

Worksession Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Conference Room
September 20, 2011

Mrs. Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

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

Absent: Mr. Terrick

Also Present: Dr. Kinavey, Mrs. Watkins, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Colebank, Mrs. Borges and Mr. Keesecker

Items on the agenda were discussed. No action was taken.

Minutes

No questions

Financial Management

- Mr. Natale questioned possibility of purchasing textbooks out of capital projects funds. Mr. Fetzko stated that consumables cannot come out of capital projects.
- Questioned bills for Bob's Auditorium and Listak's Gulf.
- Questioned bills for Sonny's Tree Service and Jeanne Vargo. Mr. Fetzko advised the Board that checks be made out to the company Sonny's Tree Service and not the individual owner.
- Mrs. Ballas asked if the prices for the current plumber are similar to the previous one.
- Mrs. Ballas questioned the Propel School bill for \$360,348.27 for a 2-month period paid out to 5 schools.
- Mrs. Ballas questioned the UPMC bill for \$2,000 for ebenefits. She would like Mr. Cherpak to look into canceling this contract.

Mr. Terrick arrived at 7:21 p.m.

Citizen Comments

- Mrs. Fleming-Salopek questioned the unemployment process and the inconsistencies. Mrs. Cannon read Mr. Cherpak's update on unemployment compensation. Mrs. Fleming-Salopek asked the district to contact unemployment tomorrow to expedite the teachers' claims. Mr. Fetzko advised the district not to send a representative to future appeal hearings.
- Mrs. Fleming-Salopek questioned if there is a fund balance. Mr. Terrick responded that there is no fund balance. The district is using \$500,000 to bring back staff members.
- Discussion about real estate tax appeals. Mr. Fetzko noted that businesses that appeal get a 16% reduction.

Financial Management

- Mrs. Kubancsek questioned the Trident Power invoice.
- Mr. Fetzko requested that the Board pull Item 1.3 and then discussed the TIF tax appeals process. Title 53, the local tax law states the district must pay interest one year after it's due. Title 72 states 10% after a length of time but not sure of its applicability. Item 1.3 was pulled from the agenda.
- Mr. Fetzko will file a complaint on the TIF determination.
- Mrs. Cannon asked if the administrators' contracts state that they must be reimbursed for travel.
- Mrs. Cannon questioned how does the Board find out who is paid overtime. She wants to know when employees are getting paid overtime.

Citizen Comments

- Mr. Mickey Pavasko, President of Support Personnel Union, stated that there are currently only 9 custodians working in the district. He referred to a study conducted in 2003 that stated the district needs 12.3 custodians for the middle school and high school only. He stated that the children deserve a clean environment and that the district is understaffed.
- Mrs. Cannon expressed her concern for all employee groups, and she reiterated that the Board is not picking on the custodians. She added that these are hard times.

Operations

- Mr. Ducar questioned whether we had to spend the money to do a land survey. The Board decided to pull Item 2.2.
- Mr. Natale questioned Item 2.1. Discussed the hockey group using Franklin playground. The district does not have the staff to make repairs to fence and/or broken windows. Permit No. 4035 was pulled for further discussion of other options.

Co-Curricular Leadership

- Dr. Kinavey questioned the Park PTO Steeler Block Pool fundraising request. Mr. Fetzko advised the Board to have the PTO get a small games of chance license to hold this fundraiser.

Special Assignments

No questions

Educational Leadership

No questions

- Mr. Colebank thanked Mrs. Ballas for holding the Educational Leadership Committee meeting this month. It was very productive.
- At the September 27 board meeting, Dr. Kinavey, Mr. Colebank and Mrs. Borges will present the PSSA assessments to the Board.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mr. Natale seconded a motion to adjourn the worksession meeting. The meeting ended at 8:53 p.m. with the board members adjourned into an executive session for the discussion of personnel and legal matters.