

**Regular Meeting
Steel Valley School District Board of Directors
Senior High School Auditorium
March 27, 2007**

Mrs. Cannon, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Upon roll call the following members were present:

Mr. Ducar (arrived 7:31 p.m.), Mrs. Fedor, Mr. Heddleston, Mr. Ed McCallister (arrived 7:31 p.m.), Mr. Tim McCallister, Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Terrick, Mrs. Kubancsek and Mrs. Cannon

Absent: None

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

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged the following deaths in the Steel Valley School District families: *Theresa M. Finney*, grandmother of Melissa Draganosky, Park School teacher; *Catherine Safko*, grandmother of Therese Safko, paraprofessional at the Middle School; *Ann Majovsky*, aunt of Michelle Blasko, Park School teacher and aunt of Denise Blasko, paraprofessional at Park School; *James Niedermeyer*, uncle of Dana White, substitute school nurse, *Andrew Perhach*, uncle of Melissa Pentin, Middle School teacher; *Rebekah Bendgen*, grandmother of Amy Lyons, Park School secretary; *Robert Forrest*, nephew of Sandy Reiner, Accounts Payable; *Emma Kalka*, aunt of Mary Lou McConnell, paraprofessional at Franklin Primary Center; *Mary Elizabeth Mahon*, grandmother of Erin Cumming, substitute teacher at the Middle School.

Mrs. Kubancsek moved and Mrs. Sloan 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, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Vince Natale questioned items from the March 20, 2007, worksession agenda, specifically Item 2.3 (asbestos inspection of the Woodlawn building), Item 2.4, (proposal for the repairs to roofs at buildings) and Item 2.5 (proposal to advertise for bids for roof replacement) were removed from the March 27, 2007 agenda. It was advised by Solicitor Donald Fetzko and that the asbestos inspection had been done previously and the cost to raze the Woodlawn building would be \$800,000.

Regarding Item 2.4 (proposal for the repairs to roofs at buildings) Mr. Fetzko stated that the bid on the Park School roof was done only ten years ago. Mr. Keeseker said it was a good roof, put over a bad roof. Mr. Fetzko stated we may have a warranty and would speak to John Yaklich.

Regarding Item 2.5 (proposal to advertise for bids for roof replacement at Park Elementary), Mr. Fetzko stated that this item should be bid since it is over \$10,000. Mr. Ducar stated that the district is part of a consortium and state negotiated bid list so it doesn't need to be bid. Mr. Fetzko confirmed that if we use the price from the state bid list, the item doesn't need bid. Mrs. Fedor asked Mr. Fetzko if his opinion is to table, and his reply was yes, to look into it further. Mr. Ducar said we have \$3.3 million to spend in three years for capital improvements.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Ed McCallister asked to move the comments and recognize the students in attendance.

Dr. Kinavey recognized Toni Besh, French teacher, for being named an Honoree for the Teacher Excellence Program. Mrs. Besh will be recognized at the Celebration of Teaching Event on April 19 at which time she will learn if she receives one of the \$2,500 grants.

Fourth and fifth grade students showcased the *Freedom Train* program under the direction of teachers Karen Catterall, Lori Kenavey, Sharon Kampe, Student Teacher Robert Saunders and Media Specialist LuAnne Szczypinski. The students learned behind the scenes procedures, worked on public speaking skills, researched and studied the characters they portray through the Readers' Theatre project. The 4th grade students who participated were Jayla Irving, Alyssa Mackey, Shailyn DelGado, Miles Smith, Amonte Gwinn, Amanda Merling, and the 5th grade students included Naydina Phillips, Sashah Groce, Joseph Yano, Rykai Wright, Jeffrey Garnder, Deon Worthy and Shauna Ingraham.

Returning to Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Paula Borsch asked general questions regarding the agenda and who sets it. The Superintendent's Office prepares the agenda and Dr. Kinavey approves items to be presented for or removed from the agenda.

Mrs. Borsch noted that on under "Personnel" section, Item 6.1 (unpaid leave of absence) and Item 6.2 (family medical leave of absence) but nothing about Mr. Bichko.

Mr. Fetcko stated it is a personnel matter and the district cannot comment. Mrs. Borsch questioned who has the authority to suspend an employee if on a paid leave. Mr. Fetcko said the Board must approve the leave eventually.

Mr. Fetcko said the procedure is written in the public School Code under the title "Business Manager".

Mrs. Borsch said she has the guidelines and wants to make sure a vote was not taken in executive session.

