

**Regular Meeting  
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors  
Senior High School Library  
September 25, 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. Tim  
McCallister, Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Terrick, Mrs. Kubancsek  
and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: Mr. Ed McCallister (arrived 7:33 p.m.)

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

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

**Acknowledgements**

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Mrs. Maria Garcia*, grandmother of Jonathan Edwards, Middle School teacher; *Mrs. Chrissy Davis*, aunt of Erin Cain, Middle School teacher; *Mr. Raymond Macko*, father of Amy Diliscia, school psychologist; *Mrs. Janet Rapach*, grandmother of Katie Pugh, elementary teacher; and *Mrs. Mary Callahan*, aunt of Lois Habrat, secretary to the Director of Pupil Personnel.

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

Mr. Ed McCallister arrived at 7:33 pm.

## **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

- Ms. Donna Dreshman, Forest Avenue, Munhall asked for the cost to appraise the Waterfront property. Mr. Fetzko stated that approximately \$7,000 was incurred. She also asked for copies of Item 2.1 (Facility Rentals) and Item 2.2 (Fundraising Requests). Dr. Kinavey noted that Item 6.3 (Mrs. Thomas family medical leave request) was deleted because Mrs. Thomas was found not to be eligible for a family medical leave. Ms. Dreshman asked if the Board would explain the terms and conditions associated with Item 6.16 (Resignation of Mr. Bichko). Mr. Fetzko noted that due to the confidentiality clause, neither party is permitted to discuss the terms and conditions.
- Mrs. Borsch, Roberta Drive, Munhall asked if any board members or administrators are related to the candidates listed in Item 6.5 (Appoint Tutors), Item 6.6 (Day-to-Day Substitutes), Item 6.7 (School Dentist), Item 6.10 (Substitute Secretary), Item 6.11 (Substitute Custodian) and Item 6.12 (Supplementals). Mrs. Sloan noted that she is related to the school dentist through marriage, and Mr. Tim McCallister reported that basketball coach Shawn McCallister is his cousin.

## **President's Comments**

Mrs. Cannon:

- Announced that the Marching Band would hold its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Band Festival at Campbell Field on Saturday, September 29.
- At this past Saturday's football game, the district held a 1982 Ironmen football team alumni recognition at halftime.
- Mr. Wehrer is starting an academic organization entitled ITEAM to mobilize community involvement in our schools to help the district increase student achievement. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 pm in the high school.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kinavey:

- Announced there would be no school for students on Monday, October 8. The professional staff will participate in the countywide inservice day. Professional development is also scheduled at the high school for the secondary math and English teachers on Successmaker and various applications.
- 4-Sight testing has been taking place in grades 3 through 11 as well as G-MADE and DIBELS in grades K-2. The data will be collected and submitted to the Department of Education before October 10, and the data will be compiled and reviewed with the principals and coaches.
- On October 8, Pitt would inservice principals and academic coaches on the new assessment collection software. This software analyzes district assessments and creates individual portfolios for student needs.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services**

Mrs. Borges:

- Three professionals from across the state will conduct a peer review of our counseling program in the school district.
- Watson Institute, an organization that works with students with severe disabilities, has included Steel Valley for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a grant funded by the Educational Improvement Tax Credit. Including this years' grant, the district has received a total of \$97,474 in transition services at no cost to the district.

### **Director of Elementary Education**

Dr. Policastro:

- Dr. Policastro and elementary teachers met with Harcourt to review the science curriculum, and the district received five free science kits. The publishing company will also provide PSSA prep questions for all grades levels.
- Representatives from IUP have offered professional development services to our staff, which includes inservice for our teachers and paraprofessionals on special education, early literacy, differentiated instruction, etc.
- On October 10, the Queen of Hearts from WQED will be storytelling at Franklin Primary Center. Steel Valley is one of

five school districts selected to participate for one year. This \$3,000 grant includes free books for all students and curriculum. Dr. PolICASTRO is exploring a Reading Rainbow program from WQED for grades 1-5.

### **Student Representative to the School Board**

Senior Representative Thomas Barefoot:

- The girls' soccer, boys' soccer and football teams are doing well, and the student body is hoping to be in the WPIAL playoffs.
- High school lockers are being painted and are looking nice.
- Students in grades 9, 10 & 11 started the 4Sight testing in Reading, writing and math.
- Next week students will be involved in homecoming activities. The Powder Puff game, Bonfire and Homecoming dance will be held on Wednesday.
- PSAT testing will take place October 20.
- PSSA retests for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who scored at Basic and Below Basic on PSSA will occur this month.

Activities at Park School:

- Students completed 4Sight and the DIBELS fall testing cycles
  - New classroom computers are being installed
  - Saturday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, parent volunteers are creating a U.S. map on the playground.
  - Open House was a success last week; many parents attended.
- Barrett Activities included:
- Open House was held on September 19
  - Grandparents Breakfast was held on September 13
  - On October 4, Charlie Batch and Steelers presented book bags to students at both Franklin and Barrett Schools

### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mr. Heddleston moved and Mr. Tim McCallister seconded the motion to appoint Pamela Terrick as Assistant Board Secretary at no pay.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Ed McCallister. Abstain: Terrick. Motion carried.

