

Worksession Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Conference Room
August 21, 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. Heddleston, Mr. Ed
McCallister, Mr. Tim McCallister, Mrs. Sloan and
Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mrs. Kubancsek due to ill family member, Mrs. Terrick
on vacation

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

Financial Management

There was discussion of the agenda items under the Financial Management Committee. Mr. Tim McCallister questioned the bills for Fagan Supplies. Ms. Sabo noted that the majority of the cleaning and painting is done over the summer and that is when the supplies are received.

There was a question about travel expenses for employees. Dr. Kinavey noted that employees are permitted to submit mileage for reimbursement.

There was discussion about the \$8,000 deficit in the cafeteria budget. Dr. Kinavey recommended not raising the price of lunches at this late date. Mrs. Fedor would recommend raising lunch prices in January.

Operations

Mr. Ducar reported that he has received many positive comments about the cleanliness of the high school. Mr. Keesecker was commended on a job well done.

There was discussion about the proposal to purchase hand dryers. The cost for installation is included on the proposal.

Mr. Ducar noted that the facility request from POP Warner is not a Midget Football request, but looks like a group trying to start a new program. Dr. Kinavey will look into cleaning of the stadium.

Co-Curricular Leadership

Mrs. Sloan reported that Steel Valley has 14 students enrolled at the Mon Valley School, and she distributed a book of activities from Mon Valley.

Duquesne students are enrolled at Steel Center, and Mrs. Sloan was unsure of who is paying for them. Steel Valley has 91 students enrolled at Steel Center Vo-Tech.

Educational Leadership

There was discussion about the distribution of the Elementary Academic Handbook. Dr. Policastro reported that a condensed version of the Academic Handbook will be distributed to families, and the whole document will be placed on the SV website. All teachers will receive a copy with the anchors.

There was discussion about the “Meet the Principal Night.” Board members received complaints that student room assignments were distributed at Meet the Principal Night and not before. Dr. Kinavey noted that enrollment of students is ongoing, and the longer we wait to give assignments, the more accurate they are.

Mr. Colebank reported that the district will institute parent access of their children’s grades this year.

Dr. Policastro shared the science curriculum pilot materials with the School Board. Each teacher in each grade will receive free materials for the 2007-2008 school year.

Mr. Colebank reported that the school district received \$1.1 million from Mr. Bill Campbell for Phase 1 of a six-year technology plan. We will be replacing computers in all labs, and the staff will receive new OS X laptop computers. We will also install student desktop computers and Microsoft software for \$1,400 with unlimited software and unlimited licenses.

Mr. Colebank announced that the school district received the Classrooms for the Future grant for the high school science department.

Mrs. Fedor asked for the results of the technology survey.

The school district will participate in Middle States Accreditation this year, and personnel will be completing surveys with this program.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Paula Borsch, 184 Roberta Drive, Munhall, thanked the school district for the unveiling of the James Campbell painting. She expressed concern regarding the enrollment and class sizes. Dr. Kinavey noted the average class size is 18 in elementary schools, 22 in the middle school and 25 in the high school. Small class sizes is a reflection of the School Board's support of education.

She inquired about differentiated instruction and the amount of personnel to accomplish this. Dr. Policastro reported the staff has received professional development, and Dr. Kinavey noted that we are adequately staffed. Dr. Policastro noted that we will be using classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, academic coaches and Title teachers in the classrooms.

Dr. Kinavey reported the four focus areas this school year:

Early literacy

Sustained professional development

Data-driven instruction

Raise PSSA scores

Dr. Kinavey reported that he has high expectations for the principals. They are required to evaluate and observe the teachers four times per year and make visits to the classrooms.

Mrs. Borsch asked about accountability of the teachers in regards to using the internet and talking on cells phones in the classrooms.

Ms. Donna Dreshman, Forest Avenue, Munhall, asked about the status of the swimming pool. It was reported that it will be up and running for the start of school, and we will rent the pool to West Jefferson Hills School District.

Ms. Dreshman asked if all teachers are properly certified. It was reported that a non-teaching employee is close to being certificated.

Mr. Fetzko discussed the litigation with Homestead Borough Council.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ducar and seconded by Mrs. Fedor. Voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The Board convened an executive session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters.