

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Senior High School Auditorium**  
**January 23, 2007**

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon at 7:30 p.m.

Upon roll call the following were present:

Mr. Ducar, Mrs. Fedor, Mr. Heddleston, Mr. Edward  
McCallister, Mr. Tim mcCallister, Mrs. Sloan,  
Mrs. Terrick and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mrs. Kubancsek

Also present: Dr. Kinavey, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Bichko, Mrs. Borges,  
Ms. Policastro, Ms. Fenyus, Mr. Keesecker

An executive session was held to discuss legal/personnel items at 7:32 p.m.

Executive session ended at 7:38 p.m.

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

**Acknowledgements**

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Mrs. Geraldine Palmieri*, Business Education teacher at the Senior High School; *Mr. James Guy*, husband of former Board Member Robin Guy; *Mr. Kevin Harrison*, Steel Valley student; *Mrs. Thelma Rice*, former West Homestead Board Member and aunt of Kim Watkins, Superintendent's secretary; *Mr. Al Lesutis*, Middle School Technology Education teacher; *Mrs. Janet Luvara*, mother of Marguerite Luvvara, High School English teacher; *Mrs. Pauline M. Pushcar*, mother of Rita Slava, retired Barrett teacher.

**Mrs. Sloan moved and Mr. Edward McCallister 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: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Citizens Comments on Agenda Items**

- Mick Pavasko questioned revenue and cafeteria fund budget
- Ray Ruffing commented on Item 3.5 (St. Therese's students' participation in spring 2007 Steel Valley Athletic Program for sports not offered at St. Therese).
- Dave Weir commented on Item 3.5
- MaryLou McConnell commented on Item 4.1 (first reading of revisions to Policy No. 140, No. 140.1 and 140.2 (Parent involvement))

### **President's Comments**

Mrs. Cannon:

- Commented on a mural located on the high school building, donated by David Conrad.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kinavey:

- Noted that January is School Director Recognition Month and wanted to thank Beth Cannon, President, Joseph Ducar, Colleen Fedor, Brian Heddleston, Kimberly Kubancsek, Vice President, Edward McCallister, Timothy McCallister, Martha Sloan and Pamela Terrick, the Steel Valley School District Board Members, for their outstanding service to the children and citizens of the district.
- The theme this year is "Creating Opportunity and Inspiring Dreams" and some of the opportunities the Board has created are the Dual Enrollment Program, Work to Career Study Program, new PSSA courses at the Middle School and Senior

High School as well as tutoring programs throughout all schools in the district.

### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mr. Ducar moved and Mr. Edward McCallister seconded the motion to adopt the resolution expelling a minor male student for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and the first semester of the 2007-08 school year.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report**

Mrs. Borges:

- Reported that the district has been awarded two grants. The first is a \$58,440 Pennsylvania Department of Education special education grant to enhance school based behavioral health services for students. Steel Valley has also received a \$10,000 grant to improve effective inclusive practices for the 2006-07 school year.

### **Director of Secondary Education Report**

Ms. Fenyus:

- Noted that the following Steel Valley teachers have been selected as nominees for the Teacher Excellence Program: Bryan Macuga, Brian Bungard, Steve Signer, Sara Bouton, Hampton Conway, Toni Besh, Ryan Dunmire, Yvonne Smid, Traci Churilla, Christina Levkus, James Dauray, William Seaman, Jennifer Williams
- Congratulations to Sharon Ellis and Susan Olsen, Steel Valley High School teachers, who have been inducted into the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers.

- A Memorial Scholarship is being established in the name of Mrs. Geraldine Palmieri. This scholarship will be awarded to a student studying business or technology education.
- The district would like to recognize the following Steel Valley Alumni and their unique contribution or specialty: Mr. Ed Piskor who recently illustrated the book Macedonia; Mr. Jim Tamsula who became the San Francisco Forty-Niner's Football Team Line Coach; Mr. Tony Bonacorso, a featured hockey player at Arizona State University, who has been selected to play for Team USA at the World University Games in Torino, Italy
- Congratulations to the Steel Valley Middle School on their Keystone Achievement Award.

### **Director of Elementary Education Report**

Ms. Policastro:

- Reported on the consecutive Keystone Achievement Awards for Park Elementary School. Park Elementary has been receiving these awards since 2003.

### **Board Secretary's Report**

Mr. Bichko:

- Reported on architect's and plumbing invoices.

