



MINUTES
Steel Center for Career & Technical Education
Joint Operating Committee
Special Meeting
In Person and Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Ruhl at 5:05 p.m. at Steel Center.

1.1. Flag Salute

1.2. Roll Call

Baldwin-Whitehall	Mr. Pete Giglione
Bethel Park	Mrs. Connie Ruhl
Brentwood	Mr. David Schaap
Clairton	Mr. Richard Livingston – Alternate
Duquesne	Mrs. Calvina Harris
Elizabeth Forward	Mr. Travis Stoffer – Absent
South Allegheny	Mr. Ed Stetz – Via Zoom
South Park	Mr. Wayne Perry – Absent
Steel Valley	Ms. Kathleen Ligeros
West Jefferson Hills	Mrs. Suzanne Downer
West Mifflin Area	Mrs. Debra Kostelnik

The President declared a quorum present.

Other individuals present:

Steel Center Staff:

Kevin Rice, Executive Director
 David Hall, Facilities Director
 Chris Hamilton, Bus. Manager
 Patrice Allison, Asst. Bus. Manager
 Tricia Cousino, Exec. Assistant
 Elaine Frombach, Board Secretary

District Superintendents & Staff:

Jeff Soles, West Mifflin – Zoom
 Lisa Duval, South Allegheny
 Edward Wehrer, Steel Valley
 Joseph Walsh, Bethel Park
 Lawrence Nicolette,
 Clairton Bus. Manager

HSDR:

Matt Franz
 Luis Carabella

Solicitor:

Aimee Zundel

2. Board Member Comments & Visitor Comments on Agenda Items

This meeting was advertised in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on July 8, 2021, announced on the Steel Center Website, and the agenda was posted on the website by 5:00 PM on July 19, 2021. The meeting is open to the public to attend in-person.

3. President Remarks

Mrs. Ruhl thanked everyone for attending this special meeting on the Facilities Renovation Plan which was scheduled so the board could concentrate on this one issue and not have it part of a regular JOC meeting. There are not voting items on this agenda.

4. Presentation – Steel Center Building Renovation Presentation and Discussion

Kevin Rice, Executive Director and Matt Franz, Architect with HHSDR reviewed the updated 2018 Facilities Study which was revised to meet current needs and costs. HHSDR provided attendees a hard-copy deck at the meeting and Steel Center sent an electronic version to the board and superintendents after the meeting.

Study Covered/Updated:

- The project was divided into three sections and each item identified by priority from 1 (immediate need) to 4 (8-12 years/eventual need)
- New Programs since the 2018 study were added
- Individual meetings were held with all programs that included instructors and advisory council members to identify needs for each program area
- Powerhouse needs were updated
- Mon Valley Facility needs section was updated, although this meeting focused on Steel Center and Powerhouse

Steel Center Renovation Plan and Costs:

- Code Required/Safety Improvements – \$2,135,000 - \$2,459,000
- Building Infrastructure Improvements – \$12,270,000 – 14,148,000
- Educational Program Improvements – \$6,565,000 - \$7,935,000
- Steel Center Total Estimate – \$20,970,000 - \$24,542,000
- Powerhouse Infrastructure Improvements Total – \$1,458,000 - \$1,916,000
- Mon Valley School Total Estimate – \$16,096,000 - \$18,806,000

After the presentation, Mr. Franz outlined a timeline that would allow for construction to begin in the summer of 2022. To accomplish that, approvals would be needed by October 2021. South Allegheny Superintendent Dr. Lisa Duval stated that the October approval timeline was unrealistic as they have set their budget and it will take more time to have discussions with her board. Others agreed with this assessment.

All members agreed that Steel Center renovations are needed both for safety as well as growth of programs to serve students to become the essential workers employers need. The issue is the cost and how to finance.

Bond Financing:

To give the members an idea of how to finance the project, Mr. Rice reviewed a proposal prepared by PFM Independent Financial Advisory Services with scenarios for 20-year bond structure showing projected costs for each district over the 20 years.

Comments/Next Steps:

- Steel Center and HHSDR will revise timeline to allow for more time for district review and approval
- Research what funding options might be available from the state or federal government as well as corporations
- Prepare document to identify how much Steel Center spends each year on repairs to the facility that would be offset by infrastructure improvements as well as energy savings
- Although the focus of meeting was Steel Center, the Mon Valley facility needs must be considered as the Powerhouse supports both buildings and to maximize efficiency should be included in upgrades
- Mon Valley (SEASS) lease with Allegheny Intermediate Unit should consider improvements and costs
- As we develop new timelines, meetings with all parties will be scheduled including JOC board members, Superintendents and Business Managers, PFM and all district boards to review projects, timing and financing options

5. Other Business

Mr. Rice introduced two new Steel Center employees who were at the meeting: Ms. Patrice Allison, Assistant Business Manager, and Ms. Tricia Cousino, Executive Assistant.

6. Visitor Comments – None

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Schaap, seconded by Mrs. Downer, and carried by an aye vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Frombach

Elaine Frombach, Board Secretary