



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

---

**Board Meeting  
December 8, 2009**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Helen Hayward, retired food service worker and grandmother of Amanda Olson, middle school teacher; Blance Sexauer, aunt of Norm Kosko, Barrett custodian; Paul Sperduto, cousin of Matt Janov, Park school teacher; Carl Henrikson, grandfather of Scott Manns, middle school teacher; Cindy Smecker, cousin of Anthony Verbanick, Barrett teacher; Jonathan Harris, nephew of Sue Little, Barrett teacher; Thomas Vavra, stepfather of Sue and Steve Large, middle school guidance counselor and middle school teacher; Andrew Revak, uncle of Cindy DeLuca, school nurse; Lisa Kristia, cousin of Loren Ford, high school custodian; Thomas J. Pepke, father of students enrolled at Park School and Middle School; Frank Colebank, uncle of Ed Colebank, Director of Academics, Information & Technology; Elizabeth Edmonds, Aunt of Leslie Hairston, Franklin paraprofessional; Gregory Harris Sr., brother of Robyn Guy, former school board director; and Officer Michael Crawshaw, Penn Hills Police Department. In honor of service on the Steel Valley Board of School Directors, the Board recognized Edward McCallister 2001-2009, Pam Terrick 2005-2009 and Cynthia McEnheimer 2008-2009. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mr. Ducar to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory and honor.

### **Re-organization Meeting**

Congratulations to Mrs. Cannon who was elected President and Mrs. Kubancsek who was elected Vice President of the Board of School Directors for 2010.

### **President's Comments**

Mrs. Cannon thanked the School Board Members for their support in electing her President and plans to be dedicated to the school district and the taxpayers of the community.

### **Student Representative's Report**

Junior School Board Representative Lance Miller reported that the Veterans Day program was held on November 5 in the Senior High School.

The Future is Mine (TFIM) students volunteered at Franklin Primary Center and taught kindergarten students about various careers available at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Kindergarten students participated in a variety of activities, such as, making animal masks, career bracelets, and playing memory games and board games.

The first annual Turkey Bowl (flag football game) was held at Campbell Field between teachers and students. The event raised \$185 for the senior residents of Parkview Towers. In addition to the donation, the TFIM students spent time with the seniors playing bingo.

The next blood drive will be held on February 3 in the Senior High School.

Park School PTO sponsored a Scholastic Book Fair for students. The Park School faculty and staff held a Veterans Day Program recognizing local veterans on November 13.

On November 18, first grade students from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools gathered at Barrett School for a night of fun with friends. Approximately 70 students participated in relay races, crafts and a snack of trail mix.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kinavey recognized Mrs. McEnheimer, Mrs. Terrick and Mr. Ed McCallister for their service on the school board, and he welcomed the new board members Colette Youngblood, Michael Terrick and Donald Bajus.

Park Principal Bryan Macuga and Teacher Denise Barron discussed the Starfish Summer Literacy Camp held at Park Elementary School in August. It was a six-week camp filled with reading poems, reader's theater, vocabulary baseball and art projects.

The Board recognized the members of the Veterans Day Committee for their time and dedication planning and coordinating the annual Veterans Day Program. The 2009 Veterans Day Committee members included: Mayor Ray Bodnar, Dan Boehme, Brian Bungard, William O. Davis, Mayor Betty Esper, Russ Firestone, Jill Fleming-Salopek, Martha Sloan, Mercer Keyes, Ray Kondas, Kim Kubancsek, Ed Lutheran, Larry McKern, Glenn G. McNeish, Peg Price, Edward Rock, Sr., Vincent P. Rodgers, Anna Mae Serenka, Joseph Serenka, John Tichon, Tom Torkowsky, and Richard Votedian. Certificates of Recognition were distributed to those members in attendance.

Dr. Kinavey congratulated the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team for their successful season in the WPIAL and playoff competition. Coach Abraham introduced the members of the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team in attendance.

Recognition was given to the 2009 Marching Band for a successful season. The band improved and moved up four spots at the Atlantic Coast Championships. They also placed first in many categories throughout the season.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education**

The elementary holiday concerts and plays will be held as follows:

December 17 Barrett Elementary School 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

December 18 Park Elementary School 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

December 22 Franklin Primary Center 12:45 p.m.

The Littlest Christmas Tree HS Auditorium

The Franklin Primary Center held a Pajama Party at Chick-fil-A on December 9 to raise money for the kindergarten students.

The district received \$8,961 from a 2009-2010 Community Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant. Funds will be used to create an elementary student assistance program and to continue the bullying prevention programs in the district.

