

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Senior High School Library**  
**May 29, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kiefer, President, at 7:03 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Bajus, Mrs. Ballas, Mrs. Cannon (via telephone connection), Mr. Olson, Mrs. Steele, Mr. Terrick (via telephone connection), Mrs. Yuhas, Ms. Youngblood (via telephone connection) and Mrs. Kiefer

Also present: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mrs. Borges and Mr. Colebank

Pledge of Allegiance

**Acknowledgements**

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *John Morgan*, nephew of Denise Blasko, paraprofessional at Park School; *Josephine Policastro*, mother of Dr. Carole Policastro, instructional resource teacher at Barrett Elementary School; *Dolores "Dolly" Gregor*, retired middle school secretary, Steel Valley School District; *Ann M. Opsitos*, aunt of Holli Bobick, paraprofessional at Park School; *Rowena "Skip" Bedillion*, grandmother of Emilee Garcia, middle school/high school teacher; *Giovanni F. Onorato*, 1994 Steel Valley graduate; *Louis Borsos*, father of Debbie Perry, Barrett cafeteria worker.

**Ms. Youngblood moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to place an appropriate selection of books into the district libraries in memory of the above departed.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

An executive session began at 7:08 to discuss legal/personnel issues and ended at 7:30 p.m.

## **President's Comments**

Mrs. Kiefer:

- Congratulated the High School Baseball team on its WPIAL Championship.

## **Student Representative to the Board**

Brandon Tomasic:

- Announced the Keystone exams were completed May13-15 at the Senior High school, and final exams were conducted the week of May 19.
- The Senior Breakfast is scheduled for June 4 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- Spring sports teams were very successful this year. The Girls Softball, Boys Volleyball and Boys Baseball teams qualified for the WPIAL playoffs. The Boys Volleyball and Boys Baseball won their sections. The baseball team went on to win its first WPIAL championship in history.
- Expressed his objections to the uniform dress code.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer:

- Announced that Tuesday, June 3, is the districtwide Kennywood Picnic Day.
- On Friday, June 6, the district will hold its commencement program highlighting a wonderful group of seniors beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field. The public is invited to attend.
- Congratulated the Boys Baseball team on its WPIAL Championship.
- Mr. Shawn McCallister reported that the Girls Softball team had another successful year both on and off the field. The team finished with a 7-3 section record, a 10-4 overall record, and reached the playoffs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. The overall team GPA was a 3.6. Chelsea Rohan, Maddie Cotter and Alexis Toth accepted the team's Certificate of Recognition.

- The Boys Volleyball team finished the season with an outstanding 16-3 overall record and an 8-2 section record. They earned the Section Championship for the first time since 1985 and they also advanced to the WPIAL quarterfinals. The team GPA this season was a 3.3. David Grace accepted the Certificate of Recognition from the Board
- In front of an enormous and energetic crowd, the Boys Baseball team won the WPIAL section title for the first time in Steel Valley history by defeating Seton LaSalle in a 6-5 thriller at Consol Energy Park. The baseball team has a GPA of 3.4. All 10 senior players achieved honor roll status and were recognized at the Dr. Griffin Academic Awards Banquet.
- Mr. Wehrer recognized the Steel Center *Extra Effort Award* winners for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the school year. They are:

Dylan Pisarcik	Advertising & Design
Ryan Ackerman	Building Trades
Amber Piskor	Cosmetology
Regis Robson	Electrical Construction
Thomas Pepke	Food Service
Maria Cutone	Health Assistant
Brittany Connors	Protective Services
Mateo Leach	Retail Food Merchandising & Production
The <i>Top of the Shop</i> awardees for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2013-2014 are:	
Anthony Wright	Advertising and Design
Ryan Ackerman	Building Trades Maintenance
Brianna Miller	Cosmetology
Amber Birkhamer	Health Assistant
Brittany Connors	Protective Services

