

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
March 27, 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, Mrs. Cannon, Mr. Olson,
Mrs. Steele, Mr. Terrick, Mrs. Yuhas, Ms. Youngblood
and Mrs. Kiefer

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Acknowledgements

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Pauline M. Vitulli*, mother of Susan Salapa, middle school teacher and grandmother of David Salapa, high school senior; *Albert T. Salapa*, brother-in-law of Kathy Salapa, food service worker and uncle of Susan Salapa, middle school teacher; *George "Porky" Chedwick*, graduate of Munhall High School, former announcer of Munhall football games at West Field; *Lawrence M. Rettger*, uncle of Brigid Laird, Park Reading Tutor and *Jerry Vernon*, former maintenance worker.

Ms. Youngblood moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to approve a selection of 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, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Presentation on Interest Rate Swaps

- Mr. Randy Frederick of Piper Jaffray described the types of interest rate swaps, and he reported that the district has made money over the years. Mr. Wehrer believes that the swaps are unwise and uncertain, and he recommended that the Board terminate the swaps. Mr. Shawn Giran distributed a resolution to formalize a decision to terminate the swaps with Deutsch Bank and the Bank of America at a cost of not more than \$150,000.

President's Report

Mrs. Donna Kiefer:

- Reported that she would be enforcing a three-minute comment period for each resident.

Student Representative's Report

Brandon Tomasic:

- Reported that middle school students would complete the Reading and Math PSSAs on March 25, 26, 27, 31 and April 1 and 2. Middle school students will have an early dismissal on March 25 and April 2.
- Eighth grade students will complete the PSSA Writing assessment on April 8, 9 and 10, and the PSSA Science on April 29 and 30.
- At the high school, Guidance Counselor Mr. Novak provided students with the 2014-2015 Academic Handbook and Course Selection sheets to choose their classes for next school year. Additional courses available in the high school next year will be: Mandarin Chinese, Civics College in High School, Web Design Gaming through the Ages, Journalism and Earth Space.
- Spring sports began last week for Boys Baseball, Boys Volleyball and Girls Softball. Report cards will be distributed on Friday, April 4.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- Announced that Dr. Lynn Yanyo, Steel Valley Class of 1977, would be the 2014 Commencement speaker. Dr. Yanyo has a Ph.D. in Polymer Science and she is the holder of eight US patents. Currently she is the

- President at DeNovo Ground in Cary, NC.
- Middle School Principal Ms. Melissa Pentin reported that she is working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh (BBBSPGH) to initiate a mentoring program for middle school students. Ms. Amanda Sable of BBBSPGH stated that Eat n' Park Hospitality Group would launch a Workplace Mentoring Program during the 2014-2015 school year with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, and the Steel Valley Middle School has been identified as a partner. Students would be matched in a one-to-one relationship with mentors from Eat n' Park, and they would meet once a week over a three-year period. Ms. Sable reported that students who participate in Workplace Mentoring for a full school year or longer report increased academic performance, improved confidence in school, reduced truancy and higher educational aspirations.
 - Ms. Marguerite Luvara, Middle School Gifted Teacher, announced that on March 4 one of the Middle School Gifted Teams took 3rd place in the Middle School Science Bowl competition that was held in the Steel Valley High School library. Middle School Student Izzie Furrick reported that the competition consisted of four rounds: Picture This, Pictionary, a written test and the buzzer round. Team participants were Kelsey McCafferty, Shannon Hartnett, Terran Moore, Izzie Furrick and Ella Kornacki. Their hard work, weekend study groups and class time resulted in the second win this year for the middle school gifted students.
 - Mr. Shawn McCallister reported that the high school gifted students created and hosted the Science Bowl competition for the middle school teams. In an earlier competition, the Middle School Gifted team comprised of Robby Vinay, Becky Harhai, Morgan Farrah, Josh Fossick and Izzie Furrick placed 3rd in the Equations tournament. They competed against seven other middle schools in Allegheny County. Upcoming gifted competitions include Art, Propaganda, English Festival and Writing.
 - Mr. Macuga reported that our high school student athletes and fans represent the school district very well at activities and games. Athletic/Activities Director Shawn McCallister congratulated Junior Betsy Novotny who was invited to audition and then participated in the PMEA District I Choir Festival hosted by the Shaler Area School District on January 8-10. The festival showcased 180 talented vocalists from 52 different southwestern Pennsylvania school districts.
 - Mr. McCallister presented Certificates of Recognition to student representatives from the following teams and clubs: Steel Valley Drama

