



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
December 2, 2008**

The Board acknowledged the passing of William J. O'Rourke, retired health/physical education teacher; Sheryl Ann Macuga, Mother of Bryan Macuga; Albert J. Savolskis, Uncle of Linda Terrick; Phyllis Wylie, Aunt of Donald Packer; and Linda Volomino, Aunt of Sara Bouton. It was moved by Mr. Natale and seconded by Mr. Olson to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Re-organization Meeting

Congratulations to Mr. Joseph Ducar who was elected President and Mr. Vince Natale who was elected Vice President of the Board of School Directors for 2009.

President's Comments

Mr. Joe Ducar thanked the School Board for their support in electing him President and plans to move the district forward.

Student Representatives' Reports

As part of its Peer to Younger Peer project, The Future is Mine (TFIM) students read *The Pencil Story* to the Franklin Primary students to encourage them to know how special they are, and they helped the kindergarten students make ornaments.

The Queen of Hearts visited the students of Franklin Primary Center on December 2.

The kindergarten students will perform *The Littlest Christmas Tree* on December 22 at 12:45 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The Barrett students will perform *Dancin' Through the Holidays* on December 19 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Barrett Gym. Barrett students also performed in Homestead's Light Up Night on December 4.

The Park Elementary PTO held an ice skating social on December 3. A movie night will be held on Monday, December 8, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

The high school students enjoyed the motivational assembly with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Batch and Mr. Anderson.

On November 13, four high school students were honored for receiving Extra Effort Awards from Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School for the first grading quarter. Students included:

Terrell Hart	Computer Aided Drafting
Tyler McCrum	Collision Repair & Refinishing
Joshua Edwards	Carpentry
Jordan White	Diesel Mechanics

The high school band and choral concert will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The middle school will hold a dance on January 23. The book fair in the middle school made \$600. The student government is raising money for The Caring Fund. The middle school received a grant for bullying prevention.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey recognized Mr. Ducar for his 12 years of School Board service and the long-term contributions of individuals who bring their energy, talent and values to the guidance of youth and public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Green's Funeral Home sponsored an essay contest on "What Family Means to Me" for all 5th, 8th and 12th graders. Mrs. Jill Fleming-Salopek recognized 5th grade winners Karly Deutsch and Savannah Merrill. Also recognized for their winning essays were 8th grader Erin Barefoot and senior Ashley Wolford.

The Steel Valley Literacy Committee is holding a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble on Sunday, December 7, between 12 and 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Kinavey congratulated the students, teachers and staff at Park Elementary School and Steel Valley Middle School for meeting AYP. Both schools were awarded the Keystone Achievement Award for reaching AYP for two consecutive years. Park School has been successful for six consecutive years, and the Middle School has made AYP for four consecutive years.

Dr. Kinavey recognized High School Teachers Susan Olsen and Dana Mathews and Elementary Teachers Maria Heddleston and Roslyn Stulga for achieving National Board Certification.

Dr. Kinavey announced that the school district has received \$1.6 million in grants for the 2008-2009 school year as follows:

Classrooms for the Future	\$47,502
EAP Tutoring	\$218,343
Safe and Drug Free Schools	\$9,413
Special Education Performance Grant	\$45,000
Dual Enrollment	\$5,661
ABG for Kindergarten	\$443,006
Title I	\$694,962
Title II	\$161,672
Step Up at Middle School	\$9,600
Physical Education at Franklin	\$4,700
PATHS	\$9,278

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services

Mrs. Borges reported on the *In Step with 2nd Step* grant for the Middle School in the amount of \$9,600 focusing on self-esteem and bullying prevention. This grant was received through the Highmark Healthy High 5 organization.

The district also received a grant of \$9,278 to continue the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) program. The PATHS program, along with Bullying Prevention and Moving On, work on prevention and also provide learning opportunities to teach parents about building positive partnerships with teachers and administrators.

On December 11, the middle school special education teachers are hosting a Parent Night.

Mrs. Borges announced that December 1-5 is Pennsylvania Inclusive Schools Week.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology

Mr. Colebank reported that EdLine.net is operating for parents to review their child's coursework. Parents received a user ID and login password to view their child's attendance, homework and grades online. All progress reports will be generated on paper and on EdLine next week.

