

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Senior High School Library**  
**January 30, 2014**

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

Upon roll call the following members were in attendance:

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

Also present: Mr. Wehrer, Mrs. Borges, Mr. Berk, Mr. Fetzko and Mrs. Watkins

Pledge of Allegiance

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Winnie Rodosky*, aunt of Shari Koroly-Fetzko, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Barrett Elementary; *Michael M. Hutnik*, retired high school math teacher; *Sally Buchanan*, mother of Maribeth Meals, teacher at Barrett Elementary School, *Thomas A. Vincent*, retired 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Park Elementary School; *Elva R. Cherep*, retired cafeteria worker and school crossing guard; *Virginia Matthews*, mother of Gary Matthews, retired high school teacher; *Regis J. Wolf*, retired middle school teacher; *Eugene E. Senich*, uncle of Joyce Senich, tutor at Franklin Primary Center; *Carole A. Seddon*, aunt of Nicole and John Strom, reading specialist and assistant high school principal; *Michael E. Kranack*, husband of Patricia Kranack, former high school secretary; *Mary Burk*, grandmother of Coyleen Steele, Board Member; *Jason Sedlak*, 2006 Steel Valley graduate; *Kathleen E. (Marzec) Butler*, retired 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Barrett Elementary School; *Mary Ferchak*, mother of Michaelene and Bob Aber; retired elementary teacher and former Board Member and Ray Ferchak, former Facilities Director; *Elizabeth Geraldine Ford*; grandmother of Loren Ford, Franklin custodian; *Elizabeth Nieman*, aunt of Ellen Sabo, high school secretary; *Diane Monkelis*, sister of Denise Blasko, paraeducator at Park

School and aunt of Michelle Blasko, special education teacher, and K-9 Officer Rocco of the City of Pittsburgh.

**Ms. Youngblood moved and Mr. Terrick 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, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **President's Comments**

Mrs. Kiefer:

- Thanked everyone involved in the All School Holiday Extravanzas at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools, especially Mr. Brad Thompson, elementary music/band teacher.

### **Student Representative to the Board**

Brandon Tomasic:

- Reported that in December at Franklin Primary Center, all the kindergarten students received a tee shirt from Santa. The kindergarten students performed *The Littlest Christmas Tree* in the High School Auditorium on December 18.
- Franklin Primary Center welcomed the Queen of Hearts on January 16 for her monthly visit. The focus was on playing fair. The students enjoyed a variety of games including the Three Legged Race; Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone? and the Spoon Race. The children created their own memory game to take home and play with their families.
- Students at Barrett Elementary School began a new music program entitled, *Glad To Be Alive*, which was developed by Dr. Kay Atman from the University of Pittsburgh. The music is related to character education.
- Students are participating in after school programs, such as, French class, Science, Legos, boys' basketball, intramurals, Strong Women & Strong Girls, Nook Club, Dance Club, Zoo Club, Chess and App Club.
- On December 16, Park Elementary School performed the All School Holiday Extravanza. Both shows were standing room only. A special thanks goes out to the Choral/Band Director Brad Thompson, Choreographer Denise Blasko, and Show Assistant Holli Bobick.

- Elementary staff participated in a Response to Instruction and Intervention refresher on January 14. This professional development was designed to assist with data analysis.
- Ms. Bersamina, Middle School Art Teacher, has started an Art Club for middle school students. The club encourages creativity, expression, and art appreciation in a safe environment.
- Congratulations to Dr. Bethany Fenyus who was nominated for Teacher of the Year.
- Middle school students are selling Ironman cards. Sixth grade students will be attending a math play entitled, *Eureka*, at Carlow University.
- On Friday, January 31, students were recognized by the Challenge Program, which focuses on community service, academic achievement and improvement and attendance. This is the second year for participation by the high school.
- The high school semi-formal dance was held on January 18 at Westwood Golf Club and the theme was *Our Sweet Dreams*.
- This year's high school musical will be *Annie*.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer:

