



# Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
January 26, 2010**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Jo Ann Vandergraft, sister of Magistrate Thomas Torkowsky; Rose Pecora, grandmother of Jennifer Pecora, middle school teacher; Albin Perne, grandfather of Amanda Linder, Barrett and high school teacher; Raymond W. Saunders, brother-in-law of Bill Edwards, kindergarten teacher and uncle of Jonathan Edwards, middle school teacher; Craig Hams, brother of Loren Ford, high school custodian; Irene E. Catterall, mother-in-law of Karen Catterall and grandmother of Beth and Jeff Catterall, Barrett and high school teachers; John M. Schmunk, brother of Dr. Jim Schmunk, former interim superintendent; Charles J. "Jerry" Sweeney, retired social studies teacher; Bernard J. McKittrick, father-in-law of Raymond Braszo, high school teacher; Anna McMahan, mother-in-law of Melissa McMahan, high school custodian; Julia Hoyle, aunt of Dr. Carole Policastro, Park School teacher; Robert "Bud" Casper, uncle of Denise Stephenson, Park School teacher; Grace Dilling, grandmother of Terrie Hoffman, middle school and Franklin librarian; John Swiatek, grandfather of Bridget Stright, high school teacher; Mary Kish, aunt of Ed Colebank, Director of Academics, Information & Technology; William Gordon, uncle of Rebecca Kristen, middle school teacher; and Thomas Wildman, uncle of Lois Habrat, secretary in the Office of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mr. Olson to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

## **President's Comments**

Mrs. Cannon announced that the school district is holding a Denim for Emily Day to raise money for the purchase of a service dog for kindergarten student Emily Hyland. Staff members are encouraged to donate \$5 to show their support for the project and have the opportunity to wear denim on Thursday, February 11. All proceeds will be given to the Hyland family along with the money raised through the Pennies for Emily campaign.

She reported that the high school students represented Steel Valley very well on the Hometown High "Q" game show.

Mrs. Cannon announced that she received a complimentary letter from the executive director of KSA Events commending Coach Shawn McCallister, Coach Kelly Sabo and the girls' and boys' basketball teams for their participation at Disney's Wide World of Sports in December.

## **Student Representatives' Report**

Junior School Board Representative Lance Miller reported that the Queen of Hearts read to the kindergarten students on January 12 and distributed three books to each student provided by the Reading Is Fundamental Program. The Kindergarten students enjoyed lunch with their parents at Franklin Primary Center on January 20.

The middle school teachers are producing a video, which will be shown to the study body prior to PSSA testing.

Senior School Board Representative Kaitlyn Baran reported that the girls' basketball team

is doing well. The seniors enjoyed their trip to Seven Springs, and the semi-formal was held on January 16 at the Georgetown Centre. The 2nd semester began on January 20.

## **Superintendent's Report**

January is designated as School Board Recognition Month across the Commonwealth. The Superintendent thanked the School Board members for their dedication of time and service to the students in the Steel Valley School District. They are not paid for their service but are devoted to the students and supportive of the teachers and staff.

Dr. Kinavey congratulated the varsity football team for advancing to the first round of the WPIAL playoffs this season. James Caldwell made 1st Team All Conference Linebacker and Second Team Running Back, Delrece Williams made 2nd Team All Conference Running Back and Kevin Ohm made 2nd Team All Conference as a specialty player.

Middle School Principal Kevin Walsh along with Teachers Heather Huber and Steven Singer made a presentation on the success of the Title I Family Game Nights being held at the middle school. The next one is scheduled on February 8, and everyone will be playing bingo. Family Game Night began with the purchase of the games through a Great Idea Mini Grant awarded by The Consortium for Public Education. It is now funded with Title I funds.

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

Mrs. Borges reported that the elementary students have successfully completed the 4Sight, GMade and Dibels assessment tests.

A Title I Family Math Night will be held at Park School on January 28 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Park School students raised \$725 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by purchasing tickets for a chance to have lunch with Principal Bryan Macuga. Winners from each grade were selected and enjoyed a special lunch with their principal.

Report cards will be distributed on January 29.

Park School is holding a Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A on the Waterfront on Wednesday, February 3 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Wear your favorite sports jerseys and join them for this fundraiser. Twenty percent (20%) of the sales will be donated to Park Elementary School.

On February 11, a 5th grade social will be held at Park Elementary School from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The 5th graders from Barrett and Park Schools will be getting together for a good time.

There will be no school for students on Friday, February 12. This is a teacher inservice day. School will be in session on Monday, February 15, as a make-up day.

