

**Regular Meeting**  
**Steel Valley School District Board of Directors**  
**Senior High School Library**  
**January 28, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Youngblood, President at 7:00 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were in attendance:

Mrs. Ballas, Mr. Bulger, Mr. Colasante, Mr. Olson, Mr. Rojtas,  
Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Yuhas and Ms. Youngblood.

Absent: Mr. Terrick

Also attending: Mr. Wehrer, Mr. Fetzko, Mr. Zenone and Mrs. Borges

Flag Salute

**Acknowledgements**

Moment of Silence

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District Families: *Georgianne Youngblood*, sister-in-law of Colette Youngblood, Board Member and stepmother of Brittany Youngblood, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach; *Margaretta P. Ellis*, grandmother of Bridget Ellis and Ryan Ellis, former Steel Valley teachers; *Eugene P. Besnak*, father-in-law of Judi Besnak, substitute custodian; *Paul J. Shaffer*, retired custodian; *Carl Dragza*, son-in-law of Jean Kearns, Park School cafeteria worker; and *Anna Louise Wilson*, aunt of Susan Wright, secondary art teacher.

**Mrs. Steele moved and Mr. Olson seconded the motion to purchase memorial books to be placed into the district libraries in memory of the above departed.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **President's Report**

### **Ms. Youngblood:**

- Noted that the iPad distribution to high school students went well.

## **Student Representatives' Reports**

### **Ms. Abbey Caspar:**

- Reported on the activities at Franklin Primary Center. Kindergarten students participated in a Christmas Sing Along on December 21. A Title I Family Night was held on December 16 with a Polar Express theme. The Queen of Hearts read to the students on January 21, and the librarian from the Carnegie of Homestead read to the students on January 26. The Kindergarten students took a field trip to the Children's Museum on January 29.
- Fifth grade students from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools traveled to Steel Center for Career and Technical Education School for a Career Exploration Day on December 10. Students toured the school and participated in a variety of hands-on activities in six different technical areas including: Culinary Arts, Protective Services, Cosmetology, Carpentry, Applied Health and Auto Mechanics.
- A Parent University was conducted on December 3 for parents, and there were activities for students. A very nice Holiday Revue was held on December 15. Breakfast with Santa was a fun time and a huge success.
- Barrett Elementary School hosted the Holiday Revue on December 17 with record high attendance. There was standing room only for the show.
- Barrett students collected pennies during the Penny Wars activity and chose to donate their collection to the Ronald McDonald House, JDRF, Reflections of Grace Foundation, Make A Wish Foundation and the American Cancer Society.
- All Barrett students received either a book or mittens from Santa, thanks to the Mittens for Gavin project and teacher donations.
- A STEAM event was held on December 21-22 at the Middle School. Sixteen 7<sup>th</sup> graders participated in an educational immersion event, which blended elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math; team building exercises; and human-centered design principles. Teachers Mike Hofbauer, Steve Large and Mark Fallon assisted with the event along with Penn State University Professor Dr. Daniel Borsch.

- An iPad application workshop was held for staff members focusing on EdPuzzle, Socrative, Padlet, iTunes U and Numbers.
- Registration for Heart and Sole is occurring. This international program features positive messages and coping skills to navigate through life, encouraging girls to set and reach goals, and a running program. Registration and more information is available through Rebecca Kristen at the Middle School.
- The high school held a door decorating contest for the holidays, which really brightened up the high school.
- On December 23, the high school held an activity day, which teachers offered different activities and the students could choose where they wanted to go. Some of the activities included holiday arts and crafts, Dance Dance Revolution, gingerbread house building, movie in the auditorium, wiffle ball in the gym, robotics and board games.
- Many students showed what it means to “Pay it Forward” by buying another student an Xbox One, games and accessories for Christmas.
- The iPad Bashes occurred the first week in January at the high school and went very well. Many high school teachers attended the events, demonstrating their support of the initiative and for the students. The teachers and students are excited to have this technology to incorporate it into their lessons and daily routines.
- The winter semiformal was held at Westwood Golf Club on January 16. The students had a great time. Mrs. Beth McCallister did a fantastic job planning the event.
- The Senior Snow Tubing Day was wonderful. Students formed a chain of tubes and slid down the hill together. Thank you to Mrs. McCallister for planning this annual event.
- Steel Valley SADD students hosted an information table during lunch periods to promote National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week. SADD students encouraged their peers to learn the facts about how drugs and alcohol can negatively affect your body and mind. There was a Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge, and students discussed a number of great ways to have fun that do not include using drugs or alcohol. Steel Valley SADD made the National SADD Facebook page!
- Stand Together, a program with TFIM, is planning a project that will stop the stigma associated with mental illness. The project consists of a different activity focusing on mental illness during the week of February 22-26.

