

Worksession Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Conference Room
June 19, 2007

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President at 7:31 pm.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Ducar, Mr. Heddleston, Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Terrick,
Mrs. Kubancsek and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mrs. Fedor, out of town on business, Mr. Ed McCallister,
Mr. Tim McCallister, out of town on business

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

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

Minutes

No comments or changes.

Financial Management

No changes

Operations

Mr. Ducar discussed the installation of two capacitors (booster) for a savings to the district. Mrs. Terrick asked about the need for painting of the lockers. Mr. Ducar noted that the money for painting would come from the Capital Projects Fund.

Co-Curricular Leadership

In regard to Item 2.3 (Donation of books), Barrett is the only RIF eligible school in the district. Therefore, only Barrett will receive book donations from the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program.

Special Assignments

Mrs. Sloan reported that Steel Center received a Perkins grant to upgrade the cosmetology department and add pedicure, manicure and skin care stations. Steel Valley has 90 students enrolled at Steel Center for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Sloan attended the Enterprise Zone meeting with borough officials regarding the tax abatement issue. Both Homestead and West Homestead Boroughs are trying to align their areas. There was discussion about the areas to include in tax abatement. It was decided to wait for the boroughs to pass their tax abatement resolutions.

Young Life will be taking care of the tree wells in Homestead through the TIF program.

A new Homestead Borough building will be built on 7th Avenue and Amity Street.

There will be a fundraiser for the family of JoBeth Olson at Eat n Park in Pleasant Hills on Sunday, June 24 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Lottery tickets are also available to benefit the family.

Educational Leadership

Ms. Sabo reported that the Dual Enrollment grant was approved in the same amount (approximately \$14,000) for the 2007-2008 school year. The district will reimburse students at 48% of their costs.

Mrs. Terrick asked about the status of the Elementary Academic Handbook. Dr. Policastro stated that the handbook would be ready in July. A meeting of the Educational Leadership Committee will be held to review the handbook before the board meeting in July. Dr. Policastro explained some of the details of the text including the academic standards and stated that she would welcome the committee's input.

Dr. Policastro added that on Monday, June 25, she would be meeting with the regular education teachers at 8:30 am at Franklin Primary Center to discuss curriculum. On Tuesday, June 26, she will be meeting with the Title teachers. All the curriculum materials will be available for the teachers to

review. They will decide on the science curriculum to pilot during the 2007-2008 school year.

Solicitor Donald Fetzko asked the Board to consider his request to appeal the Waterfront apartments assessment. Mr. Fetzko is recommending the lowest bid and is requesting that the item be voted on at the next board meeting.

He reported that the Referendum failed by over 200 votes.

Mrs. Sloan asked about voting on the tax abatement issue. Mr. Fetzko recommended that a committee of the Board meet with a committee from the boroughs on the tax abatement program. There was discussion about the boundaries for tax abatement. Mr. Fetzko previously provided a resolution outlining tax abatement boundaries in the school district. Some considerations were not going past Buffington's in West Homestead to City Farm Lane in Munhall. Mr. Fetzko recommended adding a statement to the resolution that the district's resolution will take effect when the boroughs pass their resolutions. It was agreed to wait for the Board to take action until West Homestead passes their resolution.

Mrs. Kubancsek reported that a contract was negotiated with the custodians and food service employee group. She thanked Ms. Sabo and Mr. Yaklich for their assistance in the negotiations process.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Borsch congratulated the Board on the commencement program. She was very impressed with the speeches delivered by the seniors.

It was noted that all Board committee meetings are advertised and open to the public. Mrs. Borsch asked if more community members could be invited to participate in the Board's committee meetings. Mr. Colebank and Ms. Fenyus added that the Strategic Plan Committee, School Action Committee, Middle States Accreditation Committee and the Student Learning Team are open to public attendance. Mrs. Borsch stated that she was happy to hear that and that she was misinformed about public participation.

It was confirmed that the SAT Prep courses were kept in the budget.

Mr. Colebank will ask Ms. Sekura, webmaster, to review the faculty names listed on the website for accuracy per Mrs. Borsch's request.

Dr. Kinavey reported that Mr. Schlanger would keep the electronic message board updated this summer. Mrs. Borsch asked that next week's board meeting be added to the message board.

It was reported that 71 kindergarten students are enrolled and an additional four (4) families have not completed their registration packets. At this point in time, the enrollment is typical. Dr. Policastro has implemented a kindergarten assessment of students this school year. She reported that the assessment is geared to assess a student's cognitive, social, spatial math, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills. The assessment looks at the whole child to see where the child is at his/her age level unlike academic tests. The test targets children with special needs and will provide information to the teachers. This gives us information on our student population. Following the assessment, Dr. Policastro discusses the results with the parents and provides packets for them to work with their children in selected areas prior to the start of school.

Mrs. Borsch asked about the costs associated with Legal Tax Service collections. Mr. Fetzko reported that Legal Tax Service charges 3% for collecting taxes. It was noted that PAMS was paid 2.5%. Ms. Sabo believes we have a one-year contract with Legal Tax Service.

Mrs. Borsch asked the Board to keep the public aware of the district's actions on tax abatement programs.

Ms. Dreshman asked if the budget would be addressed tonight. Mrs. Terrick stated that the Board is still looking for areas to cut costs. There is nothing new to report from last evening's Finance Committee meeting. The Board will adopt the 2007-2008 budget at its June 28 meeting.

Ms. Dreshman would like to see the budget and the collective bargaining agreements on the district website.

Ms. Dreshman discussed an issue about her neighbor receiving a letter that he did not pay his taxes. She reported that the school district has proof that he did pay his taxes. She asked how our delinquent tax collector got Mr.

Ruschak's name when his name is not on the borough's delinquent list. Mr. Fetzko will look into the matter for Mr. Ruschack.

Ms. Dreshman asked the Board about pool rental to Thomas Jefferson High School swim team and will the cost of renting the pool be increased. Ms. Sabo reported that Mr. Keesecker is working on repairing the grout in the pool, and this cost comes out of the capital improvement fund.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. and the board members went into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The executive session concluded at 9:50 p.m.