

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Auditorium
April 24, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President at 7:35 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were in present:

Mr. Ducar, Mr. Heddleston, Mr. Ed McCallister, Mr. Tim McCallister, Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Terrick and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mrs. Fedor had a previous commitment and Mrs. Kubancsek was ill

Also present: Dr. Kinavey, Mr. Fetzko, Ms. Sabo, Mr. Colebank, Dr. Policastro

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

Moment of silence was held for Steel Valley family members and the students, staff and families at Virginia Tech in light of the recent violence on its campus and the families of the victims of the shooting in Homestead.

Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Mr. Carl Cimbala*, uncle of Denise Stephenson, Park School teacher; *Mrs. Mary Engel*, grandmother of Mariann Reilly, high school teacher; *Mr. Ray Allison*, uncle of Sue Olsen, high school teacher; *Mr. Edward Hrosik*, uncle of Sharon McCallister, Barrett paraprofessional; *Mrs. Irene Hrvacic*; aunt of Gwen Berchok, high school teacher; *Mr. Richard Bodnar*, uncle of Priscilla Jackman, elementary reading coach; *Miss JoBeth Olson*, niece of Nancy Fenner, copy clerk and cafeteria monitor at Park; *Mr. Paul A. Kittle*, great uncle of Ellen Sabo, Grant and Special Projects Coordinator; *Mrs. Eva Vargo*, grandmother of Bobbi Vargo, Barrett teacher; *Mr. John Fenyus*, father of Bethany Fenyus, Director of Secondary Education.

Mr. Heddleston moved and Mrs. Sloan 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, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Drew Vautier, President of Steel Valley Education Association, commented on Item 6.1 proposing the elimination of professional positions. He noted that the School Code allows only four reasons for elimination of positions. He felt that this decision was made for budgetary reasons, and that is not an approved reason. He stated that if positions are cut, students will realize this in increased class sizes and program cuts.
- Dr. Kinavey responded that all students are scheduled except for kindergarten, which is still an unknown. The reason for the proposed furloughs are based on declining enrollment. He also reported that 57 students are enrolled in kindergarten.
- Gina Lasik stated that she has a problem with the school nurse being eliminated. She feels each building needs a nurse.
- Donna Dreshman asked for copies of Items 1.1.19 (Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense) 2.1 and 2.2 Facility rental requests and fundraising requests, and 6.2 (substitute teachers). She asked if all substitute teachers are certified. Dr. Kinavey replied affirmatively. She inquired if the elimination of positions was discussed in executive session.
- Laurie Havrilla stated that if you increase taxes, the foreclosure rate will go up. She compared Steel Valley taxes to other school districts.
- Vince Natale voiced his concern about reducing the number of nurses since our students are housed in several buildings.
- Mick Pavasko stated that the 2003 feasibility study done by Burt Hill said the Park School roof was good and now Tremco says we need a new roof. Mr. Ducar responded that when he was on the roof when they took core samples. Each sample was wet. The district will look into the warranty.
- Jeannine Pacelli commented on the strategic planning meeting with parents and it was stated that class sizes will be small. She

asked how class sizes will stay small if the staff is reduced. She stated that increasing class sizes is not the answer.

- Mr. Fetzko gave the reason that a school district may eliminate positions.
- Mike Sarriano stated that the district needs a nurse in the building and asked the Board to find the money for a nurse.
- Jodi Siksa talked about the benefits to her son in his class of 17 students compared to 26 last year

President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon: None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey:

- Announced that The Consortium for Public Education, formerly the Mon Valley Education Consortium, has given the student Learning Team \$1,000 as a Leadership Team Challenge to accelerate our “access and leverage.”
- Our students participated in Earth Day events on April 20. Fourth graders at Barrett cleaned up Frick Park in Homestead, and students in other grades planted vegetable and flower seeds. High School Environmental Club sponsor Anthony Natale and students participated in cleaning up Eighth Avenue in Homestead. Middle school students were encouraged to participate in a poster contest. Kindergarten students planted trees provided by the PTO organization. Third grade students from Park School cleaned up around the building.
- Annual Law Week coordinated by Judge Torkowsky was held at Park, Barrett and Franklin Schools last week. Students in grades three, four and five participated in mock trials, and the first and second grade students learned about safety in the 911 van in which they practiced how to make a 911 call. The middle school and high school students participated in group discussions on various topics, such as drugs and alcohol, bullying, violence, dating violence, etc.
- Twenty-three juniors will be inducted into the National Honor Society on Friday, April 27. High achieving seniors will be

recognized at the Dr. Lawrence Griffin Awards Banquet on May 3. The 1984 Valedictorian Mr. Ed Wehrer will address the students, parents, teachers, administrators and guests.