- On behalf of the Student Government, we would like to thank the School Board members as part of School Board Appreciation Month. A cake was provided and enjoyed by all.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Mr. Wehrer:**

- Recognized the Varsity Football Team for a tremendous season (10-2) and making the semifinal game of the WPIAL AA Playoffs. Coach Steele thanked the Board for their support of the Academics in Motion program, which helps the players academically through its tutoring program.
- Thanked the Student Government for honoring the School Board members with a cake.
- Recognized the amazing students who participated in Vinny's Wish. He added that this is an indication that the culture of kids caring about kids and staff caring about kids is evident and noted that he is proud of the high school students.
- Announced that the DCNR awarded grant money to Homestead Borough for the renovation of Frick Park, Corry Playground and a trailhead. The DCNR will work with the Creating Value team to design the project. Donations include \$260,000 from DCNR, \$130,000 from ALCOSAN and \$100,000 from William V. Campbell Education and Community Foundation.

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

#### **Mrs. Borges:**

- Announced that the school district would hold Parent/Teacher Conferences the week of February 1. There will be no school for students on Friday, February 12, due to a professional development day for staff.

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

#### **Mr. Colebank:**

- Reported that the iPad rollout at the high school was successful. There are 51 devices to distribute to high school students. He also announced that the district must find a new Internet provider.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Bulger moved and Mrs. Ballas seconded the motion to approve the following meeting minutes:**

### **November 11, 2015:**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Steele and Olson. Abstain: Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None. Motion carried.

### **November 24, 2015:**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Olson, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Abstain: Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas. Negative: None.

### **December 7, 2015 Reorganization:**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None.

### **December 7, 2015 Worksession:**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None.

### **December 10, 2015 Regular:**

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Abstain: Olson. Negative: None.

Motion carried.

## **Solicitor's Report**

**Mrs. Ballas moved and Mr. Bulger seconded the motion to authorize payment to Christopher Mills in the amount of \$255.00.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Olson, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None. Motion carried.

**Mrs. Ballas moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the Southwest Allegheny County Tax Collection District Confidential Agreement and Authorization, and authorize the proper officers to affix their signature and seal to the contract on behalf of the District.** Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively:

Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Rojtas, Olson, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood.  
Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **1.0 Financial Management**

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

- 1.1.1 List of bills:
  - 1.1.01 General Fund invoices for December 2015 in the amount of \$794,410.21
  - 1.1.02 General Fund hand checks for December 2015 in the amount of \$958,485.25
  - 1.1.03 General Fund Revenue Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.04 General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.05 General Fund Balance Sheet for December 2015
  - 1.1.06 Food Service Revenue Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.07 Food Service Expenditure Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.08 Food Service invoices for December 2015 in the amount of \$37,027.75
  - 1.1.09 Food Service Balance Sheet for December 2015
  - 1.1.10 Payroll Funding Transfers for December 2015
  - 1.1.11 Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending December 31, 2015
  - 1.1.12 High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.13 Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2015
  - 1.1.14 Athletics Balance Sheet, Revenue Statement, Expense Statement and Disbursement Report for December 2015
- 1.2 A refund as a result of exoneration to Robert or Michaelene Aber for 133-A-252 in the amount of \$864.59 for year 2013
- 1.3 The Financial Statements and Audit Report for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium as of June 30, 2015
- 1.4 Permit the application for an American Express credit card in the District's name and the Business Manager, not to exceed \$5,000.00 in credit balance
- 1.5 The payments from the Capital Projects Fund as follows:  
Dagostino Electronic Services (Campbell Field Cameras) \$10,417.28  
Delrey Windows (HS/MS Project) \$7,857.00

W.B. Mason (Fireproof Cabinets) \$5,418.00  
Tower Engineering (HS/MS Project) \$1,034.63  
Tower Engineering (HS/MS Project) \$1,718.63  
Tri Star Chrysler Dodge Jeep (Caravan) \$23,740.00

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood.  
Colasante abstain on Items 1.1.12 and 1.1.14. Negative: None.  
Motion carried.

