Competition at Gateway Middle School held on April 3. In the Creative Writing competition, Terran Moore placed 1st with his original poem. Students Izzie Furrick and Katie Proof placed 2nd in the 7th grade section of the "Duo Drama" held at Greensburg-Salem Middle School with a selection from "Finding Nemo."
- Mr. Shawn McCallister, Secondary Gifted Support Teacher, highlighted the successes of the high school gifted students through a PowerPoint

- presentation. Steel Valley's gifted team took 1st place in the Creative Convention. The high school gifted students hosted the Middle School Science Bowl. Students have also participated in Robotech, Word Master, CalcuSolve, Geography Bowl, Equations, Chess, Academic Challenge, Propaganda and the Science Bowl.
- The gifted support program exposes students to as much as possible. Students have served as role models for other students while sharing their love of reading with the kindergarten students. Steel Valley alumni have returned as guest speakers discussing various careers options, and job shadowing is available to students.
 - Students have the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school through the College in High School (CHS) course offerings. A new CHS course entitled *Web Design* has been offered to high school students next year. Students also have an opportunity to participate in a dual enrollment program at Community College and other colleges to earn college credits. Next year, Mr. McCallister hopes to have a team compete in the Hometown High Q.
 - Principal Kevin Walsh and Guidance Counselor Alyson Fisher presented an overview of the activities offered during Barrett's After School Program this year. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the student body attended regularly, and 226 out of the 321 students participated in at least one club activity. Barrett partnered with volunteers from the Homestead Presbyterian Church and community members to provide ACTS Reading Tutoring for 1st grade students. Other activities offered were the Nook Club, Teachers Reading Club, App Club, Girls on the Run through Magee Womens Hospital, Lego Club, Dance Team, Strong Women Strong Girls as well as intramural basketball for boys and girls. Mrs. Fisher shared they plan to expand the activities next year to offer a greater academic component, extend the time, increase the club offerings and include dinner.
 - Mr. Ben Lander and Mr. Shawn McCallister volunteered to sponsor the new Robotics Club for high school students this year. This new venture, to build a combat robot, was accomplished by six very committed students. They are Ryan Brown, Thomas Joyce, Sarah Faulds, Michael Kraycar, Chad Navarro and Codell Cutrary. The students designed and built the robot then entered it in the 9th Annual Southwestern Pennsylvania Battle BotsIQ competition held at California University of PA. The Robotics Team competed with 66 other teams and learned a lot in their first competition. They are already designing improvements for next year.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that the Gifted Parent Meeting will be held May 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Senior High School. The Gifted Parent Core Team will be making a presentation.
- A districtwide early dismissal would be held May 6. The staff will participate in professional development in the afternoon.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank:

- Spotlighted the first release of the new Steel Valley website: www.steelvalleysd.org with the public. The website will feature a Student Spotlight, districtwide dates, teachers' blogs, videos in classes and clubs.

Solicitor

No report

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Ms. Abby Caspar, 275 W. Schwab Avenue - Item 5.3 dress code not being enforced now
- Ms. Joyce Kornacki, Emerson Avenue, Dress code – how can you approve dress code without rules; why are you changing entire dress code for 1-2%
- Ms. Kathy Ligeros, 210 E. Elizabeth, Item 2.2 procedure for awarding bids; Item 2.5 – NovaCare in the district, wonderful trainer
- Ms. Donna Dreshman, 3629 Forest Avenue, Item 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4, vote by name for bid awards, Item 5.4 – did anyone know about the trouble at Barrett; is there an elementary assistant principal at Barrett; uniforms – what's the result of survey—majority of students are not in favor, parents equally balanced; discussed enforcing financial problem for families; why are you voting on something that you don't have written.

- Mr. Brandon Tomasic, 218 W. Schwab, Item 6.12 what is the pay rate for this position?

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Terrick moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 24, 2014, and March 27, 2014. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Abstain: Ballas and Youngblood on March 24 minutes. Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

- 1.1 List of bills:
 - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for March 2014 in the amount of \$686,208.45
 - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for March 2014 in the amount of \$750,191.75
 - 1.1.03 Food Service invoices for March 2014 in the amount of \$32,308.19
 - 1.1.04 Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2014
 - 1.1.05 General Fund Revenue Report for March 2014
 - 1.1.06 General Fund Expenditure Report for March 2014
 - 1.1.07 Treasurer's Report for March 2014
 - 1.1.08 Cafeteria Revenue Report for March 2014
 - 1.1.09 Cafeteria Expenditure Report for March 2014
 - 1.1.10 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending March 31, 2014
 - 1.1.11 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$18,512.58
 - 1.1.12 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$16,725.92
 - 1.1.13 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,595.00
 - 1.1.14 Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$455.00
- 1.2 Authorize the proper officers of the district to establish a capital improvements bank account at PSDLAF (PA School District Liquid Asset Fund)
- 1.3 Exonerate the West Homestead tax collector for year 2013 for the uncollected amount of \$120,979.50