Mrs. Borges announced that the district has been awarded an Inclusive Practices Grant in the amount of \$14,995 to improve inclusion and the education of students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment within the school district. The grant monies will be used for professional development materials, addressing co-teaching, inclusion and the response to intervention model. Teachers will also be trained to implement an Elementary Student Assistance Program to address challenging behaviors.

A family support group for parents raising children with mental health, emotional and behavioral concerns will be meeting at the Steel Valley High School on a monthly basis.

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

Mr. Colebank announced the 4Sight and GMade assessments have been completed at the middle school and high school. The Middle States Evaluation of the Senior High School has been postponed to the last week in April.

On the February 12 inservice day, faculty will be reviewing course syllabi, 4Sight data and Edline procedures.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes of the November 24, 2009 worksession meeting, December 8, 2009 re-organization meeting and the December 8, 2009 board meeting.

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2009 & January 2010 in the amount of \$646,354.59
- General Fund hand checks for November 2009 in the amount of \$463,834.77
- General Fund hand checks for December 2009 in the amount of \$498,429.95
- Payroll Funding Transfers for November & December 2009
- Treasurer's Reports for September, October & November 2009
- General Fund Revenue Report for November 2009
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2009
- General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2009
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2009
- Food Service Invoices for December 2009 in the amount of \$80,373.13
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending November 30, 2009
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2009
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending November 30, 2009
- Foundation for Education Technology Account Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending November 30, 2009
- Foundation for Education Barrett Project Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2009
- Foundation for Education Technology Account Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2009
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$104,111.66
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$11,621.41
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$15,639.94
- Band Trip hand checks in the amount of \$2,395.14

### **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests and fundraising requests as presented
- Accepted the donation of three books Biggest, Strongest, Fastest; What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?; and Actual Size to Park Elementary School, Barrett Elementary School and Franklin Primary Center from Kohl's Cares for Kids program
- Agreement between Steel Valley School District and ClearChoice Energy

## **Special Assignments**

The Board held a second reading and adopted new Policy Nos. 335, 435 and 535 Family Medical Leaves.

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Revised the 2009-2010 school calendar and designated March 31 as a make-up day and April 1 as a clerical day
- Elementary social studies curriculum for grades four and five
- High School Academic Handbook for the 2010-2011 school year
- Middle School Academic Handbook for the 2010-2011 school year
- VLN as the provider of 30 online class subjects for grades 9-12 to be used to start up the Steel Valley Online Academy at the cost of \$33,000

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with deep regret, the retirement of Susan Kaufold from the position of 4th grade teacher at Park Elementary School effective at the close of business on June 9, 2010
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Nicole Benjamin from the 1st grade teaching position at Barrett Elementary School effective January 25, 2010
- Family medical leave of absence for Jennifer Smith retroactive to January 8, 2010, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Bridget Stright commencing February 10, 2010, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Cara Hritz commencing March 1, 2010, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Bobbi Vargo retroactive to January 13, 2010, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Ed Colebank, Ellen Sabo and Mark Cherpak to attend the ACAPA Spring Conference to be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on March 17-19, 2010, at an approximate cost to the district of \$1,800
- Two (2) additional paid bereavement days for Jodi Geyer for December 2 and 10, 2008
- Authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to execute professional employee contracts for Mark Fallon, Richard Pireaux, Kelly Sabo, Brian Bungard and Patrick Connelly
- Justin Kuhar, Ashleigh Hays, Lindsey Weidner, Katelyn Rae Zilko, Lisa Waskiewicz and Andrew Petruska as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year
- Melissa Nelson, Audra Bobbs and Heather Malingowski as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year
- Accepted the resignations of David Morus from the supplemental position of High School Band Director, Mike Cullen from the supplemental position of Head Varsity Boys' Volleyball Coach and Shane Lucas from the supplemental position of Assistant Varsity Boys' Volleyball Coach
- Appointed Brian Savolskis to the supplemental position of Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year
- Stipend for The Future is Mine (TFIM) supplemental at the rate of \$2,560.54 for the 2009-2010 school year according to the supplemental contract of the collective bargaining agreement
- Appointed Deborah Perry as a general worker in the Barrett Elementary School cafeteria, 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 January 27, 2010

- Request from Wyona Rompala for a family medical leave of absence commencing on February 4, 2010, and ending on or about March 4, 2010
- Kathy Gardner as a substitute in food service and as a secretary at an hourly rate of \$7.25 per hour with no benefits, and as a custodian at a rate of \$8.75 per hour with no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days

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