



Steel Valley School District

Board Brief

Board Meeting
May 1, 2014

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Michael Solomon**, past president, vice president and board member of the Steel Valley School Board; **Robert J. Kosko, Sr.**, past president and board member of the Munhall and Steel Valley School Boards; **Denise Baranowski**, retired custodian and wife of Walt Baranowski, high school custodian; **Abraham Chapman**, father of Dale Chapman, former varsity assistant football coach, and uncle of Cheryl Chapman, substitute teacher; **Vincent M. Volomino**, grandfather of Sara Sullivan, middle school math teacher; **Margaret Latzy**, mother-in-law of Bonnie Latzy, retired payroll secretary; **Wyaneika J. Latice**, mother of Leslie Hairston's grandchildren, Barrett paraprofessional; **James Taylor** and **Wendon Moon**, cousins of Leslie Hairston, Barrett paraprofessional; and **Barbara Jane Fawcett**, grandmother of Becky O'Shell, 4th grade teacher at Park School. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mr. Olson** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Donna Kiefer congratulated the future singing artists who performed at the Park Rock and Roll All School Revue held on April 23. She also reported that the Spring Arts Festival was a great success.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** announced that a Kindergarten Round-Up was held to register children for kindergarten on April 16. The western themed event invited kindergarteners and their parents to tour Franklin, meet the staff and complete the registration process. The guests enjoyed a snack of trail mix and root beer floats.

On May 7, a Title I Family Carnival will be held at Barrett Elementary School from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 completed the PSSA Reading and Math assessments at Park and Barrett Elementary Schools. Fourth grade students completed the Science PSSA. Fifth grade students completed the PSSA Writing assessment.

The Park Elementary School Wide Positive Support Team hosted an Easter egg sale on April 11. Students in grades 1-5 had an opportunity to cash in POWER cards for an Easter treat.

On April 17, Park Elementary School supported Autism Awareness Month with a 'Blue Out.' Teachers purchased blue t-shirts.

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held May 2. Twenty-five new students were inducted.

The annual Mock Crash would be held on May 7. School Resource Officer **Dan Boehme** will conduct an assembly in the auditorium for the juniors and seniors. The full crash scene will be conducted outside.

The 2014 Prom will be held May 9 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at Soldiers and Sailors in Oakland. The Promenade will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Keystone testing will take place May 13-15 in the Senior High School. Finals week is the week of May 19. The History Club leaves for Boston over Memorial Day weekend.

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** discussed the School Board's decision for students to wear uniforms next school year. He pointed out the economic hardship this will place on families, especially a large family such as his. He added that uniforms would not fix the issues our district faces and that wearing a uniform would not change his performance.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** introduced **Diana Borges**, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education, who highlighted the gifted support program. Ms. **Marguerite Luvara**, Middle School gifted support teacher, and the gifted students gave an overview of the conventions they competed in this school year.

Steel Valley Middle School students placed 3rd at an Equations Tournament recently held at Woodland Hills High School. Steel Valley's team consisted of **Robby Vinay**, **Becky Harhai**, **Morgan Farrah**, **Josh Fossick**, and **Izzie Furrick**. The middle school gifted team took 3rd place in the Science Bowl Competition held at the Steel Valley High School. The team included: **Kelsey McCafferty**, **Shannon Hartnett**, **Terran Moore**, **Izzie Furrick** and **Ella Kornacki**. Seventh grade student **Ella Kornacki** placed 2nd in an Art Competition at Gateway Middle School held on April 3. In the Creative Writing competition, **Terran Moore** placed 1st with his original poem. Students **Izzie Furrick** and **Katie Proof** placed 2nd in the 7th grade section of the "Duo Drama" held at Greensburg-Salem Middle School with a selection from "Finding Nemo."

Mr. **Shawn McCallister**, Secondary Gifted Support Teacher, highlighted the successes of the high school gifted students through a PowerPoint presentation. Steel Valley's gifted team took 1st place in the Creative Convention. The high school gifted students hosted the Middle School Science Bowl. Students have also participated in Robotech, Word Master, CalcuSolve, Geography Bowl, Equations, Chess, Academic Challenge, Propaganda and the Science Bowl.

The gifted support program exposes students to as much as possible. Students have served as role models for other students while sharing their love of reading with the kindergarten students. Steel Valley alumni have returned as guest speakers discussing various careers options, and job shadowing is available to students.

Students have the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school through the College in High School (CHS) course offerings. A new CHS course entitled *Web Design* has been offered to high school students next year. Students also have an opportunity to participate in a dual enrollment program at Community College and other colleges to earn college credits. Next year, **Mr. McCallister** hopes to have a team compete in the Hometown High Q.

Principal Kevin Walsh and **Guidance Counselor Alyson Fisher** presented an overview of the activities offered during Barrett's After School Program this year. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the student body attended regularly, and 226 out of the 321 students participated in at least one club activity. Barrett partnered with volunteers from the Homestead Presbyterian Church and community members to provide ACTS Reading Tutoring for 1st grade students. Other activities offered were the Nook Club, Teachers Reading Club, App Club, Girls on the Run through Magee Womens Hospital, Lego Club, Dance Team, Strong Women Strong Girls as well as intramural basketball for boys and girls. **Mrs. Fisher** shared they plan to expand the activities next year to offer a greater academic component, extend the time, increase the club offerings and include dinner.

