



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
September 2006**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Mrs. Charlene Schott, cousin of Lori Mehalik, kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Mary Cerda, grandmother of Lynn Bohin, high school food service; and Mr. Philip Swinkle, husband of Suellen Swinkle, high school receptionist. It was moved by Mrs. Cannon and seconded by Mrs. Kubancsek to place books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President_s Comments

Mr. Joe Ducar announced the completion of the auditorium renovation. The construction of the Jim Campbell Gymnasium is progressing, and Mr. William Campbell sent \$500,000 to the school district toward the construction of the gym and funded a run-through for the cheerleaders. Once again, Bill Campbell continues to be a benefactor to the school district. Mr. Ducar reported that the enhanced security at the middle school/high school complex has been positive for the students, faculty and staff.

Director of Secondary Education

Mrs. Fenyus presented a plaque honoring Junior Christopher Burke for his outstanding academic performance on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Christopher was named a Commended Student in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. He placed among the top 5% of more than 1.4 million students who entered the competition.

Mrs. Fenyus reported that District students have made adequate yearly progress on the 2006 Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) tests. Overall, the percentage of students who scored above the proficient level has increased, while the percentage of students who scored below the basic level has decreased. On the 2005 PSSA, 46% of students scored above proficient on the 8th grade reading section. On the 2006 PSSA, 64% of 8th graders scored at the proficient level or above. Middle school math scores also increased by 10% from last year. In 2003, only 8% of 8th graders scored advanced on the math section. Meanwhile, in 2006, 38% of 8th graders scored advanced on the math test. Similarly, compared to last year's assessment, there has been a 24% increase in students who scored proficient or advanced on the 11th grade writing section. Also, at Park Elementary, there was an increase in the number of students who scored at the advanced level on the reading assessment.

Mrs. Fenyus added that although Barrett has received a warning for its performance and there are concerns with the 5th grade reading and the 11th grade math scores, the District has already implemented programs to help struggling students in these areas. By adopting reading intervention programs at the elementary level, teachers will focus on building the comprehension, decoding, and fluency skills of their students. By implementing benchmark assessments throughout the year to drive instruction, teachers will be able to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of their students and differentiate instruction based on their students' needs.

Grant and Special Programs Coordinator

Ms. Sabo announced that the District is eligible for \$12,102 in Dual Enrollment funds this year. Students will be reimbursed at 48.9% for their college classes. In January, the District will offer, for college credit, Intro to Psychology and History of Women at the high school for juniors and seniors. CCAC professors will teach the courses.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey announced there will be no school for students on Monday, October 9. Teachers will be participating in a countywide professional development day. He introduced Thomas Barefoot, junior representative to the School Board, and Kim Hartnett, senior representative.

Student Representatives_ Reports

Thomas Barefoot reported that the kindergarten students will have lunch with their parents on September 29 at Franklin Primary Center. Local firemen will visit Franklin for Fire Prevention Day on Friday, October 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

He reported that the PSSA scores at the Middle School have increased and student discipline is on the decline. Principal Walsh is looking for a 35% decline in discipline referrals this year, which will lead to increased PSSA scores. A middle school dance is being planned for October 20.

Senior representative Kim Hartnett reported that Park School students are working on the Park Press publication, and band sign ups are being conducted this week.

At Barrett Elementary School, a Barnes & Noble Book Fair was held on Wednesday. The high school students held elections for class officers. Seniors are looking forward to a hayride and haunted house trip. During homecoming week, students are encouraged to participate in the _dress up_ days.

September_s blood drive was the most successful ever. If participation continues at this level, the District may be eligible for a \$7,000 scholarship award. The next blood drive will be in October.

The marching band did well at its competition in Preston, West Virginia. The visual ensemble and percussion took first place. The Steel Valley Band will hold its Band Festival on Saturday, September 30, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Campbell Field.

