



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
February 25, 2016**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Alma G. Ebner**, grandmother of Edward Wehrer, Superintendent; **Alice Milano**, grandmother of Steve and Sue Large, middle school math teacher and guidance counselor; **Lisa Lanza**, mother of Karlana Lanza, high school student; **Ellarose Kuchta**, sister of Butch Adams, retired teacher; **Alice Marie Erickson**, stepmother of Susan Olsen, high school Biology teacher; **David Colebank**, uncle of Edward Colebank; **Rene Sabatula**, aunt of Edward Colebank, Director of Academics, Information & Technology; **Roy Sauers**, uncle of Jeff Deabner, high school science teacher; and **Eleanor Storey**, aunt of Julie Angelilli, kindergarten teacher. It was moved by **Mr. Bulger** and seconded by **Mr. Rojtas** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Ms. Youngblood reported that students districtwide have been learning about the history of Black Americans during Black History Month. Today the **Harmony Club** of Homestead presented a program for the high school students. Tomorrow the Barrett Elementary School students will conduct a showcase of songs and works they created around the theme of the **Negro Baseball League**.

She is also excited that the School Board members are working well together, and she expects good things this year.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative to the School Board **Abbey Caspar** reported on the activities at the Franklin Primary Center. February 5 was the 100th day of school, and students dressed like they were 100 years old. The librarian from the Carnegie of Homestead read to the students on February 9th and 23rd. Throughout the month, kindergarten classes have been exploring the life and career of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as reading African folk tales to celebrate Black History Month.

The 4th and 5th grade boys from Park and Barrett Elementary Schools had a great time at the **Pittsburgh Penguins** hockey practice.

The Scholastic Book Fair was held at Park Elementary School from February 23-25. A **Family Night** is planned for March 10, and the **Parent University** will offer information sessions for parents.

The band and chorus concert will be held on March 4. The **Pittsburgh Pirates** will be speaking to the students on March 8 about healthy living. An assembly by the **Carnegie Science Center** will be held on March 18.

At Barrett Elementary School, the first grade students celebrated the 100th day of school by making posters using 100 objects. **Officer Boehme** and **Officer Swindell** are teaching the DARE curriculum to the fifth grade students.

After school programs at Barrett Elementary School began February 8. Students were able to choose from **Strong Women Strong Girls, Girls on the Run** or **Kids of Steel**.

Barrett's **Parent PAW Committee** met on February 18. This group of parents, teachers, an AIU consultant and a representative from PATTAN meets six times per year to review attendance, behavior and academic data at Barrett. The group was developed as part of the CR-PBIS grant that supports looking at school data through a culturally responsive lens.

The **Dads and Donuts** breakfast took place February 25 at Barrett Elementary School. All students were invited to bring one male adult to school for breakfast and a presentation.

The **Black History Month Showcase** took place on February 26. The theme this year is the **Homestead Grays** and the Negro Baseball League. Students are researching the sport of baseball as well as former baseball player profiles. Students have interviewed community members about their connection to and memories of the Homestead Grays. **Sean Gibson**, great grandson of Hall of Fame player **Josh Gibson**, spoke to the students at the showcase.

Students and staff are preparing to celebrate **Read Across America Week** beginning February 29. A **Title I Family Night** will take place on March 2 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at Barrett School.

At the middle school, staff members are providing workshops Wednesday and Thursday mornings on iPad applications.

The middle school **Girls Basketball** season is in progress, and home games begin at 3:30 p.m. The middle school sends AlertNow messages and updates every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. to parents.

This is the 25th year for Steel Valley's participation in the **Math-A-Thon** to benefit **St. Jude Children's Hospital**. Fourth and fifth graders from Mr. Tomasic's and Mrs. Fry's classrooms are joining the middle school students to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital, which is an internationally recognized center dedicated to finding cures for catastrophic childhood diseases like cancer and sickle cell anemia. The staff participated in Jeans Day as a way to contribute.

The **Project XQ** team submitted a proposal to reimagine Steel Valley High School. The team gained insight from students and teachers through focus groups and also created a website showcasing the ideas. Semi-finalists will be announced on April 1. The website can be found at <http://steelvalleylegacyacademy.weebly.com/>.

The **Varsity Boys Basketball** team won the section title and made it to the second round of the WPIAL playoffs. Abbey reported that everyone is proud of the team's hard work and for bringing school pride and school spirit to Steel Valley.

On the February 12 inservice day, over 30 teachers and Board members were given a tour of the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education. They were able to participate in hands-on learning activities to better understand what Steel Valley students experience. The feedback from the staff was very positive, and the students who provided the tours were very proud to share what they are learning and accomplishing at Steel Center.

High school teachers participated in a worldwide celebration of **Digital Learning Day** on February 17. Lessons were taught using iPads and other forms of digital learning. More information about this day can be found on www.digitalllearningday.org.

Abbey Caspar congratulated the following high school students for their accomplishments:

- Zach Toth District Band
- Adam Pasay District Chorus
- Aaron Tebbe Qualified for WPIAL Swimming Competition

Steel Center Top of the Shop Awards – 1st Semester

- Brittany Connors Protective Services
- Charley Hallman Baking/Pastry Chef
- Dusten Pisarcik Electrical Construction
- Hunter Wallace Building Trades Maintenance
- Jonathan Pido Advertising and Design
- Melissa Kniss Health Assistants
- Robert Barker Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

Tickets go on sale April 4 for the high school prom being held at Soldiers & Sailors Hall on Friday, May 20. Students who sell 20 hoagies will earn a free prom ticket, and hoagie orders are due March 17.

