

Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Library
June 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Cannon, President at 7:30 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

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

Absent: Mr. Heddleston and Mr. Ed McCallister

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

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Mrs. Ruth Povlik*, aunt of Brian Bungard, Middle School Teacher; *Mr. Andrew W. Finney*, grandfather of Melissa Dragonosky, Park School Teacher; *Mr. James Moore*, uncle of Lily Phouthavong, Park School Instructional Aide; *Mr. Anthony Tacco, Sr.*, uncle of Julie Doebereiner, Barrett Teacher; *Mrs. Anna Popovich*, grandmother of Melissa Pentin, Middle School Teacher.

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mrs. Sloan seconded the motion to approve the purchase of memorial books in memory of the above departed to be placed into the district libraries and to extend sympathy and condolences of the Board and Administration to the families of the deceased. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Cannon called an executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Mrs. Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

- Paula Borsch, Roberta Drive, Munhall, asked for an explanation about the need for an appraisal on the Waterfront Apartments. Mr. Fetzko explained that when there is significant reduction in property assessment, the district appeals the assessment and needs an appraisal completed.
She questioned the hiring in Item 6.4. It was explained that we plan to hire our own teachers for the summer program only.
- Donna Dreshman, Forest Avenue, Munhall, asked for copies of Items 1.1.13 (Statement of Income and Expense for Foundation for Education), 2.1 and 2.2 (facility rental and fundraising requests). She also asked for (Item 6.1) the current salary of the Food Service Supervisor and was told it is \$37,000. She asked for clarification of the grandfather clause in the contract in Item 6.5 (approval of the agreement between the district and the support personnel). Ms. Sabo explained that the district would extend their benefits for 60 days until they acquire Medicare. Ms. Dreshman was told that the employment of summer workers was deleted (Item 6.9).
Ms. Dreshman asked if there would be any discussion on the budget. She requested that the public have an opportunity to discuss the budget and comment after the Board's discussion. Mr. Fetzko stated that if something changes then the public can comment, but if there are no changes the public cannot comment. It was noted that there have been no changes to the budget since the meeting of the Finance Committee.
- Ms. Dreshman reported that in regard to the tax refund (Item 1.9), the person does not own the property according to the Allegheny County real estate website. Mrs. Fedor noted that the change order from the county goes to the tax collector and is presented to the school district. It was noted to change the motion to say year 2003.

- Terri Kraft, 3540 Wayne Road, Munhall, asked for the reserve balance at the end of the 2003-04 school year. Ms. Sabo stated that it was either \$2.6 or \$2.3 million. For 2006-2007, we went from \$1.3 million to \$700,000 in reserve, which was spent this school year. With the proposed budget, we will have only a \$50,000 reserve at the end of 2007-08. It was noted that there was no surplus this school year. Mrs. Fedor recalled a verbal report from John Yaklich at the Finance Committee meeting stating that we started the year with \$700,000 and not the \$1.3 million as previously reported.
- Vince Natale, Woodlawn Avenue, Munhall, expressed concern that the \$50,000 surplus for next year may only cover one special education student.
- Dianne Paulson stated that the district is paying \$100,000 for an Athletic Director but cut the position of a secretary with 19 years of service. She stated that the School Board made the Athletic Director a protected position and we cannot afford it.
- Regina Takos, 404 Mifflin Street, West Mifflin, teacher at Barrett asked who was receiving the RIF book donation. Ms. Sabo responded that the books are going to Barrett as a lending resource.

President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon:

- Reported that the high school graduated 137 students at a wonderful evening ceremony and noted it was nice to have the band perform at the commencement.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey:

- Commented on the fine graduation ceremony and thanked Mr. Schlanger and the staff. He also stated that it was a pleasure to have Dr. Wellman return to the school district as the commencement speaker.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro:

- Reported that she conducted the curriculum team meetings with groups of teachers this week. The staff will be designing curriculum that matches the PA state standards and anchors and she is working on the elementary academic handbook to include the academic standards as appropriate and making it parent-friendly.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Ducar moved and Mrs. Kubancsek seconded the motion to authorize an appraisal of the Waterfront Apartments Lot & Block 179-A-90-C, 179-A-90 and 130-C-50 by Gary R. Bodnar at a cost of \$5,500.00. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 29, 2007 meeting were pulled from the agenda. Mrs. Fedor asked that more detail about the discussion at the meeting be added.