Report of the Board Secretary

An organizational meeting of the Tax Study Commission will be held Wednesday, September 27, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the July 25 regular meeting minutes, the August 15 special meeting minutes, the August 15 worksession minutes, the August 22 regular meeting minutes, and a correction to the May 23, 2006, regular meeting minutes to reflect the approval of the School Board_s formal response to the report of the Pennsylvania Auditor General for the fiscal school years ending June 30, 2001 and 2002.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for September 2006 in the amount of \$376,257.36
- General Fund hand checks for August 2006 in the amount of \$1,393,356.48
- General Fund invoices for September 8, 2006 in the amount of \$425,031.73
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2006
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$32,818.36
- General Fund Revenue Report for July 2006
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2006
- General Fund Expenditure Report for July 2006
- General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2006
- SV Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses
- Capital Improvements 2005 Statement of Income and Expenses
- Hand Checks/Custodial in the amount of \$10,120
- Hand Checks/Athletic in the amount of \$4,014.91

The Board approved the following items:

- Business Manager to enroll the Steel Valley School District in the COSTARS Program offered by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services at no cost to the district
- Retroactive renewal of the district's Package Policy including Automobile Insurance, Boiler and Machinery and Umbrella Liability for the 2006-2007 school year in the respective amounts of \$46,917, \$8,234.12 and \$2,525.
- Transfer of \$251,421 from the 2005 Capital Projects Fund to the District's General Fund as reimbursement for payments made by the General Fund for various capital projects for the period of July 24, 2006, through August 31, 2006
- Property tax refund to the Dick Corporation, 1900 State Route 51, Large, PA 15025, in the amount of \$84,421 for calendar year 2003; and approve the property tax refund to GAI Consultants, Inc., 570 Beatty Road, Monroeville, PA 15146 for calendar years 2004 and 2005 in the respective amounts of \$75,212.15 and \$25,845.14; and authorize the Business Manager to close the Tax Escrow Account effective September 30, 2006, and transfer the account balance into the General Fund

- District's membership in the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council (PEJPC) through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit at an annual membership fee of \$250, plus 1.5% of all purchases made through the PEJPC; and authorize the District's Business Manager to file the necessary application on the District's behalf
- Payment of Burt Hill Invoice Numbers 0117037, 0117542 and 0117957 in the respective amounts of \$40,331.10, \$781.23 and \$872.50 for a total of \$41,984.83 on the Kitchen Renovation Project; and Invoice Number 0117543 in the amount of \$687.50 for the Campbell Field Maintenance Garage; for a grand total of \$42,672.33 to be paid from the General Fund with reimbursement to be remitted from the 2005 Capital Projects Fund

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Business Office to advertise for bids for the replacement of the interior fire doors and the exterior exit/entrance doors at the High School
- Business Office to accept the proposal from Marshall Elevator to perform quarterly maintenance on the Park Elementary Passenger Elevator at a cost of \$200 per visit; and on the High School Passenger Elevator at a cost of \$115 per visit, for a period of five (5) years, with an option to automatically renew unless certified notice is provided to the contrary
- Business Office to accept the proposal from Marshall Elevator to replace the car operating panel of the High School Passenger Elevator with new ADA compliant fixtures at a cost of \$9,420; and to accept the proposal from Marshall Elevator to replace the door protection system with a new door safety system on the front and rear doors of the High School Passenger Elevator at a cost of \$4,100 with the projects to be funded from the Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Fund
- Retroactive maintenance and service proposal for the Park Elementary School Passenger elevator from Marshall Elevator in the amount of \$1,665
- Maintenance and safety inspection program for the JLG 30AM DC Personnel Lift as proposed by BestLine Equipment of State College, PA, at an annual fee of \$1,700 beginning November 1, 2006
- Retroactive payment of Right Electric Inc. Payment Application Number 3 in the amount of \$51,199.20 and Payment Application Number 4 in the amount of \$34,590.30 for their related progress billings on the High School Auditorium Renovation Project
- Retroactive payment to FranJo Construction in the amount of \$58,770 as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project identified as Payment Application Number 3; and approve payment in the amount of \$275,706 as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project identified as Payment Application Number 4
- Payment of \$450 to Matthew M. Franckiewicz, Arbitrator, due as a result of the cancellation

of an arbitration hearing previously scheduled for August 28, 2006

- Placement of a full-page advertisement in the Jerome Bettis Caring for Kids All-Star Event program at a cost of \$500 to honor Charlie Batch as the recipient of the Jerome Bettis Award for Humanity and Community Service

Special Assignments

The Board held a first reading of Policy No. 142 Wellness.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the University of Pittsburgh Services Agreement between the Steel Valley School District and the Tri-State Area School Study Council to provide services to develop the 2007-2013 Strategic Plan in the amount of \$3,500 for the 2006-2007 school year.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following:

