



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
February 26, 2015**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **George Pollock**, uncle of Sandy Reiner, accounts payable secretary; **Edward Besterci**, grandfather of Michelle Blasko, special education teacher at Park School; **Edward Savolskis**, father of Linda Terrick, 5th grade teacher at Park School; **Mildred Murner**, aunt of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services; **Rosemarie Andrews**, mother of William C. Andrews, former special counsel; **Darrell J. Hess**, active member of the Steel Valley Community; **Joseph M. Gaydos, Sr.**, retired State Senator for the 45th district; and **Bernice M. Perhacs**, mother of Linda Perhacs, retired 4th grade teacher. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mrs. Steele** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Donna Kiefer congratulated the **Varsity Boys Basketball** team on a successful season. The Ironmen (14-8) qualified for the WPIAL Class AAA play-off game against South Fayette. Despite their great effort, they were defeated in the first round of the playoffs.

Mrs. Kiefer invited the community to the **Steel Valley Drama Club's** performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. The students have been working hard to prepare for this year's musical. Performances are being held on March 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale in the Activities Office and at the door on the night of each performance.

Student Representative's Report

Senior Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** reported on the events at Park Elementary School. The PTO sponsored a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of February 2. Students are collecting change to support pediatric cancer research through the *Pennies for Patients* program.

During Black History Month, **Mrs. Law's** second grade class created a *Black History Wall of Fame*, which included Michael Jordan, Oprah Winfrey and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students in **Mrs. Oleksak's** class created a quilt entitled *Celebrating Differences*. Fifth grade students read an inspirational quote by an African American each morning in February.

In the middle school, teachers in the math department are writing math curriculum. Middle school students participated in the annual **Math-A-Thon**, and special thanks to **Mrs. McCallister** for coordinating the fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The **School Wide Positive Behavior Core Team** will open a school store in September selling school gear and supplies. On March 20, a dance will be held for middle school students.

There will be a dress down day for students on February 27, and the staff members can donate \$5 to wear jeans for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Brandon Tomasic congratulated the winter sports teams for a successful season. The spring sports teams will begin practice on March 2.

The **Steel Valley Drama Club** is presenting *The Wizard of Oz* on March 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee performance on March 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

High School seniors will be going to Kalahari Water Park in March. The **Art Club** is sponsoring a Van's Custom Culture contest for students to design their own style of shoe.

Superintendent's Report

Edward Wehrer reported that Barrett Elementary School held a program in recognition of Black History Month on Monday, February 23. Each grade level performed a song and made a presentation. Third graders dressed as baseball players from the **Homestead Grays** team and presented information about the team. Fourth graders sang about **Ruby Bridges**, and fifth graders presented on **Jackie Robinson**. A student ensemble of 5th grade students performed an African drum piece.

Guest speakers were **Mr. Chris Brown**, Behavior Specialist at Barrett and minister in McKeesport, and **Ms. Wanda Burwell**, Barrett's cafeteria monitor and the first African American woman on the Homestead Borough Council.

A special dedication was made in memory of **Mrs. Aldine Coleman**, retired teacher, principal and central administrator in the Steel Valley School District. **Mr. Eddie Coleman** and their daughter were in attendance for the presentation. Mr. Coleman and **Mrs. Jean Turner** were given a framed picture of a mural of Aldine Coleman.

At the high school, juniors and seniors attended a program conducted by the **Harmony Club of Homestead** on Tuesday, February 24. The women from the Harmony Club discussed the positive musical influences by African Americans on today's music.

Mr. Wehrer announced that due to the school closings on February 19 and 20, the school make-up days would be Thursday, April 2, and Monday, April 6. Friday, April 3, will remain a school holiday.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Diana Borges reported that the Department of Education conducted a Compliance Monitoring for Continuous Improvement of the special education programs and services.

An Early Intervention Transition meeting was held for Pre-K parents who have a child receiving early intervention services. The presenters talked about the process of moving from preschool to school-age special education programming. District personnel highlighted the programs at the Franklin Primary Center. Thanks to **Maureen Fagan, Dianne Cain, Alyson Fisher** and **Edward Wehrer** for their participation.

The school district was awarded another Special Education Performance grant in the amount of \$9,900. The monies will be used for teacher training, parent and community engagement and to solidify some of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), including Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) at Barrett Elementary School.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- January 26, 2015 worksession meeting
- January 29, 2015 regular meeting
- February 9, 2015 special meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for January/February 2015 in the amount of \$702,974.08
- General Fund hand checks for January 2015 in the amount of \$368,653.68
- Food Service invoices for January 2015 in the amount of \$33,233.84
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2015
- General Fund Revenue Report for January 2015

- General Fund Expenditure Report for January 2015
- Trial Balance for January 2015
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending January 31, 2015
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$14,045.65
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$3,042.00
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$5,060.78
- Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2013-2014 completed by Maher Duessel
- The following real estate tax refunds:
 - William Stasko, Lot & Block 133-C-187, in the amount of \$392.10 for year 2013
 - Mark Walnick, Lot & Block 133-B-208, in the amount of \$544.36 for year 2014

Operations

The Board approved the facility rental requests as presented except Permit Nos. 4362, 4363, 4367 and 4374.

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Revised the Monday, March 16, inservice day to Friday, March 20
- Accepted a donation of \$2,500 for an Elementary School Science Olympiad Grant from the **Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh** and thanked **Cindy Kortz**, 4th grade science teacher at Barrett Elementary School, for pursuing this grant opportunity
- Accepted a 2015 **Fiskars Project Orange Thumb** Grant in the amount of \$3,500 from Fiskars to be used for the Franklin Garden and thanked **Christine Schott**, an elementary parent and garden volunteer, for pursuing this grant opportunity

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Appointed **Brittany Baradziej** to the supplemental positions of Elementary Music for both Park and Barrett Schools retroactive to February 18, 2015, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Appointed the spring athletic supplemental positions for the 2014-2015 school year as presented, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Sharon Janosko** from the position of high school band auxiliary unit coordinator effective May 26, 2015
- Attendance of **Susan Ballas** to the 2nd Annual Advocacy Forum on April 19-20, 2015, and all costs covered by the school district
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Joseph Panaia** from the position of custodian at Park Elementary School, effective June 8, 2015
- Family medical leave of absence retroactive to November 26, 2014, for **Danielle Mays**, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- In an effort to be more transparent to our stakeholders, the School Board directed Administration to publish employee salary and compensation information on the district's website and anywhere else it may choose

Previous Board Action

The Board approved a change order to **Quality Mechanical Services, Inc.**, in the amount of \$5,980.00. This change order covers work to be performed on the high school chiller after school hours.