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology**

Mr. Colebank reported that the middle school holiday band and choral program will be held on Monday, December 14 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium, and the High School band and choral program will be conducted on Wednesday, December 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The district will install a new alert system for parents and guardians. The principals are in the process of collecting email addresses, cell phone numbers, home phone numbers, etc. This alert system will broadcast emergency messages, student tardies, and student attendance directly to parents and guardians. Mr. William Campbell will be funding this notification system.

The Middle States Accreditation review of the Senior High School programs will occur during the week of February 24.

The Educational Leadership Committee of the School Board will meet on Monday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school conference room to review the middle school & high school academic handbooks and discuss an in-house cyber school for the 2010-2011 school year.

Financial advisors gave an overview of the conversion from the CMS SWAP program to a Basis SWAP. Many school districts use this technique to generate funds to help offset interest payments on their bonds. In 2006, Steel Valley converted to a more aggressive CMS SWAP program to generate more revenue. The purpose of this conversion is to put the district into a more conservative Basis SWAP program.

## **Solicitor's Report**

The Board authorized the Solicitor to file an appeal to the Board of Property Assessments on Block and Lot 130-B-00075 and to hire Bodnar Real Estate Services, Inc., to perform a real estate appraisal on the realty for the amount of \$3,500.00.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the October 20 and 27, 2009 board meetings.

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for November 2009 in the amount of \$1,025,290.05
- General Fund hand checks for October 2009 in the amount of \$482,688.51
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2009
- General Fund Revenue Report for October 2009
- General Fund Expenditure Report for October 2009
- Food Service invoices for November 2009 in the amount of \$41,287.36
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2009
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2009
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$30,160.27
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$7,522.89
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$11,725.63
- Authorized real estate tax refund to Steven Bertolo for Lot & Block 133-B-254 in the amount of \$507.08 for year 2009 for real estate taxes paid
- Authorized real estate tax refund to Mary Beth Conroy for Lot & Block 133-G-94 in the amount of \$230.31 for year 2009 for real estate taxes paid prior to a deduction for the Homestead Exclusion
- Adopted the resolution to convert the existing CMS SWAP program to Basis SWAP with adjustments

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests and fundraising requests as presented
- Accepted the donation of seven pieces of exercise equipment from Club One to the district

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board authorized payment of \$325 for the services of a DJ at the semi-formal dance to be held at the Georgetown Centre on January 16, 2010

## **Special Assignments**

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted Policy No. 121 Field Trips
- Held first reading of new Policy Nos. 335, 435 and 535 Family Medical Leaves

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board accepted the following grants:

- Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge grant in the amount of \$9,619.00 to fund the purchase of Dance Dance Revolution and Wii Fit systems to be used during physical education classes in the middle school
- Special Education Performance grant award of \$40,095 to enhance School-Based Behavioral Health Services in the school district

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for Mary Ellen Totin retroactive to October 19, 2009, not to exceed 60 days
- Family medical leave of absence for Nicole Adams Benjamin retroactive to November 9, 2009, not to exceed seven (7) weeks in duration
- Extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Julie Doebereiner through the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year
- Extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Emilee Garcia through the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year
- Appointed Nicole Waters to a long-term substitute position of 5th grade elementary teacher assigned to Barrett Elementary School at a salary based upon Bachelor's Step 2 and fringe benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year
- Appointed Terry Brown Groce to a long-term substitute position of learning support teacher assigned to Barrett Elementary School at a salary based upon Bachelor's Step 1 and fringe benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement effective December 9, 2009, for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year
- Retroactively approved Betty Lyons as facilitator; Ivan Braszo, Drew Vautier, Deirdre Kamauf and William Edwards as tutors; Brian Keesecker, Vonnie Smid and Marguerite Luvara as substitute tutors at a rate of \$30 per hour; and Mary Lou McConnell and Mary Jo Craycraft as paraprofessionals at a rate of \$15 per hour for the after school tutoring program at Franklin Primary Center from November 2, 2009, through May 27, 2010
- Retroactively approved two (2) additional paid bereavement days for Deirdre Kamauf on September 4 & 9, 2009
- Megan Bomba as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2009-2010 school year
- Family medical leave of absence for Jessica Ann Sabo retroactive to October 27, 2009, and ending on or about December 14, 2009
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Kathleen Wolf, food service worker at Barrett Elementary School, effective November 25, 2009
- Appointed Dorothy Alexandroff as a general worker in the Senior High School cafeteria, 4-3/4 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 9, 2009
- School volunteers as listed for the 2009-2010 school year, contingent upon receipt of current Act 34 and 151 clearances on those noted with an asterisk