



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
October 23, 2012**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Mildred Rue, retired elementary teacher; David S. Garrity, father of Denise Barron, 1st grade teacher at Barrett Elementary School; Ronnie Blount, father of Loren Ford, Barrett and Park School custodian; Walter \_Ziggy\_ Ziolkowski, uncle of Jennifer Awenowicz, kindergarten teacher; Ed Porter, grandfather of Ed Colebank, Director of Academics, Information & Technology; Robert Chambers, uncle of Leslie Hairston, paraprofessional at Barrett Elementary School; and Drew D. Martin, 1992 Valedictorian of the Steel Valley High School and cousin of Susan Wright, art teacher at the middle school and high school. 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.

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

Senior Melissa Cerda reported that the high school students have completed the Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT) assessments in Math, Language Arts and Science. Make-up PSSAs will be held on October 30 and 31.

Motivational speaker, George Palombo, will speak to students and parents on October 24 in the high school auditorium. Mr. Palombo is a veteran law enforcement officer from the Beaver County Sheriff's office and was Pennsylvania's Officer of the Year in 2001.

Miss Kristen Moten stated that the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing goals start November 1. The safe schools walking route is working fine.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wehrer congratulated high school student Jesse Cantley for his 2nd place finish in the Sectional Golf Qualifier at Westwood Golf Club, which qualified him to play in the Division II Boys Championship. Jesse finished 15th overall in the championship.

Neil Chandler was recognized as the Player of the Week for the Panera Bread Bowl Game of the Week sponsored by Panera Bread and the Best of the Batch Foundation. Neil was a guest on the *Charlie Batch Show*, which aired on September 29.

Mr. Wehrer congratulated Senior Dustin Vargo for his outstanding athletic achievement as the High School All American Goalball Player for the United States Association of Blind Athletes. Dustin has been competing for 10 years on the Pennsylvania youth VIP Sports team. This year at the National Goalball competition in St. Augustine, Florida, Dustin was named the Most Valuable Player, and VIP Sports took 1st place in the national goalball championship. Goalball is a highly competitive sport played three-against-three, indoors on a gym floor by blind and visually impaired athletes. The object is to roll a three-pound goalball that has bells embedded in it, past the opposing team without them stopping it and while blindfolded.

Pastor Bernard Marable of Prayer and Deliverance Community Opportunities (PADCO) spoke about an anti-violence dramatization entitled *No More Project* to be held on November 17 in the Barrett gym. A group of young people will portray youth that have been hurt and abused and decided that enough is enough. They use dramatizations to illustrate real life situations and how bad choices can ruin their lives.

High School Biology Teacher Susan Olsen took 13 students to participate in the iGEM Jamboree at Duquesne University on Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14. iGEM is the premiere synthetic biology design competition for undergraduate students. Research teams from the top universities in the eastern half

of the US presented their projects at the Jamboree. Participating Steel Valley students were DJ Lewis, Layla Phouthavong, Shane McGuire, TuDuc Ho, Jennifer Brizes, Rachael Brizes, Kyler Maddigan, Sara Pounds, Logan Perry, Lance Miller, David Salapa, Brittany Furlong and Hannah Fallon. The students expressed their excitement for the competition and were honored to be invited. They are looking forward to participating next year.

Dr. Bethany Fenyus, KtO Team member, reported that the team is analyzing the state's Comprehensive Literacy Plan. A committee meets monthly and is working on creating a Steel Valley plan and how it will be integrated into the school district.

Mrs. Nicole Strom, Title I Resource Teacher, shared a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of the students who participated in the Summer Reading Camps. The focus of the summer program was on all aspects of literacy: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Activities included team building, listening skills, iStation computer program and every grade level delivered a presentation to show their talents through Reader's Theater. The program was a tremendous success for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and the staff received a positive response from parents.

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

Mrs. Borges reported that a web conference was held at Barrett Elementary School today with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Barrett and Park Schools and Steelers Quarterback Charlie Batch. During the event students interacted with their peers at Boyce Middle School in Upper St. Clair to promote UPMC's 2nd annual Dignity and Respect for Youth Day. The conference focused on the importance of getting along and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

There will be no school for students on October 25 and 26, due to scheduled professional development activities for the staff.

Report cards will be distributed on November 2.

The annual Veterans Day programs will be held as follows:

November 7 9:00 am Park Elementary School  
November 8 9:00 am Barrett Elementary School  
November 9 9:00 am High School Auditorium

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools on Wednesday, November 14, from 12:00-3:00 and 4:00-7:00 p.m. There will be no school for students attending Barrett and Park Schools.

Franklin Primary Center will hold its Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 15, from 12:00-3:00 and 4:00-7:00 p.m. There will be no school for kindergarten students on this day.

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

Mr. Colebank reported that the first Keystone exams would occur in early December.

Teen Zone TV will be filming a television show in the middle school on November 1 on the topic of bullying, and the show will air on Comcast and on KDKA in April.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor\_s ReportThe Board adopted a resolution to deny 18 furloughed teachers a local agency hearing before the School Board.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

September 18, 2012 worksession meeting

September 25, 2012 regular meeting

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for October 2012 in the amount of \$477,679.89
- General Fund hand checks for September 2012 in the amount of \$498,133.04
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2012
- Food Service invoices for October 2012 in the amount of \$68,311.16
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending September 30, 2012
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$13,588.18
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$1,100.00
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$7,123.20
- Band Trip/hand checks in the amount of \$45.31

### **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Re-bid of security services for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years
- Repair of the high school elevator by Marshall Elevator at a cost of \$39,230 to be paid from Capital Projects
- Replacement of a portion of the high school roof, using Option 1 at a cost of \$326,506 to be paid from Capital Projects
- Business manager to solicit bids for a districtwide security system upgrade to be paid from Capital Projects
- Purchase of XO laptops for one elementary classroom at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to be paid from Capital Projects
- Use of Capital Project funds for the reconstruction of the school district website at an estimated cost of \$3,500

### **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

### **Special Assignments**

The Board held a second reading on the following policies:

- Policy No. 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- Policy No. 611 Purchases Budgeted
- Policy 123.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Policy No. 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

The Mon Valley School is hosting a Craft Show on Saturday, November 3, from 9:00 a.m. \_ 3:00 p.m. to raise funds for the school. It is open to the public with a \$2 admission.

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board accepted a \$500.00 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Novotny to purchase two (2) cameras and a lighting kit to be used in the Art Department at Park Elementary School.

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Angela Hafen and Lisa Berger as substitute staff for the KtO program for the 2012-2013 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Lee Ann Doyle retroactive to October 1, 2012, and Jill Wassell retroactive to September 26, 2012, from the tutor positions in the KtO program
- Appointed Alissa McNeil to the position of Reading Tutor at Barrett School and Joyce Senich to the position of Tutor at Park School as part of the KtO program
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Lillian Phouthavong from the position of paraprofessional in the high school retroactive to October 12, 2012
- Recalled the most senior paraprofessional from the furlough list retroactive to October 12, 2012
- Aimee Lannis as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2012-2013 school year at a pay rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day beginning with the 31st day