- During the Educational Focus, Biology Teacher Sue Olsen recognized the extra efforts of Kristen Moten, Michael Kraycar, Thomas Joyce, Ryan Brown, Amber Travis, Brandon Tomasic, Milan Starr, Marissa Stahl and Savannah Sargent in broadening their scientific knowledge at the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute.
- Ms. Olsen recognized Hannah Fallon and Joe Yano who attended Saturday workshops at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences. Certificates of Recognition were presented to the students.
- She thanked Mr. Wehrer and the School Board for the opportunity to participate in the math and science curriculum writing. Elementary and secondary teachers have been able to discuss science opportunities and work with professionals from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

- Ms. Olsen recognized Shativa Benton for being chosen by the Andy Warhol Youth Invasion for her achievement in fashion design. Shativa was 1 of 15 students chosen to work on the runway portion of the Youth Invasion program.
- Ms. Olsen announced that Sophomore Denis McCormick participated in the *Hear Me 101* video and was hired as a summer intern to work at Carnegie Mellon University's CREATE Lab. Denis will develop a strategy to get the message out and spend time at Pittsburgh Filmmakers Youth Media Program and at the Western PA Writing Project's Young Writers Institute.
- Certificates of Recognition were distributed to Emily Tinta, Shativa Benton, Elizabeth Kalansky, Chelsea Greenhow, Chelsea Pearson, Shane McGuire, Hannah Fallon, Brandon Tomasic, Layla Phouthavong, Trevon Murtaza, Denis McCormick, Brittany Furlong, Brittany Connors and Jennifer Brizes for their commitment to the production of the 2014 Hear Me 101 Documentary. In the film, the students expressed that they are not just a ranking but they showed the complexity and diversity of Steel Valley students. Their documentary can be seen on YouTube.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education**

Mrs. Borges:

- Announced that Mon Valley School graduation would be held June 5. She will award diplomas to the Steel Valley graduates, and Board Member Tom Olson will join her at the ceremony.

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology**

Mr. Colebank:

- Stated that all students must meet their student obligations each year. All school district items must be returned and cafeteria bills paid.
- Noted that all students (public, private, charter and cyber) are required to take the PSSA and Keystone exams.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

- Mrs. Darla Urban, Woodhill Drive – policy on dress code, self-esteem of students, re-think decision, don't let a few dictate for all
- Ms. Joyce Kornacki, Emerson Avenue – distributed an article which highlighted key points to the school board members. She was called at work by a board member on her statements about the uniform policy. Girls not allowed to wear skirts and blouses. She doesn't feel heard and policy being forced down our throats
- Ms. Abby Caspar, 275 W. Schwab Avenue – not cheaper to wear uniforms. Steel Center students now have to buy a third outfit, no freedom of expression in a uniform, wants to dress like a girl, what happens when principals are not consistent, how will a new dress code be enforced when current one is not.
- Mrs. Stephanie McKee, 123 W. Virginia Avenue – in favor of dress code, no arguing about what children will wear, discussed individuality.
- Ms. Isabella Furrick, Middle School – does not understand why getting uniforms when we can't enforce the policy now, issues with appropriate attire is probably why we are going to uniforms.
- Mrs. Kathy Ligeros, 210 Elizabeth Street – stated reasons against the uniform policy.
- Ms. Donna Dreshman, Forest Avenue – will we see a tax increase, what are benefits of new business manager, when will contract be signed, did board talk about Item 2.4 (deleted), is anyone related to board or administration, asked about details in dress code policy.
- Mr. Brandon Tomasic – what are repercussions administration will enforce, will they have clothing to give students, religious beliefs.

### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion for district officers to execute the employment agreement between John Zenone as presented.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Cannon--no vote offline. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion to approve the board meeting minutes of April 28, 2014, and May 1, 2014.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Cannon--no vote offline: Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **1.0 Financial Management**

**Mrs. Ballas moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for April 2014 in the amount of \$586,018.98
- 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for April 2014 in the amount of \$429,454.27
- 1.1.03 Food Service invoices for April 2014 in the amount of \$41,107.96
- 1.1.04 Payroll Funding Transfers for April 2014
- 1.1.05 General Fund Revenue Report for April 2014
- 1.1.06 General Fund Expenditure Report for April 2014
- 1.1.07 Treasurer's Report for April 2014
- 1.1.08 Cafeteria Revenue Report for April 2014
- 1.1.09 Cafeteria Expenditure Report for April 2014
- 1.1.10 Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending April 30, 2014
- 1.1.11 Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$49,969.56
- 1.1.12 Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$9,120.58
- 1.1.13 Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,271.95
- 1.1.14 Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,922.88
- 1.2 Award bids for library, science, art, health and physical education supplies for the 2014-2015 school year at a total cost of \$6,833.88
- 1.3 Authorize a real estate tax refund for year 2014 in the amount of \$337.86, as a result of a change in assessment, to David Khorey for Lot & Block 131-M-116
- 1.4 To present the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year with expenditures in the amount of \$30,063,944 and revenue in the amount of \$29,473,101

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Cannon--no vote offline. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

**Mr. Bajus moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 2.1. Facility rental requests as presented except Permit Nos. 4302, 4303, 4304 and 4305
- 2.2 To permit soliciting of bids for repairs to Franklin Primary Center's rear parking lot
- 2.3 To permit soliciting bids for asphalt replacement of the track around Griffin Field and replace and extend the asphalt sidewalk leading from the tennis courts to the high school

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Cannon--no vote offline.  
Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

**Mr. Bajus moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 3.1 Fundraising requests as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **4.0 Special Assignments**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Bajus seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 4.1 Hold first reading of revisions to Policy No. 221 Dress and Language
- 4.2 Adopt the resolution permitting the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School to change its official name and designation to the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education
- 4.3 Hold first reading of revisions to Policy No. 123 Interscholastic Athletics

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: Ballas and Cannon on 4.1. Motion carried.

**Mrs. Ballas made a motion to table Item 4.1 until the June 9, 2014, special meeting and Mrs. Cannon seconded the motion.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Cannon and Olson. Negative: Bajus, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Motion did not pass.

## **5.0 Educational Leadership**

**Mrs. Ballas moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 5.1 Approve the Notices of Adoption of Policies, Procedures & Use of Funds between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Steel Valley School District for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the appropriate officials to execute said agreement

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **Personnel Management**

**Mr. Olson moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 6.1 Family medical leave of absence for Nicole States beginning August 20, 2014, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- 6.2 Renew the agreement with Dr. Dennis Zabelsky as the school dentist for the 2014-2015 school year
- 6.3 Approve Mr. Joseph J. Garrity as a temporary educational consultant at the rate of \$325 per day retroactive to May 7, 2014
- 6.4 Appoint the staff for the 2014 Summer Camp and the KtO Supplementals for the 2014-2015 school year as presented
- 6.5 Deny Grievance #14-239

- 6.6 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Kathy Ligeros from the position of general worker in the high school cafeteria effective June 9, 2014
- 6.7 Jennifer Weis to the 3.25 hours per day general worker position in the high school cafeteria, at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour, and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective the first day of the 2014-2015 school year

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Bajus, Ballas, Cannon, Olson, Steele, Terrick, Yuhas, Youngblood and Kiefer. Abstain: Cannon on Item 6.4; Steele, Yuhas and Kiefer on Item 6.5. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **Citizen Comments**

- Mr. Brandon Tomasic – dress and language for safety, smoking of board members on school property.
- Ms. Donna Dreshman – was audit accepted, when will audit be open for review, budget review, did board and employees accept Kennywood tickets, is there a social media policy for employees, how many board members can be on phone hook-up, will board members be attending commencement.
- Ms. Abigail Caspar – dress code, what will be ramifications if the dress code not followed, have board members been in the schools to see what students are wearing, bids on pool, no showers in bathroom, floors dirty, drainage problem in boys locker room, any work done in locker rooms.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by a motion made by Mr. Olson seconded by Mrs. Ballas.