



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
September 25, 2007**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Maria Garcia, grandmother of Jonathan Edwards, middle school teacher; Chrissy Davis, aunt of Erin Cain, middle school teacher; Raymond M. Macko, father of Amy Diliscia; Janet Rapach, grandmother of Katie Pugh, Park School teacher; and Mary Callahan, aunt of Lois Habrat, secretary to the Director of Pupil Personnel. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mrs. Terrick to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries.

President_s Comments

Mrs. Cannon announced that the Marching Band would hold its 9th Annual Band Festival at the A Field on Saturday, September 29; and at last Saturday_s football game, the district recognized the 1982 Ironmen championship football team at halftime.

She reported that Mr. Wehrer has started an academic organization entitled I-TEAM to mobilize community involvement in our schools to help the district increase student achievement. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 2, at 7:00 pm in the high school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey announced there would be no school for students on Monday, October 8. The professional staff will participate in the countywide inservice day. Professional development is also scheduled at the high school for the secondary math and English teachers on Successmaker and various applications.

The 4-Sight testing has been taking place in grades 3-11 as well as G-MADE and DIBELS testing in grades K-2. The data will be collected and submitted to the Department of Education before October 10, and it will be compiled and reviewed with the principals and academic coaches.

On October 8, Pitt will inservice our principals and academic coaches on the new assessment collection software. This software analyzes district assessments and creates individual portfolios for student needs.

Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Services

Mrs. Borges reported that three professionals from across the state would conduct a peer review of our counseling program in the school district.

Watson Institute, an organization that works with students with severe disabilities, has included Steel Valley for the 3rd year in a grant funded by the Educational Improvement Tax Credit. Including this year_s grant, the district has received a total of \$97,474 in transition services.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro and elementary teachers met with Harcourt to review the science curriculum, and the district received five free science kits. The publishing company will also provide PSSA prep questions for all grades levels.

Representatives from IUP have offered professional development services to our staff, which includes inservice for our teachers and paraprofessionals on special education, early literacy, differentiated instruction, etc.

On October 10, WQED's Queen of Hearts will visit the students at Franklin Primary Center for storytelling. Steel Valley is one of five school districts selected to receive this \$3,000 grant, which includes a visit from the Queen of Hearts once a month and free books for all students. Dr. Policastro is exploring a Reading Rainbow program from WQED for grades 1-5.

Student Representative to the Board

Senior Representative Thomas Barefoot reported on the high school activities:

- The girls' soccer, boys' soccer and football teams are doing well, and the student body is hoping to be in the WPIAL playoffs;
- High school lockers are being painted and are looking nice;
- Students in grades 9, 10 & 11 started the 4-Sight testing in Reading, writing and math;
- Next week students will be involved in homecoming activities. The Powder Puff game, Bonfire and Homecoming dance will be held on Wednesday;
- PSAT testing will take place October 20; and
- PSSA retests for 12th grade students who scored at Basic and Below Basic will occur this month.

He reported on activities at Park School:

- Students completed 4-Sight and the DIBELS fall testing cycles;
- New classroom computers are being installed;
- Parent volunteers are painting a U.S. map on the playground on Saturday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm; and
- Open House was a success last week; many parents attended.

Barrett Activities included:

- Open House was held on September 19;
- Grandparents' Breakfast was held on September 13; and
- On October 4, Charlie Batch and a several Steelers presented book bags to students at both Franklin and Barrett Schools.

Solicitor's Report

The Board appointed Pamela Terrick as Assistant Board Secretary, without pay.

The Board authorized the proposed settlement by the Board of Viewers on the Waterfront Apartments Tax Appeal with market values per TIF agreement for years 2001 & 2002 is \$610,200, year 2003 is \$12,000,000, 2004 is \$13,090,000, 2005 is \$15,250,000, 2006 is \$16,725,000 and 2007 is \$17,000,000.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the August 21 and 28, 2007 board meetings.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

General Fund invoices from 2006-2007 in the amount of \$135,815.28

General Fund invoices for September 2007 in the amount of \$529,039.16

General Fund hand checks for August 2007 in the amount of \$1,175,229.50

Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2007

Food Service invoices for September 2007 in the amount of \$24,412.27

Treasurer's Report from June 2007

Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending August 31, 2007

Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending August 31, 2007

Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending August 31, 2007

Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$2,156.08

Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$10,480.00

Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$798.00

The Board accepted the Single Audit Report for year 2005-2006 from Maher Duessel

The Board adopted a resolution approving an amendment to an interest rate management plan and authorizing an amendment to qualified interest rate management agreement.

Operations

The Board approved the facility rental requests and fundraising requests as presented

Educational Leadership

- The Board approved the Special Education Performance Grant/School-Based Behavioral Health Grant Contract for Services.

Personnel Management

The Board denied Grievance #07-196.

The Board approved the following:

- Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Tracy McGrew beginning on October 2, 2007, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Retroactively appointed Maria Heddleston to tutoring facilitator at a rate of \$30 per hour per the collective bargaining agreement beginning September 10, 2007 - May 30, 2008
- Retroactively appointed Lisa Lawson, Tracey Findlay, Lauren Gennari, Lori Kenavey and Beth Kelly to the position of tutor and Zachary Mathews as a substitute tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour per the collective bargaining agreement beginning September 10, 2007 - May 30, 2008
- Amanda Cepko, Erica Weston, Jennifer DeFrancesco, Cynthia Lynn Cochran, Lauren George, Dianne Furnival, Wendi Ridgway-Price, and Lee Yarnell as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Dr. Dennis Zabelsky as school dentist for the 2007-2008 school year
- Attendance of Nicole Asson, Clay Karadus and Rebecca Russell to Marine Boot Camp in South Carolina on October 23-26, 2007, at no cost to the district
- Unpaid leave of absence for Kathleen Wolf on October 11-12, 2007
- Joan Axelson as a substitute secretary and instructional aide at a rate of \$7.15 per hour contingent upon receipt of Act 114 clearance, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Travis Staudt as a substitute custodian at a rate of \$8.75 per hour contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, Act 114 and Act 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Supplemental positions listed for the 2007-2008 school year
- Supplemental position of Middle School Drama Club sponsor and a stipend amount agreed upon by the School Board and the Steel Valley Education Association effective for the 2007-2008 school year
- Unpaid leave of absence for Elva Cherep beginning September 24 - October 1, 2007
- Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Diana Borges at the conclusion of her accumulated vacation days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration and pending the placement of a child for adoption
- Accepted the resignation of Michael Bichko as per the terms and conditions of the Agreement of Settlement, Release and Confidentiality