Ms. Donna Dreshman noted that the word "new" should be placed next to Item 1.6 (the advertising of supply bids for the 2007-2008 school year). In reference to Items 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, were these items pulled from the agenda during executive session. She requested copies of Items 1.1.11(Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending February 28, 2007), 2.1 (facility rental requests), 2.2 (fundraising requests), 5.2 (revisions to 2006-2007 school calendar) and 5.3 (proposed

2007-2008 school calendar), and commended the Board for Policy No. 4.1 (second reading of revision to Policy No. 801 Public Records.)

Mr. Natale stated that if an item is deleted from the agenda of a worksession meeting and when the subsequent agenda for the regular meeting is prepared, it has the appearance of looking dishonest if removing the item from the worksession agenda is not so noted on the regular meeting's agenda.

Mr. Ducar noted that he was not notified as Chairperson of the Operations Committee that any item was pulled from the agenda.

President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon:

- Commended the Drama Club and Mr. Altman and the staff on the phenomenal musical and that the district has an incredible amount of talent in our community.

Solicitor's Report

No report

Director of Secondary Education

Ms. Fenyus:

- Announced that 51 Middle School students raised \$1,957.46 from the Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital, under the promotion of Mrs. Beth McCallister
- Sixth grader Logan Perry took part in the regional Spelling Bee at the University of Pittsburgh.
- On March 24, five middle school students participated in a National History Day competition at the Heinz History Center. The students performed an original skit based on the Homestead Steel Strike of 1892. Student participants included Kayla Baird as Andrew Carnegie, Alaina Bott as Henry Clay Frick, Taylor Wellman as Homestead Mayor John McLuckie, Sandra Alhaj as union leader Hugh O'Donnell and Sara Fallon

as the narrator. Teachers Mr. Ivan Braszo and Mr. Mark Fallon sponsored the group.

- Students who achieve a 3.0 or higher on their report card or progress report are eligible for a 50% discount on a one-month Athletic Club membership at the Carnegie Library of Homestead. Students with a 2.5-2.9 GPA will receive a 33% discount. Students who attend school 30 consecutive days without an unexcused absence or suspensions will receive a 25% discount. This program will begin with the 3rd quarter report card. Guidance counselors will provide students with a certificate to present to the library for the discounted membership. A regular club membership rate is \$30 per month.
- The district is now accepting donations for the Geri Palmieri Scholarship Fund. Please send any donations to Ms. Fenyus or Mrs. Geyer at the Senior High School.
- Munhall High School graduates from the Class of 1949 have offered to donate \$1,000 to the high school library for books to be placed in memory of Miss Margaret Howat, retired Head Librarian of the Munhall and Steel Valley School Districts.
- A Parents' Night Out is planned for April 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The Student Learning Team, comprised of teachers, parents and administrators is planning an early childhood literacy event for parents and their children.
- The Community Leaders Breakfast will be held on April 18 beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. The high school Rhythm Club and students from the Music Technology program will perform. Dr. Kinavey will address the accomplishments of the school district. The proceeds from this event support the Mon Valley Great Idea Grant program.
- The Veterans' Day Committee and the Munhall Garden Club are planning a dedication of a Blue Star Bi-Way on April 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library of Homestead.
- The Steel Valley Chamber of Commerce honored the Veterans' Day Committee, Mrs. Sharon Fisher, Chief Irvin Williams, Students Melissa Kaufold, Ian Mehok, Sara Fallon and Tyler Votedian at the annual Outstanding Citizens Dinner on March 29.
- Reported that the PSSA testing went well at the middle school and high school. She thanked the principals, teachers and

students for their hard work during testing week. As a reward, 11th graders enjoyed an ice cream social and the 8th graders went on a bowling trip. Various gift certificates, prizes and iPods were raffled off to students with perfect attendance and positive behavior during the testing. Ms. Fenyus thanked Mr. and Mrs. McCallister, Ms. Sabo and Mr. Colebank of their help with the activities and incentives.

- Distributed an overview of the national and local SAT scores. Out of the 80 students who took the SAT in 2006, 42 students scored higher than the national average on the writing section, 44 students scored higher than the average in reading, and 55 scored higher than the average in math. She reported that the district is partnering to create an SAT tutoring program for students in grades 8-11. In the meantime, students have the opportunity to take the Test-Taking Strategies course at the high school.
- National Testing Day is April 28, and in order to encourage students to practice taking the SAT or ACT the Princeton Review is offering free practice testing at St. Edmund's Academy in Squirrel Hill. Students are encouraged to take this practice test in order to help strengthen standardized test taking skills. More information is available at www.princetonreview.com or from Ms. Kunca in the High School Guidance Department.