- Unpaid leave of absence for Melissa Capan from November 27-30, 2006
- Unpaid child rearing leave of absence for Carolina Guenther effective on or about October 20, 2006, not to exceed one year
- Changed the status of the Elementary Academic Literacy Coach, Elementary Academic Math Coach and the Secondary Academic Math Coach positions from long-term substitute positions to permanent coaching positions effective immediately
- Appointed Karen Suppok to a permanent full-time position in physical education/health with salary and benefits based on 4th step Master_s salary effective October 2, 2006, and contingent upon receipt of current Act 34 and 151 clearances, her passing a general physical exam and the district_s mandated screening for controlled substances
- Appointed Catherine Pisula to a permanent full-time position in Elementary Education assigned to 3rd grade at Barrett Elementary School with salary and benefits based upon 1st step Bachelor_s salary retroactive to the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year and contingent upon her passing a general physical exam and the district_s mandated screening for controlled substances
- Appointed Tom Kendro, Lori Kenavey, JoAnn Pisula, Eileen Joll, Christina Levkus and Katie Pisula to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour; Leslie Hairston to the position of aide at a rate of \$10 per hour; and Michele Batch to the position of paraprofessional at a rate of \$15 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant beginning September 5, 2006 through May 8, 2007
- Appointed Bill Edwards and Jennifer Awenowicz to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour; appoint Mary Lou McConnell and Betty Lyons to the position of paraprofessional at a rate of \$15 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant beginning October 3, 2006, through May 8, 2007
- Authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the professional employee contracts for Julie Doebereiner, Rebecca Kristen, Brian Savolskis, Susan Wright and LuAnne Szczypinski
- Authorized the Office of Pupil Personnel and Special Services to contract with Mrs. Joyce

Clark for consulting services up to twenty (20) hours per month for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at \$50 per hour

- Three-year agreement to serve as School Physician/Athletic Physician from Dr. Rudolph Antoncic III, 5301 Walnut Street, McKeesport, PA 15132, at a cost of \$15,000 for 2006-2007 for Athletic Trainer and \$8 per student examination
- Attendance of Dr. Kinavey to the annual Superintendents_ Professional Development Program on October 18-20, 2006, at Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa at a cost of \$500
- Attendance of Claire Stitzell to the Family Consumer Science professional development training in Byron Center, Michigan, October 25-29, 2006, at a cost \$2,400 plus air fare
- Attendance of Toni Besh and Tracey Michalak to present at the PSMMLA Conference Connections on October 20-21, 2006, at a cost of \$402.22
- Substitute teachers as presented for the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Activity supplementals as presented for the 2006-2007 school year contingent upon receipt of current clearances from Mr. Woodburn
- Alyson Fisher to the supplemental position of Wellness Department Head effective for the 2006-2007 school year at a stipend of \$1,979.06
- Jill Fleming-Salopek to the supplemental position of English Department Head effective for the 2006-2007 school year at a stipend of \$1,979.06
- Two new supplemental positions of Building Technology Technicians assigned to Barrett and Park Elementary Schools at the proposed stipend of \$1,746.23 for the 2006-2007 school year and a 5% increase each year thereafter of the current collective bargaining agreement
- Junior High football coaches to assist the JV and Varsity Football programs for the 2006 season
- Dorothy Miller to a 3.25 hour position in the cafeteria at Barrett Elementary at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$10.55 per hour (\$8.97) and all benefits accruing as a result of the bargaining agreement effective immediately
- Patrick Kazimer as a substitute custodian at \$8.75 per hour and a four-hour cleaner at \$9 per hour, with no benefits, pending receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district_s mandated physical examination and drug screening test
- Melissa McMahon as a four-hour cleaner at \$9 per hour, with no benefits, and also as a substitute custodian at \$8.75 per hour, food service and instructional aide at \$6.50 per hour, also with no benefits, pending receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district_s mandated physical examination and drug screening test
- Lindsay Jones as a substitute special education instructional aide for the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$6.50 per hour contingent upon receipt of current clearances

- Denied Grievance No. 9-4-06 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement
- Job description for a Director of Facilities and advertise for the position
- Attendance of Leo Schlanger and Dawn Kunca-Kapolka to the Marine Corps Educator workshop in Parris Island, South Carolina, from October 31 through November 3, 2006, at no cost to the district

Previous Board Action

The Board appointed Donna Dreshman, Cynthia McEinheimer, Bessie Philips, Vince Natale and Board Member Colleen Fedor to the Tax Study Commission.