### **Student Representatives' Report**

- Grades 8 through 11 have been practicing for the upcoming PSSA writing tests that will be taken on February 12-23, 2007.
- Middle School students utilizing the Study Island Program have surpassed their goal of answering 500,000 questions. This program is used in PSSA test preparation classes.
- Middle School Principal, Mr. Kevin Walsh, will be showing "Smart Boards" presentation at the February Board meeting.

## Meeting Minutes

**Mr. Tim McCallister moved and Mr. Ducar seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 28, 2006 worksession meeting, December 5, 2006 re-organization meeting, December 5, 2006 regular meeting, December 11, 2006 re-convened re-organization meeting, and the December 11, 2006 special meeting.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar (negative on December 11, 2006 meetings) Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister (abstain on December 11, 2006 meetings, Tim McCallister (abstain on December 5, 2006 meetings), Sloan, Terrick, and Cannon. Motion carried.

## Financial Management

**Mrs. Sloan moved and Mr. Ducar seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- General Fund hand checks for November 2006 in the amount of \$274,387.23
- General Fund hand checks for December 2006 in the amount to \$782,344.28
- General Fund invoices for December 2006 in the amount of \$575,422.37
- Payroll Funding Transfers for December 2006
- Food Service invoices n the amount of \$63,166.13
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending December 31, 2006
- Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending December 31, 2006
- Custodial invoices in the amount of \$398.39
- Band Trip invoices in the amount of \$775.20
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$14,433.01
- Band Trip/Hand Checks \$492.65
- Middle school/Hand Checks in the amount of \$1,680.30
- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$16,399.32

- Authorize Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Kenneth & Loretta Weir in the amount of \$254.02
- Authorize West Homestead Borough real estate tax refunds to Frank & Dina Urda in the amounts of \$398.65 and \$331.90 for a total amount of \$730.55
- Authorize West Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Helen Kalansky-Buchko in the amount of \$12.50
- Authorize West Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Park Corporation in the amount of \$1,804.11
- Authorize West Homestead Borough real estate tax refunds to Armand & Lisa Gress in the amounts of \$370.83, \$378.40 and \$370.83 for a total amount of \$1,220.06
- Approve the appointment of Alice Paylor as Deputy Tax Collector for the Borough of Homestead, as appointed by the elected Tax Collector, Mrs. Bessie Phillips
- Approve the Steel Valley School District 2007-2008 Proposed Preliminary Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$26,908,415.00
- Authorize the district's solicitor to retain the services of certified real estate appraiser Mark Shonberg in the amount of \$4,000 for the assessment appeal of Guardian Self Storage

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## Operations

**Mr. Ducar moved and Mr. Edward McCallister seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- The donation, to the High School Spirit Store, of old uniforms and equipment which may have nostalgic and/or pecuniary value; and authorize the Spirit Store to retain any proceeds; and authorize the Director of Facilities to coordinate the disposal of those uniforms and equipment items which have no apparent nostalgic or pecuniary value

- Approve the payment of Burt Hill Invoice No. 0119193, in the amount of \$314.20, as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project for services rendered during the period of October 1, 2006, to October 31, 2006
- Approve the payment to FranJo construction in the amount of \$4,765.00, as presented on their Payment Application No. 5, their final payment application on the High School Auditorium Renovation Project
- Approve the payment of Burt Hill Invoices No. 0119425, in the amount of \$223.73, as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project
- Adopt the resolution to designate David Conrad as a Friend of Steel Valley
- Accept a donation of backpacks containing school supplies from Costco Wholesale for students at Barrett Elementary School and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Middle School
- Award bid for districtwide cell phone service to Verizon at a cost of \$28.69 per one per month. The quotation includes equipment at no cost to the district and provides the sharing of 200 minutes per line per month and the monthly service fees will be subject to e-rate reimbursement of approximately 60%

Upon roll call the following member voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Ducar commented on facilities fees at West Mifflin School District and Mrs. Fedor commented on Item 2.7 (David Conrad as Friend of Steel Valley) by reading the resolution designating David Conrad as a Friend of Steel Valley.

### **Co-Curricular Leadership**

**Mr. Tim McCallister moved and Mr. Heddleston seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- The opening a custodial account for the History Club
- The transfer of \$20,400 from the General Fund to the History Club custodial account to be used to commission a painting of James Campbell fro the entrance to the Middle School gym for \$5,000 and \$15,400 for upcoming projects by the history club to be mutually agreed upon between the School Board and the History Club for projects that benefit the students
- The creation of a Guitar Club for Senior High School students with Jason Novak as the volunteer sponsor
- The revised Steel Valley Cheerleading parent Group Bylaws as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Mr. Ducar moved and Mr. Edward McCallister seconded to amend the motion to support a co-op agreement with the Diocese of Pittsburgh for participation of St. Therese students in the spring 2007 Steel Valley Athletic Program for sports that are not offered at St. Therese.**

Following the motion and a second, there was discussion to determine if the Board was being asked to approve the participation of St. Therese students or if the Board was being asked to support a co-op agreement with the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Fedor moved that the motion be amended to read that the Steel Valley School District Board of School Directors is in support of a co-op agreement with the Diocese of Pittsburgh to allow the participation of St. Therese students in the spring 2007 Steel Valley Athletic Programs which are not offered at St. Therese's.