Mrs. Cannon moved and Mr. Tim McCallister seconded the motion to approve the minutes of May 14, May 21 and May 22, 2007. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Financial Management

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

- General Fund invoices for May 2007 in the amount of \$415,989.51
- General Fund hand checks for May 2007 in the amount of \$429,680.76
- Payroll Funding Transfers for May 2007
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$23,334.99
- General Fund Revenue Report for May 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Report for May 2007
- Custodial Invoices/Hand Checks in the amount of \$9,847.15
- Athletic Invoices in the amount of \$4,204.04
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount of \$6,068.25
- Band Trip invoices in the amount of \$1,676.96
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending May 31, 2007
- Capital Projects 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending May 31, 2007
- Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending May 31, 2007
- Renew the district's Workers' Compensation Insurance through PSBA Insurance Trust and Cusumano Insurance Agency, Inc., at a cost of \$136,105 for the 2007-2008 school year
- Authorize the proper district officers to sign the addendum with Maher Duessel for the audit of the earned income tax collector, Legal Tax Services, for the period of January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006, at a cost of \$1,800
- Authorize the proper district officers to sign the addendum with Maher Duessel for the audit of the Homestead Borough tax collector for the period July 1, 2006, through April 2007, at a cost of \$1,800
- Authorize the proper officers of the district to sign the engagement letter dated June 12, 2007, from local auditor, Maher Duessel, for audit services for the district for fiscal year ending June 2007, at a cost of \$11,750 for the district's basic financial statements and Single Audit, \$1,600 for the audit of the Act 511 tax collector, and \$1,600 each for the Munhall and West Homestead tax collectors
- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Barbara Donaldson for Lot & Block 133-G-32-1 for years 2002 through 2006 for a total amount of \$723.10 as a result of a change in assessment

- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Dale Spirnak for Lot & Block 134-D-8 for year 2006 in the amount of \$307.79 as a result of a change in assessment
- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to David Jones for Lot & Block 132-L-119 for year 2003 in the amount of \$497.19 as a result of a change in assessment

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Fedor Item 1.1.01 (General Fund invoices for May 2007 in the amount of \$415,989.51). Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Item 1.9 (real estate tax refund) to be revised to read year 2003 and not 2006.

Mrs. Fedor requested a breakdown of the expenses from Mr. Fetzko. She never received the April bill, and May's invoice is not itemized. She also asked for clarification of "Payments in lieu of taxes" on Item 1.1.05. Ms. Sabo will ask Mr. Yaklich. Mrs. Fedor asked why on Item 1.1.02, the Tremco expenses did not come out of the 2001 capital expenses fund. Ms. Sabo stated that we will be depleting the 2001 capital expense fund, but not permitted to use capital expense fund for Tremco maintenance costs. On items 1.4 and 1.5, Mrs. Fedor asked why there is a difference of \$200 in auditing costs. Ms. Sabo will look into this.

Operations

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

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Accept the donation of a free book collection of 100 hardcover titles appropriate for 1st through 4th grade students from Colgate-Palmolive, Shop 'n Save and Reading is Fundamental
- Installation of hand dryers in all restrooms in the high school and faculty restrooms to be paid from the 2005 Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$7,901.28
- The advertising of bids for painting of all the lockers in the high school to be paid from the 2005 Capital Improvements Fund

- The installation of carpeting by Toth Carpeting to be paid from the 2005 Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of \$9,990.00
- The installation of the two (2) 50 kVAR, 480 capacitors in the high school at a cost of \$3,505.00
- The maintenance agreement with Compu-Fix, Inc., for computer maintenance for the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$290.50 per month for Alphastation 200 System and \$585.00 per year for Dell Poweredge 2800 System and \$2,900 per year for Watchguard products

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Item 2.4 (Installation of hand dryers in restrooms) Tim McCallister, Sloan Terrick and Kubancsek. Item 2.4 failed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Fedor asked about hand dryers being permitted to be paid from the capital projects funds. It was stated that Mr. Keesecker discussed this item with Mr. Yaklich. It was also noted that installing hand dryers would be a cost effective move.

Co-Curricular Leadership

- Mr. Tim McCallister reported that the swimming pool has been drained and Mr. Keesecker is regrouting the tile as needed.
- Mrs. Fedor noted that draining, cleaning and repairing the pool should be done annually.
- Mr. Tim McCallister gave an update on the floor of the high school gym. Some of the paint is cracking. Therefore, the gym is closed for painting of the lines on the floor. This is covered under warranty and at no cost to the school district.
- Mrs. Terrick asked if the groups using the gym have been notified. Project CHUCK will be using the middle school gym in case of rain.

