

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Auditorium
February 27, 2007

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

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mrs. Fedor, Mr. Heddleston, Mr. Tim McCallister,
Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Terrick, Mrs. Kubancsek and
Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mr. Ducar and Mr. Edward McCallister

Also present: Dr. Kinavey, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Bichko, Ms. Policastro

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Mrs. Margaret Howat*, retired head librarian Steel Valley School District; *Mrs. Phyllis Quinlain*, grandmother of Dave and Kelly Emro, Technology Education and Homebound teachers; *Mr. Anthony J. Zamule*, father-in-law of retired teacher Leslie Evans; *Mrs. Audrey Yanyo*, aunt of Drew Vautier, English as a Second Language teacher; *Mrs. Ruth Weightman*, mother-in-law of Kim Weightman, Public Relations Specialist; *Mrs. Pat Fetchen*, aunt of Tracy McGrew, Middle School teacher; *Mrs. Dorothy Klocek*, mother-in-law of Joe Panai, Park School custodian; *Mr. Benjamin J. Policastro, Sr.*, uncle of Carole Policastro, Director of Elementary Education; *Mr. James Krause*, grandfather of Jeff Deabner, High School teacher; *Mrs. Debbie Campbell*, wife of James Campbell, Friend of Steel Valley; *Mr. William L. Meade, Sr.*, grandfather of Scott Meade, Assistant High School Principal.

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

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Ms. Donna Dreshman commented on Item Nos. 1.1.11, (Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of January 31, 2007), 1.7 (Purchase of RealSTAT program); 1.8 (Tax Anticipation Note proposal); 1.9 (Proposal from Anchor Homestead Pharmacy) 2.1 (Facility rental requests); 2.2 (Fundraising requests); 4.2 (First reading of revision to Policy No. 801 Public Records) and thanked the Board for their consideration on this item.
- Mr. Mick Pavasko commented on Item 2.6 (continuing services of Mr. Donald Holmes to upgrade/replacement of district's security and fire alarm systems.)

President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon:

- Commented on the Crisis Management meeting held on Monday, February 26, 2007, in the Senior High School Library.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey:

- Honored Steel Center Vocational Technical School students Jared Ducar for his Extra Effort Award in electronics and Joshua Hankey who received the Extra Effort Award for diesel mechanics. Also recognized Brandon McCrum who was named Top of the Shop award winner in automotive mechanics.
- Representing the Steel Valley Marching Band, Steven Gregory presented the numerous trophies earned this year by the band. The marching band performed in 30 events this fall and is

proud to represent Steel Valley. Board Member Colleen Fedor noted that they are a hard-working group of students.

- Middle School math teacher Amanda Olson and 8th grade student Sandy Alhaj, Abby Maddigan, Kelly Bennett and Alaina Bott presented many features of the Smart Boards purchased this year. This is cutting edge technology that teachers and students have learned to use in the classroom.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Heddleston moved and Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion to expel a minor male student for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Heddleston moved and Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion to expel a minor male student upon the conditions and for the period of time set forth in the Adjudication. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Director of Secondary Education Report

Ms. Fenyus:

- Announced that the PSSA writing tests have been completed by 8th and 11th grade students. Students are preparing for the reading and math exams at the 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th grade levels that will take place on March 13, 14 and 15. At the middle school level, incentives and raffles are planned during testing week. Eighth grade students who have perfect attendance during testing will be treated to a bowling party, and 11th grade students with perfect attendance will indulge in an ice cream sundae bar.
- On March 13, 14 and 15, there will be a delayed start to school for students in grades 9, 10 and 12. These students will report to school at 10:30 a.m. and juniors shall report at 7:30 a.m. on these testing dates. A healthy breakfast will be served at 7:00

a.m. in the high school cafeteria. On March 16, juniors who have perfect attendance all three testing days will be treated to a sundae bar and prizes will be raffled off. These students will also be dismissed at 1:45 p.m.

- Middle School and High School teachers have created a map of their courses that is aligned with the Pennsylvania standards and anchors. They will eventually be available to parents, students and staff on Edline.
- High School students Thomas Barefoot, A.J. Dominick and Josh Joll will represent Steel Valley on KDKA's Hometown High Q on Saturday, March 17, at 11:00 a.m.
- Congratulations to Ms. Toni Besh, French and Japanese instructor, who has been named an *Honoree* in the Teacher Excellence Program. She will be honored at the Celebration of Teaching Event on April 19. She is one of 101 teachers from 5,000 nominations being honored from 81 school districts.
- Mr. Fallon and the 8th graders are excited to welcome Tom Kubka to the middle school on March 8 and 9. Hubka is a Professor of Architecture at the University of Wisconsin and is writing a book on the architecture of the houses in Homestead. He will be sharing information on the importance of local architecture and getting students involved with hands-on drafting activities.
- Gifted support teacher Michelle Maddigan and students in *The Future is Mine* program will host a Career Fair in the Steel Valley High School gym on Thursday, March 8, from 7:55 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.
- In celebration of Black History Month, Dr. Errington from the Harmony Club held an assembly with high school students on the contributions that African Americans have made to our local history. She featured the photographs that African Americans have made to our local history. She featured the photographs of Pittsburgh Courier journalist Teeny Harris. Harris depicted African American community life from 1930-1960.
- Teachers Rebecca Kristen and Sue Salapa held a middle school spelling bee with 65 students participating. Congratulations to sixth grade student Logan Perry who won. The winning word was "cryptic."