Director of Elementary Education Report

Dr. Carol Policastro:

- She is developing professional development training for Barrett and Park paraprofessionals to assist them with a variety of strategies and resources to support student learning. Elementary Technology Assistants LuAnne Szczypinski and Kevin Tomasic will receive additional Waterford computer training in areas of math and science.
- Kindergarten registration for the 2007-2008 school year is continuing. Parents should contact Mrs. Cain to register their children, and subsequently a student assessment will be scheduled.

- Is working with the elementary principals to develop the framework for aligning the Pennsylvania state standards with the district curriculum

Student Representatives' Report

Miss Kim Hartnett

Mr. Thomas Barefoot

- Announced that all 10th grade students completed the Adopt-A-School program and received a certificate of participation from the FBI and law enforcement agencies.
- Fifty representatives participated in Career Day on March 8 to assist students with career choices and to help juniors complete their senior projects.
- The spring musical *Into the Woods* was well received by the community as well as the students.
- 98.7% of the juniors participated in the PSSA tests held March 14-16
- At Barrett Elementary School, fifth grade students have been tutoring second graders two afternoons per week. Fifth graders are paired with second graders who help them practice word lists and stories. The second graders get more practice time and the fifth graders develop a new appreciation of teaching.
- On March 10, eleven members of the Barrett Chess Club represented the school at the Carnegie Library Chess tournament. Congratulations to Caleb Broce for taking 2nd place and Amonte Gwinn for his 3rd place award in the elementary division. In addition, the Barrett Chess Club has challenged the administrative staff to a game of chess during recess on April 18, 19 and 20.
- Student teacher Ben Laughton taught a lesson on Africa to Mrs. Stokes' third grade class. As a culminating activity and with the help of Ms. Kampe, Mr. Ward from the Carnegie Library brought in his collection of African instruments for all to enjoy.
- Law Week will be held April 23-27 at the middle school and the high school. The 8th grade class will be touring Washington, DC, on their annual trip May 10-11
- Thomas Barefoot was crowned Mr. Steel Valley at the annual pageant.

- Congratulations to the Steel Valley team of AJ Dominic, Josh Joll and Thomas Barefoot on their outstanding win at KDKA's Hometown High Q.
- Upcoming middle school events: April 10 to 13-Spring Book Fair, April 10-School Dance; May 2-Spring Band and Choral Concert; May 18-Semi-formal dance; May 24-7th grade trip to Wildwood Highlands, June 1-Honors Assembly

Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Cannon moved and Mrs. Kubancsek seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007 special meeting, the February 20, 2007 worksession, the February 27, 2007 regular meeting, the March 6, 2007, special meeting and the March 20, 2007 worksession meeting. Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar (abstain on February 20 special meeting and February 27 regular meeting), Fedor, Heddleston, Ed McCallister (abstain on February 20 special meeting, February 27 regular meeting, March 6 special meeting and March 20 worksession meeting), Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: None. Motion carried.

Financial Management

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

- General Fund hand checks for February 2007 in the amount of \$397,601.16
- General Fund invoices for February 2007 in the amount of \$273,266.62
- General Fund invoices for February 28, 2007, in the amount of \$67,529.74
- Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2007
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$40,448.15
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$23,890.26
- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$2,963.94
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount of \$992.07

- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending February 28, 2007
- Capital Projects 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending February 28, 2007
- Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending February 28, 2007
- Authorize Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Barbara Donaldson, Lot & Block 133-G-32 for a total amount of \$723.10 for years 2002 through 2006 as a result of a change in assessment
- Approve the transfer of \$297,537.67 from the 2005 Capital Projects Fund for various Capital Projects through June 30, 2006
- Approve the amended ACT 1 Ballot Question as prepared by School District Solicitor Donald Fetzko at the request of the Allegheny County Election Division
- Accept the proposal from Milliman Consultants and Actuaries to value the Steel Valley School District's Post Employment Benefits during the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$7,000.00
- Authorize advertising of supply bids for the 2007-2008 school year which will include Art, Athletics, Audio Visual, Computer Supplies, General School and office, Home Economics, Technology, Library, Music and Science

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

Mrs. Fedor announced that the Finance Committee meeting originally scheduled for April 2 has been cancelled.

