



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
April 24, 2007**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Mr. Carl Cimbala, uncle of Denise Stephenson; Mrs. Mary Engel, grandmother of Mariann Reilly; Mr. Ray Allison, uncle of Sue Olsen, Mr. Edward Hrosik, uncle of Sharon McCallister; Mrs. Irene Hrvacic, aunt of Gwen Berchok; Mr. Richard Bodnar, uncle of Priscilla Jackman; Miss JoBeth Olson, niece of Nancy Fenner and cousin of Amanda Olson; Mr. Paul A. Kittle, great uncle of Ellen Sabo; Mrs. Eva Vargo, grandmother of Bobbi Vargo and Mr. John Fenyus, father of Bethany Fenyus. It was moved by Mr. Heddleston and seconded by Mrs. Sloan to place books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey announced that The Consortium for Public Education, formerly the Mon Valley Education Consortium, has given the Student Learning Team \$1,000 as a Leadership Team Challenge to accelerate our "access and leverage."

Our students participated in Earth Day events on April 20. Fourth graders at Barrett cleaned up Frick Park in Homestead, and students in the other grades planted vegetable and flower seeds. High School Environmental Club sponsor Anthony Natale and students participated in cleaning up Eighth Avenue in Homestead. Middle School students were encouraged to participate in a poster contest. Kindergarten students planted trees provided by the PTO organization. Third grade students from Park School cleaned up around the building.

Annual Law Week coordinated by Judge Torkowsky was held at Park, Barrett and Franklin Schools last week. Students in grades three, four and five participated in mock trials, and the 1st and 2nd grade students learned about safety in the 911 van in which they practiced how to make a 911 call. The middle school and high school students participated in group discussions on various topics, such as, drugs and alcohol, bullying, violence, dating violence, etc.

Twenty-three juniors will be inducted into the National Honor Society on Friday, April 27. High achieving seniors will be recognized at the Dr. Lawrence Griffin Awards Banquet on May 3. The 1984 Valedictorian Mr. Ed Wehrer will address the students, parents, teachers, administrators and guests.

Dr. Kinavey reported that May 11 is a school make-up day as is June 6 and 7. The last day of school for students will be Thursday, June 7. Commencement will be held that evening beginning at 7:00 pm and Dr. Bryan Wellman, Class of 1985, will give the commencement address.

Elementary Principal Dr. Tully presented "A Year in Review" at Park Elementary School and Franklin Primary Center. She highlighted the fire prevention programs, the Make-A-Wish Halloween parade, Pajama Day at Franklin, math and reading tutoring programs, 5th grade

activities, Dr. Seuss week, Family Reading and Math nights to prepare for PSSA tests, Park School Keystone Awards, Chick-Fil-A Night and parents having lunch with their children at Franklin.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro enjoyed participating in the Borough Day parade by riding in a police car to Park Elementary School.

A team of parents, reading specialists, teachers and principals will begin training on the RTI program that teaches how to identify reading needs and how to address problems.

Dr. Policastro is developing an Elementary Academic Handbook, which will give parents a clear vision of what their children need to know in every curricular area. She thanked Dr. Tully for her work on this project.

Student Representative's Report

Junior representative Thomas Barefoot announced that Katie Janocsko and Melissa Kaufold were named 2007 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Outstanding Young Citizens for their outstanding scholarship, leadership and character.

He announced that the junior class took the PSSA Science field test this week. This test will be given each year in grades 5, 8 and 11.

Senior students will be honored at the Dr. Lawrence Griffin Honor Awards Banquet at St. John's Cathedral Center on Thursday, May 3. Mr. Barefoot announced that students are looking forward to the High School Prom at the Sheraton Station Square on Friday, May 11.