- Announced the changes in the school calendar to make-up the school closings, and he thanked the parents for their patience during these winter months.
- February 11 No Early Dismissal,
- February 14 Student Day
- February 17 Student Day
- April 17 Student Day
- April 21 Student Day
- This year the theme for School Board Recognition Month is *Celebrating our Everyday Heroes*. He recognized the school board members for their service to the children and citizens of the Steel Valley School District. Park School students read poems of appreciation and distributed a framed picture to each school board member. The photo spelled out PARK using items photographed in the Park Elementary School. Principal Lauren Baughman and Teachers Michelle Blasko and Roslyn Stulga assisted the students with their presentation.
- Noted that the district is grateful when folks volunteer to mentor Steel Valley students. He recognized Mr. Wes Lyons for his partnership with

our schools as a mentor. Mr. Lyons is building relationships and setting goals with students at Barrett Elementary School, the Middle School and the Credit Recovery program.

- Interim Principal Melissa Pentin and Teacher Traci Churilla presented the goals of the School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention at the middle school. The program improves academic and behavior outcomes for all students. The Core Team determined that many behavior issues occurred in the hallways last school year. The goal this year is to focus on students in the hallways, and the staff has seen a decline in discipline referrals. Good behavior is rewarded with tickets that students can use in the cafeteria. Teachers also refer students to the Principal's 200 Club.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education**

No report

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology**

Mr. Colebank:

- Announced the middle school students would be taking the PSSA field test in writing. PSSA tests will be underway in March. He encouraged parents to be sure students are attending school, getting adequate rest and eating a proper breakfast.
- The district has provided projectors and screens in all classrooms. SMART Boards will be installed in every elementary Reading classroom K-5.
- Thirty (30) iPads are being introduced to the middle school math students. A new wide color printer has been installed in the CAD class.

### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mr. Terrick moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to adopt the resolution expelling a minor female student.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to deny tax exoneration by Cleft of the Rock Ministries for delinquent realty taxes for the tax years 2002 and 2003 on Block and Lot No. 130-L-50 on the grounds**

**of being an indigent person pursuant to 72 P.S. SC 5511.37, and a request to have a hearing on the matter before the Board of Directors of the Steel Valley School District.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

- Ms. Donna Dreshman comments on Items 1.2, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.3, 4.2 and 5.2.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mrs. Ballas moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the board meeting minutes of November 25, 2013, and December 3, 2013.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **1.0 Financial Management**

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

- 1.0 List of bills:
  - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for December 2013 in the amount of \$692,839.33
  - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for November 2013 in the amount of \$2,089,029.06
  - 1.1.03 General Fund hand checks for December 2013 in the amount of \$780,073.91
  - 1.1.04 Food Service invoices for December 2013 in the amount of \$69,361.80
  - 1.1.05 Payroll Funding Transfers for November and December 2013
  - 1.1.06 General Fund Revenue Report for December 2013
  - 1.1.07 General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2013

- 1.1.08 Treasurer's Report for November 2013
- 1.1.09 Treasurer's Report for December 2013
- 1.1.10 Cafeteria Revenue Reports for December 2013
- 1.1.11 Cafeteria Expenditure Reports for December 2013
- 1.1.12 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending November 30, 2013
- 1.1.13 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending December 31, 2013
- 1.1.14 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$31,764.44
- 1.1.15 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$12,682.99
- 1.1.16 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,492.74
- 1.1.17 Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$43,040.50
- 1.2 Authorize necessary budget transfers for the 2013-2014 school year
- 1.3 Motion to approve the renewal of the district's school leaders' legal liability insurance
- 1.4 Adopt the Act 1 Resolution
- 1.5 Authorize the refunds listed as a result of changes in assessments for a total of \$61,573.63

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

## **2.0 Operations**

**Mr. Terrick moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion to table Item 2.3 (Sharp copiers provide by WPS Solutions).** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Steele, Terrick, Kiefer. Negative: Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson and Youngblood. Motion failed.