- Dr. Kinavey reported that May 11 is a school make-up day as is June 6 and 7. The last day of school for students will be Thursday, June 7. Commencement will be held that evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. and Dr. Bryan Wellman, Class of 1985, will give the commencement address.
- Elementary principal Dr. Tully presented “A Year in Review” at Park Elementary School and Franklin Primary Center. She highlighted the fire prevention programs, the Make-A-Wish Halloween parade, Pajama Day at Franklin, math and reading tutoring programs, 5th grade activities, Dr. Seuss week, family Reading and Math nights to prepare for PSSA tests, Park School Keystone awards, Chick-Fil-A Night and parents having lunch with their children at Franklin.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Carol Policastro:

- Enjoyed participating in the Borough Day parade by riding in a police car to Park Elementary School
- A team of parents, reading specialists, teachers and principals will begin training on the RTI program that teaches how to identify reading needs and how to address problems
- An Elementary Academic Handbook, which will give parents a clear vision of what their children need to know in every curricular area is being developed, and she thanked Dr. Tully for her work on this project.

Student Representative’s Report

Mr. Thomas Barefoot:

- Announced that Katie Janocsko and Melissa Kaufold were named 2007 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Outstanding Young Citizens for their outstanding scholarship, leadership and character.
- The junior class took the PSSA Science field test this week. This test will be given each year in grades 5, 8 and 11.

- Senior students will be honored at the Dr. Lawrence Griffin Honor Awards Banquet at St. John's Cathedral Center on Thursday, May 3. The students are looking forward to the high school Prom at the Sheraton Station Square on Friday, May 11.
- At the middle school, field trips are planned for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Eighth grade students will be taking their annual trip to Washington, DC next month. A school dance was held on April 20. Law Week was a success at the middle school in explaining drug awareness and gang violence. An orientation for 5th graders moving to the middle school will be held in May and noted that this would include a more personalized tour and orientation for students.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tim McCallister moved and Mr. Heddleston seconded the motion to approve the March 27, 2007 regular meeting minutes. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Financial Management

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

- General Fund invoices for February 2007 in the amount of \$318,796.31
- General Fund hand checks for February 2007 in the amount of \$799.96
- Accounts Payable checks for March 15, 19, 21 and 30, 2007, in the amount of \$532,141.37
- General Fund invoices for March 2007 in the amount of \$395,851.66
- Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2007
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$30,698.96
- General Fund Revenue Report for January 2007
- General Fund Revenue Report for February 2007

- General Fund Revenue Report for March 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Report for January 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Report for March 2007
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$11,291.85
- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$2,675.00
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount of \$595.00
- Band Trip/Hand Checks in the amount of \$742.80
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Authorize real estate tax refund in the amount of \$212.28 to Heather Sue Wilhide, as a result of a change in assessment value for Lot & Block 131-C-110
- Authorize real estate tax refund in the amount of \$265.16 to Emmett Coleman, c/o US Bancorp Serv providers, as a result of a change in assessment value for Lot & Block 130-R-203
- Authorize the renewal of the software maintenance agreement with ProSoft Technologies, Inc., for the 2007-2008 school year at an annual cost of \$18,192

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

Operations

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

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- The proposal for the repairs to the roofs at Barrett Elementary, Franklin Primary and the high school/middle school complex at a total cost of \$26,450 to be paid from the 2005 Capital Improvement account and approve the maintenance program at

an annual cost of \$15,879 to be paid from the 2000-2001 Capital Improvement account and the General Fund

- The proposal to advertise for bids for the complete replacement of the roof at Park Elementary School
- The execution of the Equitable Gas Company Agency Services Agreements and Delivery Service Agreements for all buildings by the Superintendent

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

Mrs. Terrick said it should be looked into why Burt Hill says the Park Elementary School roof is a good roof.

Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- The field trip by 8th grade students and chaperones to Washington, DC on May 10 & 11, 2007 at no cost to the district
- The field trip by the Marching Band and chaperones to the USSBA Central Regional Competition in Hershey, PA, on October 20, 2007
- The field trip by the Marching Band and chaperones to the USSBA Northern States Championships in East Rutherford, NJ, on November 9-11, 2007
- The field trip by 15 high school students to The Future is Mine 2007 Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City center on April 24 & 25, 2007

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

Special Assignments

Mrs. Sloan moved and Mr. Ed McCallister seconded the motion to approve the following:

- The administrative budget of the Southeastern Area Special Schools in the amount of \$1,157,119 and approve the administrative budget for the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School in the amount of \$887,275 for the 2007-2008 school year
- Hold a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 916 requiring all volunteers to make application for Act 34 Clearance, Act 151 Clearance and FBI Federal Criminal History Record to be paid by the district

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Heddleston, Ed 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:

- Accept the donation of \$1,000 from the Munhall Class of 1949 to purchase library books in memory of Margaret Howat, former Munhall High School and Steel Valley head librarian
- Accept the donation of a collection of approximately 300 books at Barrett Elementary School from Reading Is Fundamental on behalf of the Holiday Inn Express in West Mifflin
- Approve payment in the amount of \$2,500 to defray the cost for the Senior Class Breakfast
- Approve payment by the school district of \$1,816 toward the total cost of Advanced Placement examination fees to be reimbursed by the Steel Valley Foundation for Education
- Approve entering into agreements between the Steel Valley School District and the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education and OnHand Schools, Inc., as a part of The Classroom Excellence Initiative

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

Personnel Management

Mrs. Terrick moved and Mr. Ed McCallister seconded the motion to approve the following:

- Adopt the resolution to eliminate three elementary school positions, two special education positions, one school nurse and one business education position for the 2007-2008 school year
- Amber Hoyle, Jessica Istvan, Vanessa Blair, Raymond Best and Adrian DeCaria as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- The attendance of Joy Kardos to the Wellness and Academic Success: From Policy to Action Conference on April 29 through May 1, 2007, at State College, PA, at a cost of approximately \$450
- Accept, with regret, the retirement of Betty Ann Orkis with all benefits as provided by the collective bargaining agreement effective August 3, 2007
- Toni Ruffing as a substitute secretary at the rate of \$6.50 per hour, pending receipt of federal criminal history record and contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Janice Todd as a substitute instructional aide at the rate of \$6.50 per hour, pending receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances, federal criminal history record, and contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- Retroactively, an unpaid leave of absence for Sharon McCallister beginning April 13, 2007, for approximately four to six weeks

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick and Cannon. Negative: Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Terrick and Cannon on Item 6.1 (Resolution to eliminate positions) Abstain: Tim McCallister on Item 6.7 (Leave of absence for Sharon McCallister). Item 6.1 fails, all other items pass.

Citizens Comments

Paula Borsch asked if there was a difference between capital projects and capital improvements. She was told they are the same account. She asked for clarification on the amount of time the district has to spend the capital improvement funds. Mr. Fetzko stated that if the district uses the funds in 36 months, it does not pay the interest back. If it is over 36 months, the district pays the interest to the IRS. She asked for a copy of the law. Mr. Fetzko stated that it is an IRS law. He also stated there are many exceptions to the law.

She asked how many security guards have we contracted. Dr. Kinavey stated that there are 10 guards at the middle school and high school and one guard at Barrett. Mrs. Cannon also stated that we have a Munhall Police Office at the high school.

Donna Dreshman questioned the status of cafeteria and custodial services for next year. Ms. Sabo responded that the district has received no inquiries from the advertisement in The Daily News. Mr. Keesecker and Ms. Kardos are preparing specifications for the RFP's.

She asked about the custodial negotiations. Mrs. Cannon responded that the district and custodians held an initial meeting. Mr. Andrews is the representative for the school district. The contract expires June 30.

Donna Dreshman questioned the services of John Yaklich. Ms. Sabo responded that Mr. Yaklich has been working in the district for 20 days. The 2005-06 audit documentation is almost ready to give to the auditors. He has met with the auditors. He is making adjusting entries.

Ed McCallister asked Dr. Kinavey for a projected date for the completion of the financial services of John Yaklich.

Donna Dreshman asked about Woodlawn. Mr. Fetzko stated that if the building is beyond repair, it should be razed.

Stan Kreczmer discussed not allowing the flexibility to suspend teachers.

Adjournment

Mr. Ducar moved and Mrs. Terrick seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.