Special Assignments

Mrs. Sloan:

- Reported that Steel Center is installing 50 new stations, manicure, pedicure and facial stations for the cosmetology classes. Dr. Kinavey reported that we have 91 students enrolled at Steel Center for 2007-2008.
- Mrs. Sloan also reported that Homestead Borough is building a new facility at the corner of 7th and Amity Streets. The TIF Committee granted Young Life funds to maintain the tree wells along 8th Avenue. We are still looking into the tax abatement issue.

Educational Leadership

Mrs. Terrick moved and Mrs. Cannon seconded the motion to authorize the proper district officers to sign the agreement between Community College of Allegheny County and the school district for the Dual Enrollment Program for the 2007-2008 school year. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively; Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mrs. Fedor reported 26 students participated in the Dual Enrollment program last year and received college credit and were reimbursed 48% of costs. Mrs. Fedor thanked Ms. Sabo for her work on this program. Mr. Ducar appreciated that his daughter is taking courses and will have one semester completed before enrolling in college.

Personnel Management

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

- Post the administrative position of Food Service Supervisor at a yearly salary of \$25,000 with all other benefits as stated in the Administrative Compensation Plan
- A family medical leave of absence for Jessica Andzelik beginning on or about September 21, 2007, through December 5, 2007
- A family medical leave of absence for Bridget Ellis beginning August 27, 2007, through on or about October 22, 2007

- To hire three certified elementary teachers and one paraprofessional for the Kindergarten Title I Summer Camp to be paid by Title I funds
- The agreement between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association as presented effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012, with the provision that the district will continue to provide the same health care benefit to three (3) specified cafeteria employees for not more than 60 days
- Accept, with regret, the resignation of Suzanne Wintruba from the position of part-time secretary in the high school office effective June 15, 2007
- Accept, with regret, the retirement of Bernadette Vandriak effective August 3, 2007, with all benefits as provided in the collective bargaining agreement
- Approve an intermittent unpaid family medical leave of absence for Debbie Woolley not to exceed 60 days (12 weeks) in duration during the 2007-2008 school year
- Accept the supplemental resignations of Matt Wierzchowski, Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach; Patrick Connelly, Middle School Intramural Supervisor; Mark Fallon, Middle School Newspaper Sponsor; and Sharon Ellis, Senior High School Prom Sponsor effective immediately

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Fedor on Item 6.5 (Agreement between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association). Motion carried.

Mrs. Cannon asked for clarification about the intramural supervisors. It was stated that the district employs supervisors in each building.

Mrs. Fedor questioned Item 6.5 and asked why legal counsel was not involved in the negotiations after the Board decided to use their services. Mrs. Cannon felt it was cost effective, and she spoke with the personnel committee, Mr. Yaklich and Dr. Kinavey. Mr. Yaklich volunteered to negotiate and is experienced in contract negotiation. Mrs. Cannon noted that Mrs. Fedor resigned from the negotiating committee. Mr. Fetzko stated that the district did not have to use the services of legal counsel. Mrs. Fedor noted that there was no contribution by the employees to health care costs negotiated in this contract.

Mrs. Fedor asked why the proposal for summer workers was pulled at the worksession. It was noted that this item was pulled from the agenda due to the budget cuts. Mr. Keesecker can do the work without the summer student workers.

Adoption of the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mrs. Cannon seconded the motion to adopt the 2007-2008 general fund budget in the amount of \$27,696,206 setting the 2007-2008 real estate millage. Currently the millage is set at 18.92 mills and will be increased to 21.21 mills an increase of 2.29 mills. One mill is equal to \$2,121 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, \$212.10 per \$10,000 of assessed valuation, \$21.21 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and \$2.12 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Tim McCallister, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Fedor, Sloan, Terrick. Motion failed.

Mr. Fetzko noted that the budget must be passed with 5 affirmative votes.

Mrs. Cannon called a 5-minute recess at 9:50 pm. Meeting resumed at 10 p.m.

Mr. Tim McCallister felt we could cut back administratively and have one Director of Curriculum instead of a Director of Elementary and a Director of Secondary. Mrs. Fedor stated that it would not save any money in the district. Dr. Kinavey added that he wants to go one year without the Director of Secondary Education. Mr. Colebank, and the academic coaches will address the curricular needs at the secondary level. Dr. Policastro added the reasons for a Director of Elementary Education. She spoke about the NCLB, and we must make sure that we are continually meeting the needs of every student. That's why we bring in reading coaches, title teachers, and reading specialists. The AYP percentages are increasing from 54% to 63%. If we are not meeting the AYP at 54%, how are we going to reach 63%. Dr. Kinavey does not accept the test scores of the students in the district. It is too large a task for one administrator. He feels we need to focus on the curriculum. Dr. Kinavey feels we will need 2-3 years to make a difference.