- The middle school and high school counselors are working with the Allegheny County Children's Initiative and Turtle Creek to begin group counseling, character building and goal settings sessions with students.
- Eligible high school students will have the opportunity to take part in a major research study through Carnegie Mellon University. The study will examine to what extent students learn math concepts more effectively when given samples that relate to regular problem solving.

Director of Elementary Education Report

Ms. Carole Policastro:

- The students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will participate in the PSSA Reading and Mathematics tests during the week of March 12.
- Ms. Policastro is working with the elementary principals to create an Academic Handbook for grades K-5, which will include the elementary school curriculum aligned with the Pennsylvania state standards in Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science/Technology, Music, Physical Education, Art and Library.
- Read Across America will be celebrated in all elementary schools in early March. Community leaders will serve as guest readers at Park and Barrett. Franklin students will dine on green eggs and ham.
- On April 12, parents of children between the ages of 0-5 are invited to the Parent Spring Fling. A grant provided by the Mon Valley Education Consortium will provide free books for children and classes for parents.

Board Secretary's Report

Mr. Michael Bichko:

- Reported on the recent newspaper articles on the fine assessed the school district. He noted that the AFR was submitted in a timely fashion, but the Department of Education requested

corrections. According to the PDE, the corrections were not completed in a timely fashion; and therefore, a \$6,300 deduction was made to the district's subsidy. Dr. Kinavey has made a written appeal to the Secretary of Education Zahorchak to return the \$6,300. There has been no response from the Department of Education to date.

- In 2004-2005, the district incurred a penalty of \$9,600 for late submission of the Annual Financial Report, and no appeal was filed. Since the hiring of a Director of Facilities in December, Mr. Bichko can now devote all his time to the financial operations of the district.
- The Allegheny County Health Insurance Consortium has notified school districts that there will be a 2.5% increase in medical health benefits in 2007-2008. Mr. Bichko added that the proposed budget included tentative health care costs, but he will now make adjustments to the budget.
- Mr. Bichko reported the state budget would include a 2% increase in basic and special education subsidy for Pennsylvania school districts. Any more than 2% will be contingent upon passing of an additional sales tax in Pennsylvania.

Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 16, 2007 worksession meeting and the January 23, 2007 regular meeting. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston (abstain on minutes of January 16, 2007), Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kubancsek commented that there is no truth to the rumors that she has had her leg amputated and a pacemaker. She had knee surgery and that was the reason for her absence at the January 16, 2007 worksession.

Financial Management

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

- General Fund hand checks for January 2007 in the amount of \$1,016,639.95
- General Fund invoices for January 2007 in the amount of \$389,772.99
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2007
- General Fund Revenue Report for November 2006
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2006
- General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2006
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2006
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$32,489.71
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending January 31, 2007
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending January 31, 2007
- Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending January 31, 2007
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$10,390.81
- Band Trip/Hand Checks in the amount of \$566.00
- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$4,904.91
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount \$65.83

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

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

- Exonerate the Homestead Borough real estate tax collector for year 2006 in the amount of \$206,246.90 and for year 2005, one uncollected amount of \$264.88
- Exonerate the Munhall Borough real estate tax collector for year 2006 in the amount of \$637,151.88
- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Nancy Cibula, Lot & Block 180-F-164, in the amount of \$244.75 for year 2006
- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to United State Steel Corporation, Lot & Block 179-E-15, in the amount of \$72,910.57 for year 2005

- The renewal of the district's School Leaders Liability Insurance coverage for the period February 8, 2007, through and including February 8, 2008, at a cost of \$16,590 with the School Boards Insurance Company of Pennsylvania, Inc.
- The annual purchase of the RealSTAT program at the stated cost of \$1,800 in accordance with the recommendation of Solicitor Donald Fetzko
- Approve the Tax Anticipation Note proposal from Citizen's Bank, the district's depository, in the amount of \$2,000,000 at an interest rate of 4.64%, effective March 1, 2007. The note will be scheduled for repayment upon receipt of the district's TIF distribution, which is expected to be in excess of \$2,000,000.
- Approve the acceptance of the proposal from Anchor Homestead Pharmacy, LLC, the lesser of Walgreen's, to set the assessed valuation of the properties at 133 West 8th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120, identified by Lot & Block Nos. 130-N-319, 130-N-316 and 130-N-328, respectively, at \$4,500,000 and with the proviso that the Steel Valley School District agrees not to appeal this assessed value for the tax years of 2006, 2007 and 2008.