At the middle school, field trips are planned for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Eighth grade students will be taking their annual trip to Washington, D.C. next month. A school dance was held on April 20. Law Week was a success at the middle school in explaining drug awareness and gang violence. An orientation for 5th graders moving to the middle school will be held in May. Mr. Barefoot noted that this would include a more personalized tour and orientation for students.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the March 27, 2007 regular board meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for February 2007 in the amount of \$318,796.31
- General Fund hand checks for February 2007 in the amount of \$799.96
- Accounts Payable checks for March 15, 19, 21 and 30, 2007 in the amount of \$532,141.35
- General Fund invoices for March 2007 in the amount of \$395,851.66
- Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2007
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$30,698.96
- General Fund Revenue Reports for January, February and March 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Reports for January, February and March 2007
- Custodial/Hand Checks in the amount of \$11,291.85

- Athletic/Hand Checks in the amount of \$2,675.00
- Middle School/Hand Checks in the amount of \$595.00
- Band Trip/Hand Checks in the amount of \$742.80
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending March 31, 2007
- Real estate tax refund in the amount of \$212.28 to Heather Sue Wilhide, as a result of a change in assessment value for Lot & Block 131-C-110
- Real estate tax refund in the amount of \$265.16 to Emmett Coleman, c/o US Bancorp Serv Providers, as a result of a change in assessment value for Lot & Block 130-R-203
- Renewal of the software maintenance agreement with ProSoft Technologies, Inc., for the 2007-2008 school year at an annual cost of \$18,192

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Proposal for the repairs to the roofs at Barrett Elementary, Franklin Primary and the High School/Middle School Complex at a total cost of \$26,450 to be paid from the 2005 Capital Improvement account and approved the maintenance program at an annual cost of \$15,879 to be paid from the 2000-2001 Capital Improvement account and the General Fund
- Proposal to advertise for bids for the complete replacement of the roof at Park Elementary School
- Execution of the Equitable Gas Company Agency Services Agreements and Delivery Service Agreements for all buildings by the Superintendent

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Field trip by 8th grade students and chaperones to Washington, D.C., on May 10-11, 2007, at no cost to the district
- Field trip by the Marching Band and chaperones to the USSBA Central Regional Competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on October 20, 2007
- Field trip by the Marching Band and chaperones to the USSBA Northern States Championships in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on November 9-11, 2007
- Field trip by 15 high school students to The Future is Mine 2007 Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center on April 24-25, 2007

Special Assignments

The School Board approved:

- Administrative budget of the Southeastern Area Special Schools in the amount of \$1,157,119 and the administrative budget for the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School in the amount of \$887,275 for the 2007-2008 school year
- Held first reading of revisions to Policy No. 916 requiring all volunteers to make application for Act 34 Clearance, Act 151 Clearance and FBI Federal Criminal History Record to be paid by the District

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted a donation of \$1,000 from the Munhall Class of 1949 to purchase library books in memory of Margaret Howat, former Munhall High School and Steel Valley head librarian
- Accepted the donation of a collection of approximately 300 books at Barrett Elementary School from Reading Is Fundamental on behalf of the Holiday Inn Express in West Mifflin
- Payment in the amount of \$2,500 to defray the cost for the Senior Class Breakfast
- Payment by the school district of \$1,816 toward the total cost of Advanced Placement examination fees to be reimbursed by the Steel Valley Foundation for Education
- Entering into agreements between the Steel Valley School District and the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education and Schools, Inc., as a part of The Classroom Excellence Initiative

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following:

- Amber Hoyle, Jessica Istvan, Vanessa Blair, Raymond Best and Adriane DeCaria as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Attendance of Joy Kardos to the Wellness and Academic Success: From Policy to Action Conference on April 29 through May 1, 2007 in State College, Pennsylvania, at a cost of approximately \$450
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Betty Ann Orkis with all benefits as provided by the collective bargaining agreement effective August 3, 2007
- Toni Ruffing as a substitute secretary at the rate of \$6.50 per hour, pending receipt of federal criminal history record and contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- Janice Todd as a substitute instructional aide at the rate of \$6.50 per hour, pending receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances, federal criminal history record, and contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- Approved, retroactively, an unpaid leave of absence for Sharon McCallister beginning April 13, 2007, for approximately four to six weeks