



MINUTES
Joint Operating Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Steel Center – Conference Room B

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Schaap at 7:02pm at Steel Center.

1.1. Flag Salute

1.2. Roll Call

Baldwin-Whitehall
Bethel Park
Clairton
Duquesne
Elizabeth Forward
South Allegheny
South Park
Steel Valley
West Jefferson Hills
West Mifflin Area
Brentwood

Mr. Pete Giglione
Mrs. Colleen Sokira - ABSENT
Mr. Roger Tachoir
Mrs. Calvina Harris
Mr. Travis Stoffer
Mrs. Lauren DiBeneditto
Mr. Wayne Perry
Mrs. Cara Karstetter
Mrs. Suzanne Downer
Mr. Mark Donahoe
Mr. David Schaap

The President declared a quorum.

Others Present:

Dr. Randal Lutz, Superintendent of Record
Ira Weiss, Weiss Burkardt Kramer
Burt Comensky, Duquesne City SD

Destin Miller, student
Shaun Lynch, student
Nathan Dlugos, student
Nicholas Puckey, student
Dalton Nuzzo, student
Jake Miller, Team PSBG

Steel Center Staff:

Kevin Rice, Executive Director
Scott Kane, Assistant Director/Principal
Patrice Allison, Asst. Business Manager
Tom Bernick, Supervisor of Building & Grounds
Tricia Cousino, Board Secretary
Jay Cherep, Technology Specialist
Nolan Bergamasco, NAHB Advisor
Annabelle Deleel, student
Aubry Plesh, Team PSBG
Emily Elbreone, Team PSBG

2. Board Member Comments & Visitor Comments on Agenda Items

The agenda was posted on the Steel Center website by 6:00 PM on March 2, 2026. The meeting is open to the public to attend in-person.

3. President Remarks

No executive session for Steel Center was held prior to tonight's meeting.

4. Student Presentations - National Association of Home Builders, Student Chapter (NAHBSC)

The student officers of NAHBSC had a PowerPoint presentation covering the following updates:

- Field trips to Rosedale Technical College and Clean Energy Center
- PSBG Clothing Drive: Aubrey Plesh, spokesperson, gave a detailed description of the community-run shelter and the donations received from the student organization.
- Fundraiser for the Veterans Place
- Events to raise funds: Cookout, clothing drive, dodgeball tournament and cornhole tournament.

5. Other Presentations – Educator of Distinction

Executive Director Kevin Rice presented Jennifer Kastronis, Health Assistants Teacher, with the 2026 Educator of Distinction Award. This prestigious award is bestowed annually upon a faculty member who exemplifies excellence, dedication to students, and outstanding teamwork while surpassing their job expectations to bring outside recognition from the public school system and/or business and industry to their program and our school.

6. Minutes

- 6.1.** A motion was made by Mrs. DiBeneditto, seconded by Mr. Tachoir, carried by an aye vote to approve the minutes from February 3, 2026.

7. Financial ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Perry, carried by a 10-0 vote to approve Finance items 7.1 to 7.4 as presented.

7.1. Treasurer's Report ending January 31, 2026

7.2. Bills to be Approved

7.2.1 General Fund Check Register – Payments February 2026

- 7.2.2** General Fund Contracted Services to be Ratified – Over \$1,000 (Included in Check Register listing)
- 7.2.3** General Fund Purchase Orders to be Ratified —Over \$1,000 – Future Payments
- 7.2.4** Administrative Fund Check Register – Payments February 2026
- 7.2.5** Administrative Fund Checks to Approve – Future Payments
- 7.2.6** Renovation Fund Expenses to be Ratified – Future Payments
- 7.3.** Ratified Student Activity Report for January 2026
- 7.4.** Renovation Fund Treasurer’s Report ending January 31, 2026

8. Administrative ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Karstetter, seconded by Mr. Donahoe, carried by a 10-0 vote to approve the Operations, Personnel and Conferences, Seminars & Competitions items 8.1 to 8.3.3 as presented.

8.1 Operations

8.1.1 Obsolete and/or Surplus Equipment

- Declared obsolete and/or surplus the equipment listed as presented.

8.1.2 Donations

- Accepted the vehicle donation from Douglas Anke valued at **\$2,435**.

8.2 Personnel - NONE

8.3 Conferences, Seminars & Competitions

8.3.1 SkillsUSA Welding Fabrication State Competition

- Approved SkillsUSA Advisor **Stacey Caudill** and Welding Instructor **Kenneth Wimer**, along with **3 Steel Center SkillsUSA students** to attend the SkillsUSA Welding Fabrication State Competition at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA on March 9-10, 2026, at an approximate cost of **\$1,310**.

8.3.2 SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference

- Approved SkillsUSA Advisors **Maria Inks**, **Amand Kate Gorrington**, and **Rick Heltion**, along with **24 Steel Center SkillsUSA students** to attend the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference and Competition in Hershey, PA on April 8-10, 2026, at an approximate cost of **\$20,500**.

8.3.3 Career and Technical Education Day

- Approved Executive Director **Kevin Rice**, Assistant Principal **Kaitlyn Youngstead**, and School Counselor **Laura Montecalvo** to accompany **6 students** to the

Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg, PA for Legislative visits and Career and Technical Education Day on April 21-22, 2026, at an approximate cost of **\$3,100**.

9. Facilities ACTION ITEMS – NONE

10. Renovation Update – ACTION ITEMS – NONE

Interested board members had a tour of the renovation progress prior to the meeting.

11. Superintendent of Record Report – NONE

12. Solicitor's Report – NONE

13. Information Items

13.1. JOC Brief

Mr. Rice provided the following updates:

- Additional scopes of work beyond the renovation are being explored.
- Baldwin-Whitehall senior student, Gavin Ries, officially signed as a Carpenter Pre-Apprentice with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters.
- Draft 2026-2027 budget was reviewed by the committee.
- Steel Center's Discovery Night is on March 5, 2026.
- Steel Center Job Fair is on April 8, 2026.

14. Other Business

15. Visitor Comments

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Karstetter, seconded by Mrs. DiBeneditto, carried by an aye vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm.

NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2026 at Steel Center CTE

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Cousino

Tricia Cousino, Board Secretary