Mr. Colebank congratulated Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. Mathews on their dedication and determination in acquiring National Board Certification. In addition to meeting the requirements for National Board Certification last year, they also completed 40 hours of training for the Classrooms for the Future grant.

The school district has five certified SmartBoard trainers.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro reported that she and a group of stakeholders are working with the YMCA in providing the Starfish Summer Literacy program at Park Elementary School. This program is for students entering third grade. She is waiting to hear about the same program for Barrett Elementary School.

She is continuing to work with the University of Pittsburgh's Child Development Department on a Kindergarten transition program.

Dr. Policastro congratulated Mrs. Stulga and Mrs. Heddleston on meeting the rigorous standards and earning National Board Certification.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the October 21 and 28, 2008 board meetings.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for November 2008 in the amount of \$787,459.29
- General Fund hand checks for October 2008 in the amount of \$400,434.00
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2008
- Treasurers' Reports for August and September 2008
- General Fund Revenue Report for September 2008
- General Fund Revenue Report for October 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for October 2008
- Food Service invoices for November 2008 in the amount of \$88,931.69
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2008
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$9,719.91
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$4,367.50
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$2,891.86
- Authorized real estate tax refund in the amount of \$639.74 to First American Real Estate Tax Service for Lot & Block 131-D-49 as a result of an overpayment
- Authorized real estate tax refund in the amount of \$237.55 to Indy Mac Bank for Lot & Block 131-B-166 as a result of an overpayment

Mr. Cherpak announced that the Board met with the local auditors to discuss their draft report and management letter. The final audit will be available for the public to view in January.

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Awarded the bids for the asbestos abatement of the Woodlawn building to LVI Environmental at the price of \$107,800 and to demolish the Woodlawn building to A. W. McNabb at the price of \$158,000 per specifications

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Creation of *The Future is Mine (TFIM)* high school student activity for the 2008-2009 school year with Ryan Dunmire as a volunteer sponsor
- Authorized payment of \$800 for the services of DJ Steve Maffei at the prom to be held at Stratigos Banquet Centre on May 22, 2009

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted new Policy No. 800 Records Management
- Held second reading and adopted revisions to Policy No. 610 Purchases Subject to Bid

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Authorized the disposal of math textbooks
- 2009 board meeting dates with worksession and regular meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m.

An Educational Leadership Committee meeting of the School Board will be held on Wednesday, December 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior High School Conference Room.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Katie Pugh commencing after the exhaustion of her accumulated sick leave days and personal days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Mark Cherpak as the school district Right-to-Know Officer effective immediately
- Andrea Muha and Matthew Brantner as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day beginning with the 31st day
- Sherry Cohen and Bobbi Vargo as substitute tutors at a rate of \$30 per hour according to the EAP Tutoring Grant
- Motion to appoint Matt Janov as interim head varsity softball coach for 2008-2009 school year
- Kevin Tomasic to the 7th/8th grade boys' basketball coach position, Jamie Polak to the assistant boys' varsity basketball coach position and Susan Wright to the high school art club position
- Stipend of \$1,090.50 for a middle school yearbook sponsor for the 2008-2009 school year
- Leann Doyle, Kelly Karasa, Rob Colasante, Dave Colasante Jr., Nick Colasante, Cory Hahn and Duo Cao as volunteers for the 2008-2009 school year contingent upon receipt of Act 34 and 151 clearances

- Unpaid leave of absence for Michele Batch beginning January 12 through April 25, 2009
- Danielle Mays as a general worker in the Senior High School cafeteria for 4 hours per day at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective December 3, 2008
- Jean Fedak as a general worker in the Senior High School cafeteria for 4 hours per day at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective December 3, 2008
- Lynn Anderson as a general worker in the Senior High School cafeteria for 4 ¾ hours per day at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective December 3, 2008
- Patricia Davis as a substitute secretary at a rate of \$7.15 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Roy Mort as a substitute custodian at the rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of an acceptable Act 114 clearance, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Denied Grievance #08-199