Mrs. Fedor stated that high performing districts hire coaches to help. We have 28 new staff members this year who need guidance. We have no data to measure how successful we are. She feels we need all the positions, and she is against not having a Secondary Director. It was noted that we have not had a tax increase in 14 years.

Ms. Dreshman asked about the budgeting of the Steel Center students and whether they will have enough hours of instruction. Mr. Colebank stated that we adjusted schedules to comply. She asked for the personnel changes. Dr. Kinavey reported elimination of secondary director, reduction in security staff, elimination of a confidential secretary, not replacing a retiring secretary, not replacing two custodial vacancies, not replacing a science teacher, and not replacing a Spanish teacher. Ms. Dreshman asked why there are no budgets available for the public. She would like to see the budget on the website in the future. Dr. Kinavey is restructuring the staff to make replacements within the district. The number of classes needed is based on student enrollment. He will be looking at how to better utilize the staff on hand to meet the needs of the children.

Mrs. Fedor discussed the class sizes at Barrett and Park Schools, and she added that this school district has always supported small class size. Dr. Kinavey noted that we like to keep the classes small. Mr. Colebank added that Park and Barrett students did well on the 4Sight assessment. This should reflect an increase on our PSSA scores.

Mr. Colebank responded to a question about Mr. Campbell's donation of \$1.3 million for technology in Phase 1. His donation had no bearing on the budget. We were able to put upgrades and maintenance back into the technology budget. We are negotiating with two other funders for matching funds, and we are looking into curricular and professional development. The curriculum teams are writing grants as well.

Mr. Ducar talked about community donations by Mr. Campbell to MUSA, Midget Football program, Young Life, Lighthouse, and the boxing gym. We thank him for his generosity.

Mrs. McConnell, Davis Avenue, Munhall stated that a small reserve fund is scary. Are we going to increase that amount in the budget? Mrs. Guckes, Edgewood Drive, West Homestead asked if we should plan on yearly millage increases. The administration and the Board are going to work hard

on shaving the budget. Dr. Kinavey is taking a strong look at the costs in special education, charter schools, and debt service.

Mrs. Fedor thanked Mr. Tim McCallister for his discussion about the items. Mrs. Sloan and Mrs. Fedor did not decide to raise the taxes. Mrs. Fedor will change her vote because we need to go forward, but she is adamant about curriculum.

Mrs. Sloan reluctantly agreed to be on the Finance Committee but felt she was not kept in the loop. Her “no” vote on the budget was due to the letter accusing her of raising the millage. Her main objective for serving on the School Board is for the good of the children, facilities, and taxpayers.

Mrs. Cannon assigned the committees and appreciated that Mrs. Sloan took the Finance Committee assignment.

Mrs. Fedor thanked Joy Kardos and Bernie Vandriak for their leadership and years of service.

Mr. Ducar moved and Mrs. Kubancsek seconded the motion to revote on the adoption of the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: **Ducar, Fedor, T. McCallister, Sloan, Kubancsek, Cannon.** Negative: Terrick. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments

Ms. Dreshman noted that Mr. Yaklich should have been at this meeting. Would like to see the Board have the ability to get a phone vote from absent Board members. She feels that there should have been more meetings by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Fetzko reported to Ms. Dreshman that a keystroke error probably occurred and the wrong address was typed on the envelope regarding a delinquent letter sent to her neighbor. Mr. Fetzko stated that a correction letter was sent to him.

Mrs. Borsch thanked the Board for allowing the public to give input on the budget. Would like to see more public members on the Board committees. Asked for a new list of Board committees. Thanked the Board for putting the board meeting dates in the newsletter and on the message board.

Mrs. Borsch asked about tutoring and summer school. Ms. Sabo reported that we overspent the tutoring budget by \$13,000 during the school year. There will be no tutoring this summer. Students and parents are burnt out after the school year. Tutoring for the middle school and high school students starts the 1st day of school. Kindergarten enrollment is currently 71 students.

Mrs. Borsch read a statement from the PSBA Board Handbook.

Adjournment

Mr. Ducar moved and Mrs. Fedor seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, all members present voted affirmatively.

Meeting ended at 10:20 p.m.