The **Student Government** is sponsoring a **Scholarship Blood Drive** on Monday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Wehrer congratulated the Middle School staff on their exemplary use of technology in the classrooms.

He announced shifting of responsibilities for some administrative personnel. Mrs. Rachel Sprouse, who was serving as Substitute Middle School Assistant Principal, will now coordinate the technical integration of devices at the high school. Mr. Kevin Walsh will fill the Assistant Principal duties at the Middle School.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report

Mrs. Borges announced the Black History Showcase would take place on February 26 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Barrett Elementary School.

On March 8, students will be dismissed early for the staff to participate in professional development activities. The early dismissal schedule is as follows:

- 11:50 a.m. High School
- 12:00 p.m. Franklin Primary Center
- 12:15 p.m. Barrett & Park Elementary Schools
- 12:23 p.m. Middle School

The Steel Valley **Drama Club** will be performing the musical *Anything Goes* on March 10-12 beginning at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Spring break will begin Thursday, March 24, through Monday, March 28, and classes will resume on Tuesday, March 29.

Solicitor’s Report

The Board accepted the bids by Anthony Barna of the firm Kelly Rielly Nell Barna & Associates, Inc., to do appraisals for the school district at a cost of \$4,500.00 each on the following pending realty tax assessment appeals:

- M&J Big Waterfront Town Center 1 LLC (AMC Theatres) Block & Lot No. 0089-001000-00B, BV No. 15-0001960
- IA Longing West Homestead (Courtyard Hotel) Block & Lot 89-R-226, BPAAR level current assessment \$7,926,800, sold in 2010 for \$15.5M

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- January 25, 2016 worksession meeting
- January 28, 2016 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for January 2016 in the amount of \$1,021,510.94
- General Fund hand checks for January 2016 in the amount of \$1,198,531.47
- General Fund Revenue Report for January 2016
- General Fund Expenditure Report for January 2016
- General Fund Balance Sheet for January 2016
- Food Service Revenue Report for January 2016
- Food Service Expenditure Report for January 2016
- Food Service invoices for January 2016 in the amount of \$41,721.83
- Food Service Balance Sheet for January 2016
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2016
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending January 31, 2016
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for January 2016
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for January 2016
- Athletics Balance Sheet, Revenue Statement, Expense Statement and Disbursement Report for January 2016
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for January 2016
- June 30, 2015 Financial Statements, Audit Report and Management Letter as presented
- Payments from the Capital Projects Fund in the amounts of \$18,500.00 to Kudravy Architects and \$5,067.25 to Tower Engineering

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Authorized participation of the District in the Western Pennsylvania Electricity Consortium Extension for the purchase of electricity from Direct Energy only if the price is at or below our current price. The extended agreement will begin after the final meter read date in January 2018 under our current agreement for a period of 12 months and the price will include all costs except distribution, sales taxes, and other local utility charges as contained in the original agreement
- Contracted with Dick Jones Communications at a cost of \$214,550.00 for public relations services from March 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018
- Purchase of communications equipment and accessories to meet the needs identified by the Crisis Response Team not to exceed \$15,000.00 to be paid from the Capital Projects Fund

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Authorized transfer of \$700.00 to the Prom Committee to be used for payment of a disc jockey at the prom to be held at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall on May 20, 2016
- Contracted with Kelly Burke to operate a photo booth during the Literacy Program event to be held March 12, 2016
- Accepted a donation of \$160,000 from the Campbell Educational and Community Foundation to support the athletic programs, marching band, senior class and student government in the school district

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Held first reading of revisions to Policy 328 Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules
- Held first reading of new Policy 328.1 Credit for Salary Placement
- Authorized attendance to the Champions of Learning Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 2, 2016, and authorized the purchase of 10 seats for \$750.00

Mr. Tom Olson thanked the Board members and teachers for touring and spending time in the classes at the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Revised the 2015-2016 school calendar to make-up one school closing on March 29, 2016
- Created a new Board committee entitled **Communications Committee** and included it as the 6.0 section on the Board agendas. Personnel Management will be renumbered as the 7.0 section.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Ms. Susan Olsen**, high school science teacher, under the provisions of Article XXVIII Retirement Incentive Program of the collective bargaining agreement effective at the end of the 2015-2016 school year
- Appointed **Michael Perlaky** to a full-time long-term substitute position retroactive to February 17, 2016, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school term based upon prorated Bachelors' Step 1 salary plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement
- Appointed **Tess Douglass** to a full-time long-term substitute position retroactive to January 12, 2016, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school term based upon prorated Bachelors' Step 1 salary plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement
- Appointed **Brian Savolskis** to the supplemental position of JV Baseball Assistant Coach and **Ryan McConnell** to the supplemental position of Softball Assistant Coach and approved **Courtney Cain** as a softball volunteer for the 2015-2016 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Created a districtwide paraeducator position to support the IEP's of students with disabilities
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Mr. Benjamin Lander** from the position of high school physics and chemistry teacher effective at the close of business April 22, 2016
- Appointed **Jennifer Thompson** and **Bradley Thompson** as co-sponsors of the elementary music supplemental positions at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools at a total stipend of \$1,535.04