Club, Varsity Boys Basketball Team, Varsity Girls Basketball Team, Girls Swim Team, Boys Swim Team and the Cheerleading Squad.

- Senior Joseph Yano auditioned and was selected to the PMEA Region I State Band, and performed in Hershey this week. Joe also performed in the District Band Festival and was selected as one of the top ten students. He plays the bassoon. Senior Corey Pinkerton has been selected to play in the Football Coaches Club East West Game in May.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that the PASA alternate assessments have been completed by our special needs students.
- Kennywood Ride All Day passes will be on sale in all buildings on April 14. A districtwide early dismissal for all students will be held on Tuesday, May 6. Staff will participate in professional development in the afternoon.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank:

- Announced that all students have received course selection sheets; the staff will input schedule selections next week.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Mrs. Kathy Ligeros, 210 Elizabeth Street, asked about cafeteria revenue report, good time to get out of swaps, Tremco agreement – not listed on statewide contracts, calendar, - check with West Mifflin about their graduation date next year.
- Ms. Donna Dreshman, March 10 special meeting - what was approved, Item #1.8 - how much does the swap bring into the district. \$42,000 last year. Item 1.4 - not exonerating the West Homestead tax collector; Item 2.2 is there AC in the high school gym; Item 2.3 – where to build the structure.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to file an assessment appeal as to the tax exemption status of realty designated as 130-P-45 and 130-G-288. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Cannon moved and Mrs. Steele seconded the motion to approve the board meeting minutes of February 21, 2014, February 24, 2014, February 27, 2014 and March 10, 2014. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. 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 February 2014 in the amount of \$558,934.30
 - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for February 2014 in the amount of \$397,830.90
 - 1.1.03 Food Service invoices for February 20154 in the amount of \$10,191.05
 - 1.1.04 Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2014
 - 1.1.05 General Fund Revenue Report for February 2014
 - 1.1.06 General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2014
 - 1.1.07 Treasurer's Report for February 2014
 - 1.1.08 Cafeteria Revenue Report for February 2014
 - 1.1.09 Cafeteria Expenditure Report for February 2014
 - 1.1.10 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending 2/28/14
 - 1.1.11 Custodian/hand checks in the amount of \$24,192.10

- 1.1.12 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$24,364.75
- 1.1.13 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$450.00
- 1.1.14 Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$12,578.00
- 1.2 Accept the Single Audit of 2013 from Maher Duessel
- 1.3 Authorize a real estate refund in the amount of \$1,378.17 as a result of a change in assessment to Tina Thompson for Lot & Block 130-R-276
- 1.4 Exonerate the Homestead and Munhall tax collectors for year 2013 for uncollected amounts of \$277,077.60 and \$978,468.41, respectively
- 1.5 Authorize necessary budget transfers for the 2013-14 school year
- 1.6 Deleted
- 1.7 Award bid for three real estate appraisals to Gary Bodnar in the amount of \$8,600.00 for upcoming assessment hearings
- 1.8 Adopt resolution to terminate interest rate swaps
- 1.9 Authorize the business office to create a district bank account to be used for eBay transactions

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhus, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Terrick on Item 1.8. Motion carried.

Discussion to table Item 1.8 (Interest Rate Swap Proposal) for more information. Motion failed for lack of a second.