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

Operations

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

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Award the contract for service to the fire protection sprinkler systems at the High School/Middle School complex and Park Elementary School at a cost of \$275 and \$220 respectively; for service to the two fire hydrants at the High School/Middle School complex in the amount of \$125; and for dry stand pipe

riser 5th year hydro testing at the High School/Middle School complex at a cost of \$1,800

- Accept the donation of \$500 from John and Judy Merisko for the purchase of library books and Accelerated Reader quizzes in memory of John Merisko for Park Elementary School and to accept the donation of custom memorial bookplates made by Mrs. Pisarcik
- Payment to FranJo Construction in the amount of \$9,488 as presented on their Payment Application No. 8, their final application on the Middle School Science Classroom Construction Project
- Services of Mr. Donald Holmes of Victory Security to the district's security and fire alarm upgrade/replacement project and approve payment from the Capital Projects 2005 Fund for their invoice in the amount of \$2,805
- Participation in the paper recycling program offered by Abitibi Consolidated and authorize the purchase of classroom and office receptacles at a cost not to exceed \$3,000 in the event the receptacles are not provided to the district

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

Mrs. Cannon thanked Mrs. Kubancsek for coordinating the Abitibi program. Mrs. Fedor commended the Merisko Family for their donation.

Co-Curricular Leadership

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

- Creation of the Geri Palmieri Memorial Scholarship Fund and allow solicitation and acceptance of the funds
- Field trip by the Senior High Swim/Diving Team on March 8, 2007, to Splash Lagoon in Erie, Pennsylvania, at no cost to the district.

- Use of the Campbell Memorial Gym and/or the High School gym by the Girls' Softball and Boys' Baseball teams using the appropriate indoor equipment to throw the ball. There is to be absolutely no hitting of the ball indoors

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

Special Assignments

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

- Second reading and adopt the revisions to Policy No. 140 Title I Districtwide Parental Involvement, new Policy No. 140.1 Title I Parental Involvement Barrett Elementary School Program and new Policy No. 140.2 Title I Parent Involvement Franklin Primary Center Program
- First reading of a revision to Policy No. 801 Public Records

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

Mrs. Sloan reported that the work on the Homestead Grays Bridge would be finished in May but the painting will continue until November.

Mrs. Sloan reported that 59 students are enrolled at Steel Center from Steel Valley.

Educational Leadership

Mrs. Terrick moved and Mrs. Fedor seconded the motion to approve the adoption of HST Integrated Science (Green, Red and Blue Series) and Modern Chemistry, authored by Davis, Frey, Sarquis and Sarquis, and published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, for the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$45,367 plus shipping and handling. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

It was reported that the Girls' Softball team has been practicing in the middle school gym. The girls must move the mats and pop machines to practice. They asked to use the high school gym to throw the ball. Dr. Kinavey stated that Shawn McCallister and Leo Schlanger denied their request due to previous breakage and damage. Dr. Kinavey supports this decision.

Mrs. Cannon moved and Mr. Heddleston seconded the motion to allow the softball and baseball teams to use the gyms when available to throw the ball to warm up using appropriate indoor equipment and no hitting. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Personnel Management

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

- Unpaid leave of absence for Kimberly Sheaffer on October 3, 2007
- Accept the resignation of Lisa Gamrat from the part-time position of Speech instructor effective immediately
- Appoint Bridget Stright to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant ending May 8, 2007
- Attendance of Dr. Mary Cay Rojtas-Milliner at the Pennsylvania School Librarians' Association Annual Conference to be held April 12-14, 2007, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, at an approximate cost of \$335
- Kelly Dee and Laura Burger as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at a rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Resignation of Jeffrey Lynn and Nicole Asson from their respective supplemental positions of Assistant Band Director and Assistant Girls' Softball Coach effective immediately

- Resignation of Linda Townsend from the position of special education paraeducator effective immediately
- Family medical leave of absence for Mary Lebeda commencing on or about January 31, 2007, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Accept the retirement of Jo-Anne Hixson from the position of substitute caller under the terms and conditions of the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals bargaining agreement effective April 28, 2007

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

Citizens Comments

- Ms. Donna Dreshman suggested/questioned:
Putting mats in front of doors in the gym during softball and baseball practice and questioned if the stipend given to Mr. Bichko has been discontinued. The stipend ended on December 31, 2006, once he completed the mentoring of the Director of Facilities.
In regard to the audit, it was questioned if the district was fined for a late audit. The answer was no and a copy of Dr. Kinavey's letter of appeal was requested.
With regard to schedule changes in the calendar, it was suggested to hold up on the commencement program until the changes are made in the schedule and she questioned the ethics of a person overlooking a project in the year 2004 and noted that he is also the Vice President of Sales of the company.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.