

**Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
September 24, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President, at 7:10 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

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

Absent: Mr. Ducar

Also present: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Colebank, 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: *Shirley Pido*, mother of Holli Bobick, Park School paraeducator, and sister of Joy Kardos, former food service supervisor; *William J. Bevan*, great grandfather of Dierdre Kamauf, kindergarten teacher; *Joseph A. Chuba*, former teacher at Homestead High School where he was also the assistant football and basketball coach; *Robert P. Rochford*, husband of retired teacher Cathy Rochford.

Mr. Natale moved and Mrs. Kiefer 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, Kiefer, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

President's Comments

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer:

- Introduced Mrs. Toni Besh, World Language Department Head, to discuss the new Mandarin Chinese course offered at school. Eighteen high school students attending the virtual classroom Monday through Thursday via satellite from the A.W. Beattie Institute in the North Hills. Mrs. Besh stated that it is a difficult language, but the students are up for the challenge and feel it is a great opportunity.
- The Allegheny County Department of Public Works closed Homestead-Duquesne Road between Franklin Street and Duquesne Avenue to vehicle traffic effective September 12. Foot traffic will be permitted up until the actual work begins, which is expected to start on October 15 and will last approximately three weeks. The road will be closed to foot and vehicle traffic during construction.
- Our band competed at Elizabeth Forward this past week, and they received a score of 76.4. This score puts the band in 2nd place out of 26 bands along the East Coast. We wish the band good luck this weekend at Baldwin.
- High School Science Teacher Sue Olsen submitted applications for 12 junior students to participate in the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute.
- We have four (4) students taking a Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) at Brown University, which is an Ivy League school. The course is three weeks long, and it is designed specifically for high school students considering engineering. The students are: Brittany Furlong, Layla Phouthavong, Ajan Smith and Milan Star.

Student Representative Report

Mr. Brandon Tomasic:

- Dr. Kay Atman from the University of Pittsburgh introduced a music program based on character education for the students at Barrett Elementary School.

- The 4th and 5th grade girls from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools will be attending a Pitt Women's Basketball game in early November. The 5th grade students from Barrett Elementary School are preparing for a field trip to Providence Plantation located in Ellwood City, and the National Character Education Foundation will provide financial assistance.
- Principal Kevin Walsh will attend an ASSET training program on elementary science.
- The 5th grade safety patrol captains at Park School are Ben Votedian, Anthony Perry, Alayja Owens and Kamryn Blasko.
- Park School held its *Park Power Kickoff* with Mr. John Pritikin telling his amazing story of how he overcame being bullied as a child. They also held an Officer Phil assembly on safety.
- On October 12, the students and staff of Park School are participating in a Mini-Walk-A-thon to benefit pediatric cancer. The walk will take place at Griffin Field adjacent to the Senior High School at 9:30 a.m.
- Middle School students will participate in an anti-bullying program conducted by the school psychologist, and the 6th grade students will work with counselors from the Allegheny Children's Initiative learning social skills and how to deal with peer pressure.
- In the high school, a class in Mandarin Chinese began for the first time. Students from Point Park University are tutoring students after school in math, language arts and social studies.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Ed Report

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that students would be dismissed early on Tuesday, October 8, to allow for a professional development opportunity for the staff.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank:

- Noted that the district would be conducting AlertNow test calls to parents and guardians to update phone numbers in the student management system.

- Progress reports will be distributed in the next few weeks.
- Reported that 32 secondary students are enrolled in the Steel Valley Cyber School using Edmentum by Plato, which is a more in depth study using pretests, skill building and then mastery tests.

Mrs. Cannon moved and Mr. Natale seconded the motion to table the addendum to the Superintendent's contract and also Item 2.5 (Payment to Munhall Borough for raincoats and vest for crossing guards). Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – Superintendent hospitalization, medical benefits spouse, course tuition and June 7, 2012

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Natale moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion and pursuant to the request of Allegheny County under section 53 PS §7108.1, entitled donation of property subject to claim for taxes, that the solicitor is authorized to respond to Allegheny County that the School District will participate through the Solicitor in the negotiations for the donations of realty designated as 179-N-25, and the Solicitor is authorized to agree on behalf of the School District to extinguish any existing liens on said realty pursuant to 53 P.S. §7108.1 (b). Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Natale moved and Ms. Youngblood seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2013, August 13,

2013, and August 23, 2013. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Kiefer, Olson, Terrick, Youngblood, Natale and Cannon. Abstain: Cannon on August 6. Negative: None. Motion carried.