## **2.0 Operations**

**Mr. Rojtas moved and Mrs. Yuhas seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 2.1 Facility rental requests as presented
- 2.2 Contract with Reliapole Inspection Services Company at a cost of \$7,481.00 for the inspection of the Campbell Field light poles, the High School/Middle School light poles and the Tennis Courts/Deck Hockey light poles
- 2.3 Contract for Architectural and Construction Administration services with Kudravy Architects LLC to be billed at time and material, as presented, not to exceed \$12,200.00 for the bituminous paving project at the High School
- 2.4 Contract with Kudravy Architects, LLC to perform the services of Construction Administration at a cost of \$2,500.00 for the ADA Restrooms

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None.  
Motion carried.

## **3.0 Co-Curricular Leadership**

**Mrs. Yuhas moved and Mr. Bulger seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 3.1 Fundraising requests as presented

3.2 Authorize payment of \$2,500.00 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2016  
Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhus and Youngblood. Negative: None.  
Motion carried.

#### **4.0 Special Assignments**

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

- 4.1 Adopt the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's Principles for Governance and Leadership as a guide for working together more effectively for better student achievement
  - 4.2 Hold second reading and adopt the revisions to Policy 601 Fiscal Objectives
  - 4.3 Hold second reading and adopt new Policy 622.1 Capitalization of Fixed Assets
  - 4.4 Nominate Board Member James Bulger as a candidate for all open positions on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors
- Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhus and Youngblood. Negative: None.  
Motion carried.

#### **5.0 Educational Leadership**

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

- 5.1 Accept a donation of \$220,000 from the Campbell Educational and Community Foundation for Public Relations Services
- 5.2 Accept a donation of \$500 from the Homestead Lions Club for the Senior Class Breakfast
- 5.3 Accept a donation of \$7,737.23 from the Homestead-area Economic Revitalization Corporation (HERC) to support the Transforming Twelfth Project



- 5.4 Permit, at district expense, registration and attendance of Ms. Colette Youngblood for the National School Boards Association conference scheduled for April 8-12, 2016

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhus and Youngblood. Negative: None. Motion carried.

## **6.0 Personnel Management**

**Mrs. Steele moved and Mr. Bulger seconded the motion to approve the following:**

- 6.1 Create a full-time professional position as Cyber School Coordinator
- 6.2 A family medical leave of absence for Kimberly Glinka to commence immediately upon the custody of a child for adoption not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- 6.3 A family medical leave of absence for Julie Kamnikar to commence April 24, 2016, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- 6.4 Appoint Nicole M. Mascia to a part-time (0.5) temporary professional teaching position with a 2015-2016 assignment of part-time districtwide speech and language support teacher at a prorated salary based upon Master's Step 2 plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of Act 168, passing a physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- 6.5 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Lisa Harrier from the supplemental positions of High School Drama Vocal and High School Drama Instrumental and the resignation of Alex Hinsey from the supplemental position of High School Boys Volleyball Coach effective immediately
- 6.6 Appoint Sally Altman to the supplemental positions of High School Drama Vocal and High School Drama Instrumental, appoint Mary Jo Sklencar to the supplemental position of Co-Supervisor for Park Intramurals for the 2015-2016 school year, contingent upon receipt of all clearances
- 6.7 Permit distribution of Steel Valley Gold Cards to retired employees who are 65 years and older
- 6.8 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Tonya Jenkins from the Middle School/High School secretarial position retroactive to January 22, 2016

- 6.9 Appoint Renee Gelston to a food service worker position with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement, effective immediately
- 6.10 Appoint Kelly Chalfa to a food service worker position with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening
- 6.11 Appoint Mary Kacsur and Kaitlin Craycraft as districtwide paraeducators at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing a physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening
- 6.12 Appoint Melanie Zortea to the position of cafeteria monitor and assigned to Park School with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement and appoint her as a substitute in the food service department with no benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening, effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- 6.13 Accept, with regret, the resignation of Melissa Scanga from the long-term substitute position of 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Barrett Elementary School retroactive to January 26, 2016

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ballas, Bulger, Colasante, Olson, Rojtas, Steele, Yuhas and Youngblood. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Wehrer - Gold Card to Agnes

Mr. Bulger thanked the benefactor.

Mr. Olson thanked the Board for bringing him back.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:34 p.m.