**Mr. Heddleston moved and Mrs. Kubancsek seconded the motion to authorize the proposed settlement by the Board of Viewers on the Waterfront Apartments Tax Appeal with market values per TIF agreement for years 2001 and 2002 is \$610,200, year 2003 is \$12,000,000, 2004 is \$13,090,000, 2005 is \$15,250,000, 2006 is \$16,725,000 and 2007 is \$17,000,000. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston. Motion carried.**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mr. Tim McCallister seconded the motion to approve the August 21 and August 28, 2007 meeting minutes. Upon roll call the following voted affirmatively on August 21 minutes: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Cannon. Negative: None. Abstain: Terrick and Kubancsek. Upon roll call the following voted affirmatively on August 28 minutes: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Terrick, Cannon. Negative: None. Abstain: Ducar, Ed McCallister, Sloan and Kubancsek. Motion passed.**

### **Financial Management**

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

- General Fund invoices from 2006-2007 in the amount of \$135,815.28
- General Fund invoices fro September 2007 in the amount of \$529,039.16
- General Fund hand checks for August 2007 in the amount of \$1,175,229.50
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2007
- Food Service invoices for September 2007 in the amount of \$24,412.27
- Treasurer's Report from June 2007
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending August 31, 2007

- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending August 31, 2007
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending August 31, 2007
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$2,156.08
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$10,480.00
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$798.00
- The Single Audit Report for year 2005-2006 from Maher Duessel
- Adopt a resolution approving an amendment to an interest rate management plan and authorize an amendment to qualified interest rate management agreement

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

### **Operations**

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

- Facility rental requests
- Fundraising requests

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

### **Co-Curricular Leadership**

No Report

### **Special Assignments**

Mrs. Sloan:

- Reported that on Friday, October 5, there would be a ceremony for the opening of the Homestead Grays Bridge.

### **Educational Leadership**

**Mrs. Terrick moved and Mr. Tim McCallister seconded the motion to approve the Special Education Performance Grant/School-Based Behavioral Health Grant Contract for Services and authorized the appropriate officials to execute said agreement.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Personnel Management**

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

- Deny Grievance #07-196
- Approve an unpaid family medical leave of absence for Tracy McGrew beginning October 2, 2007, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Retroactively appoint Maria Heddleston to the position of tutoring facilitator at a rate of \$30 per hour per the collective bargaining agreement beginning September 10, 2007, through May 30, 2008
- Retroactively appoint Lisa Lawson, Tracey Findlay, Lauren Gennari, Lori Kenavey and Beth Kelly to the position of tutor and Zachary Mathews as a substitute tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour per the collective bargaining agreement beginning September 10, 2007, through May 30, 2008
- Amanda Cepko, Erica Weston, Jennifer DeFrancesco, Cynthia Lynn Cochran, Lauren George, Dianne Furnival, Wendi Ridgway-Price, and Lee Yarnell as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Appoint Dr. Dennis Zabelsky as school dentist for the 2007-2008 school year
- The attendance of Nicole Asson, Clay Karadus and Rebecca Russell to Marine Boot Camp in South Carolina on October 23-26, 2007, at no cost to the district
- An unpaid leave of absence for Kathleen Wolf on October 11-12, 2007
- Joan Axelson as a substitute secretary and instructional aide at a rate of \$7.15 per hour contingent upon receipt of Act 114

clearance, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances which must be completed within 30 days

- Travis Staudt as a substitute custodian at a rate of \$8.75 per hour contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, Act 114 and Act 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances which must be completed within 30 days
- The supplemental positions listed for the 2007-2008 school year
- A supplemental position of Middle School Drama Club sponsor and approve a stipend amount agreed upon by the School Board and the Steel Valley Education Association effective for the 2007-2008 school year
- An unpaid leave of absence for Elva Cherep beginning September 24 through October 1, 2007
- An unpaid family medical leave of absence for Diana Borges at the conclusion of her accumulated vacation days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration and pending the placement of a child for adoption
- Accept the resignation of Michael Bichko as per the terms and conditions of the Agreement of Settlement, Release and Confidentiality

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Sloan, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Tim McCallister and Terrick on Item 6.16 (Resignation of Mr. Bichko). Abstain: Heddleston (Item 6.4 Tutoring Facilitator), Mr. Ed McCallister (Item 6.12 Supplementals). Motion carried.

### **Citizen Comments**

- Mrs. Paula Borsch, Roberta Drive, Munhall, asked for a copy of the agreement with Mr. Bichko. Mr. Fetzko stated that he would not release a copy of the settlement agreement due to a confidentiality agreement, and neither party is to discuss the settlement of the agreement. Dr. Kinavey will post the position.
- Ms. Donna Dreshman, Forest Avenue, Munhall, stated that she felt the public should know the buy out in the agreement in



Item 6.16 (Resignation of Mr. Bichko). She stated that TIF agreements hurt taxpayers, boroughs and school districts, and the TIF should not have been as long as it was.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Ed McCallister moved and Mr. Ducar seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.