Mr. **Ben Lander** and Mr. **Shawn McCallister** volunteered to sponsor the new Robotics Club for high school students this year. This new venture, to build a combat robot, was accomplished by six very committed students. They are **Ryan Brown, Thomas Joyce, Sarah Faulds, Michael Kraycar, Chad Navarro** and **Codell Cutrary**. The students designed and built the robot then entered it in the 9th Annual Southwestern Pennsylvania Battle BotsIQ competition held at California University of PA. The Robotics Team competed with 66 other teams and learned a lot in their first competition. They are already designing improvements for next year.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education

Mrs. **Diana Borges** announced that the Gifted Parent Meeting will be held May 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Senior High School. The Gifted Parent Core Team will be making a presentation.

A districtwide early dismissal would be held May 6. The staff will participate in professional development in the afternoon.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. **Edward Colebank** spotlighted the first release of the new Steel Valley website: www.steelvalleysd.org with the public. The website will feature a Student Spotlight, districtwide dates, teachers' blogs, videos in classes and clubs.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- March 24, 2014 worksession meeting
- March 27, 2014 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for March 2014 in the amount of \$686,208.45
- General Fund hand checks for March 2014 in the amount of \$750,191.75
- Food Service invoices for March 2014 in the amount of \$32,308.19
- Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2014
- General Fund Revenue Report for March 2014
- General Fund Expenditure Report for March 2014
- Treasurer's Report for March 2014
- Cafeteria Revenue Report for March 2014
- Cafeteria Expenditure Report for March 2014
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending March 31, 2014
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$18,512.58
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$16,725.92
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,595.00
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$455.00
- Authorized the proper officers of the district to establish a capital improvements bank account at PSDLAF (PA School District Liquid Asset Fund)
- Exonerated the West Homestead tax collector for year 2013 for the uncollected amount of \$120,979.50

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Awarded bid for security services to SSIS
- Approved replacement of the high school chiller water tank by Quality Mechanical at their quoted price of \$18,490

- Awarded bid to BFI Waste Management Services PA DBA Republic Services for a two-year period beginning 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2016 at prices quoted in their bid
- Awarded the quote to J. A. Rutter Company, Advanced Turf Solutions and Manny Lopez to improve the quality of the band practice field adjacent to Griffin Field and the High School football practice field at a total cost of \$8,647.34
- Seeking bids for a four-wheel drive gator-type vehicle with plow
- Negotiation with Borough of Homestead for a School Resource Officer

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Field trip request by **The Future is Mine** students and chaperone **Mrs. Olsen** to participate in the Annual Conference to be held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center retroactive to April 24-25, 2014
- Awarded the athletic trainer services to Allegheny Health Network
- Addition of Junior High Boys Volleyball for 2014-2015 school year

Special Assignments

The Board approved the PSBA Policy Review Services at a cost of \$4,900

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Revised the 2013-2014 school calendar and designate Monday, March 17 as an Act 80 day; Monday, June 9, as a Professional Development/Wellness Day; and Tuesday, June 10, as a Clerical Day
- Three sessions of “Reading for Character” Summer Camp from June 23 – July 31
- Revising dress code - uniforms
- Barrett School Improvement Plan

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Amanda Linder** from a secondary position effective immediately
- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **Susan Salapa** retroactive to February 7, 2014
- Recalled **Heather Huber** to teach one (1) period of Language Arts in the Senior High School at the rate of \$30.00 per period retroactive to March 31, 2014
- Authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to grant tenure to **Jamie Dolton**
- Appointed **Margaret Lazur** to a supplemental position of after school math tutor at the Middle School contingent upon receipt of current clearances, and appoint **Brigid Laird** to the supplemental position of after school literacy tutor at Park Elementary School, both at the rate of \$20 per hour, Monday-Thursday for 45 minutes per day
- **Jacob Stout** retroactive to April 15, 2014, **Ashley Levino** and **Matthew Hamilton** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- Denied one (1) additional paid bereavement day for **Sara Sullivan** on April 23, 2014
- **Alan Alcalde** to the supplemental position of Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach for the 2014-2015 school year
- KtO supplemental positions for the Summer of 2014 and for the 2014-2015 school year as presented
- Pre-approved **Edward Wehrer** to enroll in the Doctor of Education program in Education Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh according to the terms and conditions of the employment contract

- Appointed **Judi Besnak** to the 3.75 hour position in the high school cafeteria, retroactive to April 14, 2014, at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 per hour (\$8.16) and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement
- Full-time custodial position per attached job description
- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **Sherri Titmus** not to exceed 60 days
- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **Debbie Woolley**, not to exceed 60 days, retroactive to March 24, 2014
- **Patricia Gera** as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- **Bernadette Cowell** as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- **Theresa Rodgers** as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days