Operations

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

- Facility rental requests
- Fundraising requests

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

Co-Curricular Leadership

Mr. Tim McCallister moved and Mr. Ed McCallister seconded the motion to approve the following:

- Authorize payment of \$700 for the services of a DJ and up to \$300 for security at the prom to be held at the Sheraton Station Square on May 11, 2007
- Field trip by the Senior High School History Club on May 19-20, 2007, to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Sharpsburg, Maryland
- Field trip for six 10th graders to the Teen Institute Leadership Training on April 26-27, 2007, at Linden Hall in Dawson, PA, with all expenses paid from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant
- Field trip to Fort Necessity in Farmington, Pennsylvania, for the fourth grade class from Barrett Elementary School on May 29, 2007, at no cost to the district
- Field trip to Laurel Caverns in Hopwood, Pennsylvania, for the fifth grade class from Barrett Elementary School on May 30, 2007, at no cost to the district

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

Special Assignments

Mrs. Sloan moved and Mr. Ducar seconded the motion to hold a second reading and adopt the revision to Policy No. 801 Public Records.

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

Educational Leadership

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

- The 2007-2008 Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Program of services budget in the amount of \$3,551,450
- The revisions to the 2006-2007 school calendar as presented
- The proposed 2007-2008 school calendar as presented

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Fedor, Heddleston, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Ducar and Ed McCallister. Motion carried.

Mr. Ed McCallister asked for clarification on the cost savings to the district under the AIU Program Services Budget.

Personnel Management

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

- An unpaid leave of absence for Jill Bakota on December 12, 13 and 14, 2007
- A family medical leave of absence for Gwendolyn Berchok beginning on or about May 3 through June 5, 2007
- Accept, with regret, the resignation of Stacey Overton, Special Education Learning Support Instructor, retroactive to March 9, 2007
- Joe Bytzura, Krista Sommer and Lisa Gamrat as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter retroactive to February 28, 2007
- Appoint Tim Hinkle and Terrie Hoffman to the position of substitute tutors at a rate of \$30 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant, which ends May 8, 2007
- Attendance of Diana Borges to the Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services Administrators Conference in Lancaster,

Pennsylvania, from April 23-24, 2007, at a cost of \$365 plus meals, mileage and tolls

- Rafaela Aubrecht as a substitute paraeducator for the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$6.50 per hour pending receipt of mandated physical and drug screening
- Rodney Blackwell as a substitute in the custodial department at the rate of \$8.75 per hour contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Services of John Yaklich at the rate of \$250 per day effective immediately

Upon roll call the following members voted affirmatively: Ducar, Fedor, Heddleston, Ed McCallister, Tim McCallister, Sloan, Terrick, Kubancsek and Cannon. Negative: Ducar and Ed McCallister on Item 6.9 (services of John Yaklich). Motion carried.

Mr. Ed McCallister asked for a formal plan outlining Mr. Yaklich's work for the district.

Mrs. Sloan and Mr. Fetzko discussed a Tax Abatement program.

Citizens Comments

Ms. Paula Borsch thanked the Board for the minutes being placed on the district's website and asked the status if capital funds are not spent within three years, will the IRS require the district to pay interest. Mr. Fetzko responded that if 80% is spent within three years, there is no fine.

Mrs. Borsch asked for a copy of the solicitor's duties and responsibilities of the job. Mr. Fetzko stated his job description is listed in the School Code and that he answers all legal questions.

Mrs. Borsch said more microphones are needed.

Mrs. Borsch asked for copies of teacher certificates. Mr. Heddleston noted social security numbers are on certificates. Dr. Kinavey will look into this matter.

Ms. Dreshman questioned Item 6.9 (services of John Yaklich) and Dr. Kinavey stated Mr. Yaklich will be working as needed for 3-5 days a week, with no term set. Ms. Dreshman noted that Mr. Yaklich was brought in before and we can't always bring someone in to bail us out.

Regarding the \$3.3 million for the 2005 Capital Projects Fund, can the money be used to fix the pool? Mr. Fetzko said the Board must decide what to improve. There is one year left to make the capital improvements. Mrs. Fedor asked for documentation on how we have spent the money thus far and the plans for additional improvements.

Ms. Dreshman asked for a rough figure of what Dr. Warren was paid. Mr. Ducar said \$75,000, \$25,000 a year for three years.

Adjournment

Mrs. Terrick moved and Mrs. Kubancsek seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.