



# Steel Valley School District Board Brief

Board Meeting  
January 12, 2004

The Board acknowledged the acknowledged the passing of Mrs. Margaret Kriscunas, mother of Pat Metinko; Mrs. Anna Kociban, mother of Marion Kociban; Mr. John M. Giran, father of Jack Giran; Mr. Joseph Catlos, grandfather of Michelle Blasko; Mrs. Rose Zabron, aunt of Connie Garrison; and Mr. Harry Meyers, uncle of Rob Shoemaker. In their memory, books will be placed into the Steel Valley School District Libraries.

## Superintendent's Report

- As part of School Board Recognition Month, Dr. Glunk acknowledged the tireless effort of school board members. She presented them with a certificate and a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members. As members of the Board of School Directors, board members represent all the citizens of the school district and their greatest concern should be in the best interest of all students

## Assistant Superintendent's Report

- **The Dr. Kinavey reported there will be no school for students on Monday, January 19, in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday. He also reported there will be no school for students on Friday, January 23. This is a clerical day for the staff.**
- **Mr. John Ackermann, Principal of the Middle School, updated the School Board on the Middle School Teaming model. The middle School consists of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students on one bell schedule this year. Students have been grouped into small heterogeneous groups, and they have chosen team names. These homeroom groups travel to their academic classes as a group, which has reduced the amount of traffic in the halls.**
- **A CORE Team of teachers is working on an Action Plan for the Middle School. They are discussing common planning time for teachers, revising the Academic Handbook and they have visited other school districts that are implementing teaming models. Interdisciplinary units are being developed and taught across the curriculum, and teachers are designing more thematic units for the second semester.**
- **Parent involvement has increased at the PTO meetings with all communities represented. Copies of the monthly PTO meeting minutes are mailed home to parents. Mr. Ackermann plans to add a monthly letter as well. The Community For Learning Support Team is working on a Compact Agreement.**
- **Mr. Ackermann discussed the needs and challenges at the Middle School. Ideally, he would like to see more classroom space, and he would like to add a few more minutes to the school day to have 42-minute class periods. The Textbook Committee is reviewing math curriculum to adopt a new math series for 2004-2005. In addition, the committee would like to adopt a new Reading series in 2005-2006. Mr. Ackermann noted that he would like to add an additional math period to the schedule for all students next year.**

## Pupil Personnel & Special Services 's Report

- Mrs. Borges reported that the High School Guidance Department is planning a career exploration field trip to Steel Center Area Vocational-Technical School for ninth grade students on January 21.

## **Solicitor's Report**

- The Board approved a resolution expelling a minor male student for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year.
- The Board approved the Finding of Fact and Adjudication for a minor male student.
- The Board approved payment to the American Arbitration Board in the amount of \$375.

## **Student Representatives' Report**

- The Student report cards will be distributed Wednesday, January 28.
- Awards will be presented to the two most improved students from each classroom at Park School.
- An assembly for 6th grade students was held on January 14 by the author of "The Skin I'm In." On January 29, seventh grade students will attend a CLO assembly on Mark Twain.
- The senior class attended a field trip to Sno Zone on January 14.

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- General Fund invoices for January 2004 in the amount of \$254,788.69
- General Fund hand checks from November 2003 in the amount of \$1,234,855.72
- Food service invoices in the amount of \$24,595.88
- General Fund Revenue Report for November 2003
- General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2003
- Title I invoices in the amount of \$43,168.63
- Custodial invoices in the amount of \$1,163.63
- Athletic invoices in the amount of \$418.25
- Middle School invoices in the amount of \$31.30
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$12,859.01
- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$150
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount of \$8,540.04
- Band Trip/Hand Checks in the amount of \$3,073.25
- Real estate tax refunds in the Borough of Homestead totaling \$496.57
- Board Secretary to establish tax escrow account at district depository in the amount of \$59,997.88

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following:

- Facility rentals and fundraising requests
- Exterminating services for years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 by P. J. Butler at a cost of \$175 per month

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board declared the competitive sport Air Rifle inactive for the 2003-2004 winter season, with the stipulation that, should an interested coach apply and a genuine interest be expressed by a well represented number of students, this club activity will be revisited

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the following:

- Letter of Agreement between the Steel Valley School District and Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR/D&A to provide Tobacco Prevention Project
- Letter of Agreement and Delivery of Services Agreement between the Steel Valley School District and Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR/D&A for Student Assistance Programs and a Safe and Drug Free Schools Program for \$8,650 to be paid from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following Personnel Items:

- Change of status for Mrs. LuAnne Szczypinski to a temporary professional employee and award her a Temporary Professional Employee contract effective immediately
- Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Mrs. Jennifer Awenowicz beginning on or about April 1 through May 2, 2004
- Medical sabbatical leave of absence for Mrs. JoAnn Pisula for the 2nd semester of the 2003-2004 school term
- Unpaid leave of absence for Ms. Rebecca Russell on February 12-13, 2004
- Tenure status for Mrs. Alyson Fisher
- Rexford Hanlin and Catherine Pisula as day-to-day substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year
- Attendance of Mr. Jay Poroda to the Annual Correctional/Alternative Education Professional Development Conference in Altoona from March 31 through April 2, 2004, with all fees paid from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant
- Attendance of Mrs. Aldine Coleman, Mrs. Sharon Dektor and Dr. Carol McKenna to the Federal Programs Conference in Seven Springs on April 18-21, 2004, to be paid from the Title I budget
- Rick Owston to the Head Wrestling Coach position
- Rusty Owston to the Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach position
- Ken Robes to the Middle School Assistant Wrestling Coach position
- Brandon Kazan to the Drama Stage Production position
- Joe Ducar and Beth Cannon to the Steel Valley Foundation for Education Board of Directors
- Amy Lyons to the position of Secretary in the Office of Pupil Personnel and Special Services at the rate of \$15,000 per year and all benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective January 13, 2004
- Jess Ann Sabo as a special education instructional aide at an hourly rate of \$7.00 per hour and all benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement
- \$7.15 per hour and no fringe benefits, contingent upon receipt of current Act 114 clearance, general physical examination, and screening for controlled substances