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Abstain: Cannon on Item 1.1.13. Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.3 Approve replacement of the high school chiller water tank by Quality Mechanical at their quoted price of \$18,490
- 2.4 Award bid to BFI Waste Services DBA Republic Services for a two-year period beginning 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2016 at prices quoted in their bid
- 2.5 Award the quote to J.A. Rutter Company, Advanced Turf Solutions and Manny Lopez to improve the quality of the band practice field adjacent to Griffin Field and the high school football practice field at a total cost of \$8,647.34
- 2.6 Authorize to seek bids for a four-wheel drive gator-type vehicle with plow
Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Ballas on Item 2.6. Motion carried.

2.2 Mr. Terrick moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to award the bid for security services to the firm of choice AmGard, SSIS or Pittsburgh Protection. Upon roll call the members voted as follows:

- AmGard:** Cannon
- SSIS:** Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer
- Pittsburgh Protection:** None

Motion carried. Negative: None. SSIS is awarded the bid for security services.

2.7 Mr. Terrick moved and Mrs. Steele seconded the motion to negotiate with the Borough of Homestead for a school resource officer. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Ballas and Cannon. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Fundraising requests as presented
- 3.2 Deleted
- 3.3 Field trip request by The Future is Mine students and chaperone Mrs. Olsen to participate in the Annual Conference to be held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center retroactive to April 24-25, 2014
- 3.5 The addition of Middle Schools Boys Volleyball for 2014-2015 school year

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

3.4 Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Terrick seconded the motion to award NovaCare or Allegheny Health Network as the provider of the athletic trainer services. Upon roll call the following members voted as follows:

- NovaCare:** Ballas, Cannon and Olson
- Allegheny Health Network:** Bajus, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer

Motion carried. Negative: None. Allegheny Health Network is awarded the bid as the provider of athletic trainer services.

4.0 Special Assignments

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

- 4.1 Initiate the PSBA Policy Review Services at a cost of \$4,900
- 4.2 Deleted

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

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Revise the 2013-2014 school calendar and designate Monday, March 17, as an Act 80 day; Monday, June 9, as a Professional Development/Wellness Day; and Tuesday, June 10, as a Clerical Day
- 5.2 Three sessions of “Reading for Character” Summer Camp from June 23- July 31
- 5.3 Dress Code – uniforms
- 5.4 The Barrett School Improvement Plan

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Cannon and Olson on Item 5.3. Motion carried.

6.0 Personnel Management

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

- 6.1 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Amanda Linder from a secondary position effective immediately
- 6.2 An intermittent family medical leave of absence for Susan Salapa retroactive to February 7, 2014
- 6.3 Recall Heather Huber to teach one (1) period of Language Arts in the Senior High school at the rate of \$30.00 per period retroactive to March 31, 2014
- 6.4 Authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to grant tenure to Jamie Dolton
- 6.5 To appoint Margaret Lazur to a supplemental position of after school math tutor at the Middle School contingent upon receipt of current clearances, and appoint Brigid Laird to the supplemental position of after school literacy tutor at Park Elementary School, both at the rate of \$20 per hour, Monday-Thursday for 45 minutes per day
- 6.6 Jacob Stout retroactive to April 15, 2014, Ashley Levino and Matthew Hamilton as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate

- 6.7 One (1) additional paid bereavement day for Sara Sullivan on April 23, 2014
- 6.8 Alan Alcalde to the supplemental position of Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach for the 2014-2015 school year
- 6.9 The KtO supplemental positions for the Summer of 2014 and for the 2014-2015 school year as presented
- 6.10 Pre-approve Edward Wehrer to enroll in the Doctor of Education program in Education Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh according to the terms and conditions of the employment contract
- 6.11 Judi Besnak to the 3.75 hour position in the high school cafeteria, retroactive to April 14, 2014, at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 per hour (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement
- 6.12 Full-time custodial position per attached job description
- 6.13 Family medical leave of absence for Sherri Titmus, not to exceed 60 days
- 6.14 Family medical leave of absence for Debbie Woolley, not to exceed 60 days, retroactive to March 24, 2014
- 6.15 Patricia Gera as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- 6.16 Bernadette Cowell as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- 6.17 Theresa Rodgers as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative on Item 6.7: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative on Item 6.12: Ballas. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – Metal detector at Barrett; dress code comments; should have written the uniform policy before voting; swimming pool

- received specs for work, need other specs, will advertise for bids soon;
distributed an editorial from newspaper
- Ms. Kathy Ligeros, 210 Elizabeth Street, did board know the proposal from NovaCare before bid was opened?

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by a motion of Ms. Youngblood, seconded by Mrs. Steele at 9:00 p.m.