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively; Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Sloan and Cannon. Negative: Tim McCallister and Terrick. Motion carried.



## **Special Assignments**

**Mrs. Sloan moved and Mrs. Fedor seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- Hold a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 140 Title I Districtwide Parental Involvement, new Policy No. 140.1 Title Parent Involvement Barrett Elementary School Program and new Policy No. 140.2 Title 1 Parent Involvement Franklin Primary Center Program
- Appoint Mrs. Martha Sloan as the School Board representative to the Enterprise Zone for 2007

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **Educational Leadership**

**Mrs. Terrick moved and Mr. Tim McCallister seconded the motion to approve the following;**

- The inclusion Practices Mini-Grant Agreement and authorize the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said agreement
- Adoption of Holt Algebra I, Holt Algebra II and Hold Geometry, authorized by Bennett, Jackson, Scheer, Chard, Milgram & Waits and published by Holt for the 2007-2008 school year at an approximate cost of \$21,500
- Adoption of Calculus: Concepts and Context, authored by James Steward and published by Thomson for the 2007-2008 school year at an approximate cost of \$1,700
- Adoption of Working, authored by Dr. Larry J. Bailey and published by Thomson-South-Western for the 2006-2007 school year at an approximate cost of \$1,650
- The 2007-2008 Senior High School Academic Handbook with the revisions as presented

- The 2007-2008 Middle School Academic Handbook as presented
- The Special Education Performance Grant/School Based Behavioral Health Grant, Contract for Services and authorize the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said agreement

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Personnel Management**

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

- Adopt the Administrative Compensation program as presented for school years 2006-2010
- An unpaid leave of absence for Dawn Kunca-Kapolka on February 15 and 16, 2007
- An unpaid leave of absence for Erin Cain on November 21, 2007
- Appoint Anthony Verbanick to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant through May 8, 2007
- Retroactively approve the attendance of Diana Borges to the School Based Behavioral Health Grant meeting in Harrisburg on January 18, 2007, at no cost to the district
- The attendance of Yvette Logan at the International ChemEd 2007 Conference to be held July 28-August 2, 2007, at the university of North Texas at a total approximate cost of \$762
- David Aber, Wendi Weller, Kathryn Diener, Peter Chichvak, Marissa Sacco, Nicole Salopek, Ralph Valenzi, Frederick Kuehner, Tim Hinkle and Jason Burk as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-2007
- Accept the resignation of Clay Karadus from his supplemental position of Boys' Volleyball Head Coach
- Appoint individuals to the 2006-2007 Winter/Spring athletic supplemental positions as listed

- The amendments to the Secretarial/Aide Education Support Agreement previously ratified on December 5, 2006, as presented
- Brian Keesecker as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner and also as a summer worker, pending passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened
- Matthew Dolan as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner and also as a summer worker, pending passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened.
- Michael Thomas as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner, and also as a summer worker, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened.
- Andrew Breznai as a substitute custodian and as a four-hour cleaner, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened.
- Deny Grievance Nos. 12-2-06, 12-3-06, 12-4-06, 12-5-06 and 12-20-06 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Edward McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: Tim McCallister and Terrick on Item 6.15 (Deny Grievance Nos. 12-2-06, 12-3-06, 12-4-06, 12-5-06 and 12-20-06). Motion carried.

### **Citizen Comments**

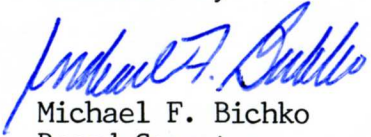
- Terri Casamento - on the evacuation of high school and middle school on Thursday, January 18, 2007
- Donna Dreshman - hiring of faulty, other matters brought up after comments on agenda items, and Woodlawn

- Gina Lasek - evacuation of the schools on January 18, 2007
- Jay Stegena - bomb threat
- Winnie Stegena - girls' fast pitch softball

**Adjournment**

Meeting end at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by:



Michael F. Bichko  
Board Secretary