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Approve facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 Authorize obtaining bid specifications for installation of air conditioning in the high school gymnasium
- 2.3 Authorize the preparation of bid specifications and bidding for a maintenance building to house vehicles and other equipment. Bid specifications to be prepared by Ed Smith of Smith Steel Buildings at a cost of \$300.00, and the cost of the project will be paid from the capital projects fund
- 2.4 Deleted
- 2.5 Deleted
- 2.6 Deleted

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

2.7 Mr. Terrick moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion to put out for bid the high school chiller tank replacement. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Ballas, Cannon and Olson. Motion carried.

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

3.1 Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve fundraising requests as presented. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

3.2 Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Terrick seconded the motion to table the field trip request by the JV/Varsity Boys Basketball Teams to Orlando, Florida, to attend the KSA Basketball Tournament on December 17-21, 2014, at no cost to the district. There was discussion on the motion.

Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Terrick seconded to revise the motion to approve the field trip if employees use personal days to take the trip. There was discussion on the motion.

Mrs. Steele moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion to table the above motion. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Ballas, Cannon and Olson. Motion was tabled.

4.0 Special Assignments

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

4.1 Recognize Vince Natale for his six consecutive years of service on the

Steel Valley Board of School Directors

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 The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's 2014-2015 Program of Services Budget totaling \$4,088,563

5.2 The sale of unused typewriters and stenograph equipment on eBay or other means; if any of that equipment is not sold it may be disposed of

5.3 Adopt the 2014-2015 official school calendar as presented

5.4 A partnership with the Workplace Mentoring Program with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh and Eat n' Park Hospitality Group beginning with the 2014-2015 school year

5.5 Deleted

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

A Co-Curricular Leadership committee meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 31, 2014. Mrs. Ballas noted that school uniforms will be discussed at the next meeting.

6.0 Personnel Management

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

6.1 Appoint Mr. John A. Zenone as Director of Operations/Board Secretary/Right-to-Know Officer/Business Manager for a term of four years at the starting base salary of \$106,000.00, contingent upon Mr. Zenone receiving the required clearances and passing the required drug screen

- 6.2 Accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Janet Doyle under the provisions of Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year
- 6.3 Appoint Ms. Amy Selick as a long-term substitute special education teacher at Barrett Elementary retroactive to March 10, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a prorated salary of \$42,683 plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of the Act 151 clearance and passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- 6.4 Appoint Dianne Furnival as a long-term substitute elementary teacher prorated upon Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary (\$42,683) with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to February 24, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- 6.5 Appoint Melissa Pentin to the position of Middle School Principal at a salary of \$68,000 and all benefits according to the Act 93 Agreement effective March 28, 2014
- 6.6 A family medical leave of absence for Mrs. Nicole Strom effective March 31, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- 6.7 Meagan O'Toole's request for a Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development for the 2014-2015 school year per the provisions of Article XV of the collective bargaining agreement and Policy No. 831
- 6.8 Heather Huber to the KtO Reading tutor position retroactive to March 10, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a rate of \$20.00 per hour for 5.5 hours per day and no benefits
- 6.8.1 Create three (3) after school math tutor supplemental positions for the middle school
- 6.9 Lauren Steffan, Brittany Bauccio and Matthew Arcure as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- 6.10 Permit the Administration to designate up to eight (8) substitute teachers per week as district substitutes for daily substitute needs for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year
- 6.11 Ranada Estes 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: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – SVEA teacher’s negotiations, calendar for next school year; policy on which employees can break up a fight, roof leak at Park; new operations director, 60 days after he signs contract, hopes you are not answering questions because you are hiding something
- Mrs. Michele Sniegocki – Thanks for approving Gridiron fundraising, who is Mr. Yaklich, right-to-know request not answered, after 30 days no answer, it was denied.
- Ms. Abigail Caspar – pool maintenance report not available, work in progress, expect it in two weeks
- Ms. Trudi Pinkerton Zeiler – Thank you
- Ms. Kathy Ligeros – Mr. Berk, interim business manager; letter from Mr. Yaklich to track tasks for one month; how did Mr. Berk get let go; don’t discuss personnel matters and he was given two weeks notice.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. by a motion of Mr. Terrick seconded by Ms. Youngblood.