1.0 Financial Management

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

1.1 List of bills:

- 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$36,573.32
 - 1.1.02 General Fund invoices for August 2013 in the amount of \$399,215.28
 - 1.1.03 General Fund hand checks for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$91,601.99
 - 1.1.04 General Fund hand checks for August 2013 in the amount of \$227,781.43
 - 1.1.05 Food Service invoices for August 2013 on the amount of \$20,878.04
 - 1.1.06 Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2013
 - 1.1.07 General Fund Revenue Report for July 2013
 - 1.1.08 General Fund Expenditure Report for July 2013
 - 1.1.09 General Fund Revenue Report for August 2013
 - 1.1.10 General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2013
 - 1.1.11 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending August 21, 2013
 - 1.1.12 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$6,495.41
 - 1.1.13 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$148.83
 - 1.1.14 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,305.00
 - 1.1.15 Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$795.60
- 1.2 Tom Olson as the treasurer for the school district
 - 1.3 PNC Bank as the depository for the district for the 2013-2014 school year
 - 1.4 Kristen Van Strien to assist the district in the e-Rate application for year 2014 at an estimated cost of \$4,000
 - 1.5 Purchase of vacant properties adjacent to Barrett Elementary School through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program
 - 1.6 Necessary budget transfers for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

Abstain: Kiefer on Items 1.07, 1.08, 1.09, 1.10; Olson on Item 1.2 and Natale on Item 1.3. Negative: None. Motion carried.

2.0 Operations

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

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 The soliciting of bids to replace the remainder of the middle school/high school roof to be paid from the capital project account
- 2.3 The repainting of lines and purchasing new nets for the tennis courts
- 2.4 Authorize district officials to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the school district and the three boroughs effective 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.
- 2.6 Award electrical installation of the Pavilion to Canova Electrical Contracting, Inc. per specifications, to be paid from capital projects

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

3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- 3.1 Fundraising requests as presented
- 3.2 The 8th Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C. on May 8-10, 2014, at no cost to the district
- 3.3 The History Club Field Trip to Boston, MA, and West Point, NY on May 24-25, 2014, at no cost to the district

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

4.0 Special Assignments

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

- 4.1 Hold 2nd reading and adopt revisions to Policy No. 123 Interscholastic Athletics
- 4.2 Elect the following PSBA officers: President-elect: Mark Miller Vice-President Larry Breech; Treasurer Otto Voit; At-Large Representative Dan O'Keefe

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

5.0 Educational Leadership

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

- 5.1 Adopt the School Emergency Operations Plan for emergencies and disasters occurring within the Steel Valley School District
- 5.2 Deleted
- 5.3 The 2013-2014 Education Plan as presented by the Superintendent

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

6.0 Personnel Management

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

- 6.1 Accept, with regret, the resignation of David Krakoff effective immediately
- 6.2 Appoint Douglas Broglie to the position of Interim Middle school Principal retroactive to September 9, 2013
- 6.3 Rachelle Bersamina as a half-time, long-term substitute art teacher for the duration of Mrs. Linder's leave of absence at a

prorated salary on Master's Step 1 and prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 11, 2013

- 6.4 Appoint Toni Besh to the Mandarin Chinese supplemental position for the 2013-2014 school year retroactive to September 16, 2013
- 6.5 Brittany Boker, Briana Nasson, Hope Wright, Tayler Hammell, Jeffrey Pingor and Garrett Mackenzie as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances at the approved daily rate and retroactive to August 27, 2013
- 6.6 Accept, with regret, the resignation of furloughed secretary Ellen Mooney from the position as part-time secretary in the middle school office, retroactive to January 2, 2013
- 6.7 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Stephen Thompkins as a districtwide paraeducator retroactive to September 9, 2013
- 6.8 Appoint Mary Jo Craycraft as a districtwide paraeducator at a rate of \$7.25 per hour and fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances which must be completed within 30 days retroactive to September 16, 2013
- 6.9 Appoint Virginia Franklin to the position of general worker in the Barrett and Franklin cafeterias, 4.5 hours per days, at the 90-day probationary rate of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 9, 2013
- 6.10 Create a part-time cafeteria aide position (2 hours per day for 180 days) at Park Elementary School, at \$7.25 per hour with all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement
- 6.11 Approve a family medical leave of absence for Audrey Titmus, high school cafeteria worker, retroactive to September 9, 2013, not to exceed 60 days
- 6.12 Approve a family medical leave of absence for Michael Mulligan, high school custodian, retroactive to September 23, 2013, not to exceed 60 days

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

Citizen Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman – nets tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pool, time to answer, right-to-know, and will asset to building.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.