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

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 Analysis of constructing a garage/storage building
- 2.3 Sharp copiers provided by WPS Solutions as the service providers for the school district
- 2.4 To solicit bids, if Costar pricing is not available, to replace the heating unit in the Middle School entranceway

- 2.5 To solicit bids if Costar pricing is not available, to replace the main chiller in the High School
- 2.6 To solicit bids if Costar pricing is not available, for the replacement of the boiler and steam traps at Park Elementary School
- 2.7 The Assignment of Agreement Letter from Equitable Energy to UGI Energy Services, LLC

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: On Item 2.3 Bajus, Steele, Terrick and Kiefer. 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 Retroactively, payment in the amount of \$400.00 for the disc jockey services for the semi-formal dance held on January 18, 2014

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

### **4.0 Special Assignments**

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

- 4.1 Hold second reading and adopt revisions to Policy No. 808 Food Services
- 4.2 Hold second reading and adopt new Policy No. 808.1 Lunch Accounts
- 4.3 Hold first reading of new Policy No. 839 Fraud

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: On Item 4.3 Ballas, Cannon and Steele. Motion carried.

### **5.0 Educational Leadership**

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

- 5.1 The donation of \$100.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Houliaras to be used at Park Elementary School
- 5.2 The tuition rate of 1/3 of the amount determined by PDE for the 2014-2015 school year for employee Emilee Garcia's son to be enrolled as a student in Franklin Primary Center and all terms of Policy No. 202
- 5.3 The funds from the PA Department of Education for a Special Education RENEW grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 and authorize officials to execute the contract for services
- 5.4 Revise the 2013-2014 school calendar and designate Friday, February 14, 2014, as a student make-up day and change February 11 to a full day of school

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

## **6.0 Personnel Management**

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

- 6.1 To accept, with regret, the retirement of William Edwards under the provisions of Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year
- 6.2 A family medical leave of absence for Russell Firestone retroactive to January 17, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- 6.3 Deleted
- 6.4 Hope Wright as a part-time long-term substitute special education teacher at Barrett Elementary retroactive to January 2, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014
- 6.5 Kristin Vetro as a long-term substitute special education teacher at Barrett Elementary retroactive to January 2, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a salary prorated upon \$42,683 plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days

- 6.6 Tricia Stoner as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate and retroactive to January 23, 2014
- 6.7 Kristen Antosz and Michael Fastuca as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- 6.8 Two (2) additional paid bereavement days for Lauren Baughman on November 14 and 15, 2013
- 6.9 To accept the resignation of Traci Churilla from the position of 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' volleyball coach
- 6.10 To appoint Erin Dawso to the supplemental position of 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' volleyball coach
- 6.11 Create up to five (5) supplemental positions for an after school literacy program at Park Elementary School
- 6.12 Create a long-term substitute elementary position with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- 6.13 Create a long-term substitute districtwide special education position with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- 6.14 To appoint Amy Lewkowicz to the substitute call-off position at the hourly rate of \$7.25 per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective February 3, 2014
- 6.15 Ashley Hanley 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 Jennifer Weis 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 Deny Grievance 2013.12.01 received from the Secretarial/Aide Educational Support Personnel Association
- 6.18 Deny Grievance 2013.12.02 received from the Secretarial/Aide Educational Support Personnel Association
- 6.19 Accept the resignation of Carol Chontos from the position of high school custodian
- 6.20 To appoint Quy Van Nguyen as a full-time districtwide custodian as per the collective bargaining agreement

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative on

Item 6.8: Ballas, Cannon, Natale, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Motion carried and Item 6.8 failed.

**Mr. Terrick moved and Mr. Olson regretfully accepted the resignation of Vince Natale from the Board of School Directors effective January 31, 2014.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Youngblood and Kiefer. Abstain: Natale. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### Citizens Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by a motion of Mr. Bajus, seconded by Ms. Youngblood.