



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

Board Meeting  
January 22, 2013

The Board acknowledged the passing of **Judith B. (Braszo) Kollar**, sister of Ivan and Ray Braszo, retired and former teachers and mother of Marlo Petersavage, former cheerleading coach; **Ronald Coleman**, father of Ron Coleman, high school senior and brother-in-law of Jeff Hruska; **David P. Verbanick**, father of Tony Verbanick, Barrett teacher; **John L. Ellison Jr.**, Steel Valley Graduate Class of 2009; **Nancy L. Fenner**, retired cafeteria aide and copy clerk; **Students and Staff of the Sandy Hook Elementary School**; **Gary S. Stretavski**, retired high school teacher; **John Shamber**, brother of Diana Merichko, high school cafeteria; **Janice Ross**, aunt of Brandi Chalus, elementary and middle school guidance counselor; **Roland Jondeleit**, uncle of Terrie Hoffman; **Ruth Nelson**, aunt of Terrie Hoffman, middle school teacher; **John P. Laird III**, father of Brigid Laird, KtO Tutor at Park School; **Martin Oleksak Jr.**, father-in-law of Lori Oleksak, Barrett teacher; and **Chrissy Deutsch**, sister-in-law of Vicki Deutsch, substitute caller and Franklin\_s KtO tutor. It was moved by Mr. Natale and seconded by Mr. Ducar to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

### President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon welcomed **Mr. James Marnell** to the school district as Interim Business Manager and Board Secretary.

Mrs. Cannon read a note from Munhall Cub Scout Pack 4 and Boy Scout Troop 4 thanking the School Board, staff and students for supporting Operation Pack to Pack, the Hurricane Sandy Relief effort.

### Student Representative's Report

Senior **Casey Hartnett** reported that three 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected as peer tutors by their teacher Mrs. Walters because of their excellent behavior, great work ethic and exceptional academic performance. **Erica Irvin**, **Gabe Carter** and **Vanessa West** are great role models for their peers. They work with 1st grade students in **Mrs. Barron's** classroom reviewing sight words, reading stories and playing vocabulary games.

Barrett Elementary School is hosting the Starfish After School Program and has nine 2nd graders and five 3rd graders attending on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reading Specialist **Nikki Strom** and 3rd Grade Teacher **Nicole States** are helping students learn through activities and games that enhance reading and math skills. Fourth grade teacher Cindy Kortz also assists in the program.

Ms. Hartnett reported that six students from Barrett Elementary School ranked in the top 10 in the First in Math program. **Jacob Tinta** leads the group with 11,141 stickers.

The Middle School held an ice skating party at Schenley Park.

Seniors attended the annual ski trip to Seven Springs on January 16. They enjoyed a day of tubing, skiing and snowboarding. The winter sports are halfway through their seasons and doing well. grade students were selected as peer tutors by their teacher Mrs. Walters because of their excellent behavior, great work ethic and exceptional academic performance. **Erica Irvin**, **Gabe Carter** and **Vanessa West** are great role models for their peers. They work with 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in **Mrs. Barron's** classroom reviewing sight words, reading stories and playing vocabulary games.

Barrett Elementary School is hosting the Starfish After School Program and has nine 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and five 3<sup>rd</sup> graders attending on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reading Specialist **Nikki Strom** and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Nicole States are helping students learn through activities and games that enhance reading and math skills. Fourth grade teacher **Cindy Kortz** also assists in the program.

Ms. Hartnett reported that six students from Barrett Elementary School ranked in the top 10 in the First in Math program. **Jacob Tinta** leads the group with 11,141 stickers.

The Middle School held an ice skating party at Schenley Park.

Seniors attended the annual ski trip to Seven Springs on January 16. They enjoyed a day of tubing, skiing and snowboarding. The winter sports are halfway through their seasons and doing well.

Student Government is collecting gently worn or new jeans for the Teens for Jeans program. Employees and residents can drop off jeans at the high school through February 10. Students will take them to Aeropostale for distribution to homeless shelters.

## Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer announced that if you were not sure who to cheer for in this year's Super Bowl, he would recommend the 49ers. Steel Valley Class of 1985 Graduate **Jim Tomsula** will be coaching the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl.

It's not too early to think about registering your children for kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year. We will be conducting an early kindergarten registration for children who will be 5 years of age before September 1, 2013. Parents are encouraged to register their kindergarten age children on Friday, February 15, between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon at the Franklin Primary Center.

Assistant High School Principal **Jill Fleming-Salopek** recognized the fall sports teams, players, coaches and the marching band with Certificates of Recognition for their accomplishments this season.

Several of the Varsity Football team members made All-Conference: **Cory Pinkerton, KC Chandler, Derrick Taylor** and **Neil Chandler**. Junior Golf Captain **Jessie Cantley** achieved individual success finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sectional Qualifier and played in the Division II championship at Yough Country Club finishing in 15th place. Two members of the Boys Soccer team have earned post season awards: **Andrew Chuba** was named All-Section player and **Cody Perlacky** was named Honorable Mention.

Junior **Layla Phouthavong** and Senior **Skyler Vinay** were named All-Section Girls Soccer players. Girls Volleyball player **Sydney Smith** was chosen as an All-Section player. **The High School Marching Band** has done an excellent job this season, not only in their performances at the football games, local parades and events, but also in competitions.

Senior **Skyler Vinay** was chosen to represent the United States on a national softball team to compete in the Indoor World Cup in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She was chosen through a tournament that she participated in over the summer.

Mr. Wehrer congratulated **Dr. Mary Cay Rojtas-Milliner** for her achievement as a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Library Media for Early Childhood through Young Adulthood.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association has proclaimed the month of January as School Director Recognition Month. These nine volunteers spend an average of 20 hours per month in school service making difficult decisions. As state funding gets tighter and local tax bases continue to fluctuate, the job of these individuals has become much more challenging. Mr. Wehrer recognized the School Board members for their dedication of time and service to the Steel Valley Community with Certificates of Recognition.

Students representing Barrett Elementary School sang a song of friendship to the School Board to thank them for their service. Student participants were **TreVon Epps, Ryan Hartman, Gabriel Carter, Kharissa Kightlinger, Aliyah McEnheimer**, and **Tationa Clay** under the direction of Music Teacher **Sharon Kampe**.

Park Elementary and Franklin Primary Center students also thanked the School Board with words of appreciation and gifts, such as Reese's pieces because School Board members are an "important piece of Steel Valley." Also they thanked the School Board members with "mounds of thank yous for all you do" with

a Mounds candy bar and a can of Mountain Dew. The student readers included **Tony Salopek, Cody Brown, and Kelsey Bayus**. Student gift givers were **Jenna Cannon, Sophia Thompson, John Heddleston, Kendall McConnell, Keira Hansen, Riley Furrick, Abby Tester** and **Ephraim Martin**. Thanks to teachers Katie Pugh and Jill Callahan for coordinating the presentation. Thanks also to principals **Sharon Fisher** and **Lauren Baughman** for their participation.

On behalf of the Board of School Directors, Mrs. Cannon thanked the students stating that the board members' motivation is the students. They also thanked **Ms. Kampe** for her special musical talent with the children.

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

Mrs. Borges announced that report cards would be distributed on Friday, January 25.

There will be no school for students on Friday, February 15, due to an inservice day for staff, or Monday, February 18, which is designated as Presidents' Day holiday.

On Wednesday, February 13, a kindergarten transition day will be held for incoming kindergarten students needing special services. The students and their parents are invited to Franklin Primary Center to learn about the district, enrollment and the kindergarten program.

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

Mr. Colebank reported that district staff members would be attending the KtO Summit Meeting on March 11-12, 2013. At this meeting, the staff will be notified of next year's funding of the KtO grant.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the meeting minutes of November 27, 2012 worksession, December 4, 2012 re-organization meeting and the December 4, 2012 board meeting

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2012 and January 2013 in the amount of \$796,669.57
- General Fund hand checks for November and December 2012 in the amount of \$473,849.23
- Food Service invoices for December 2012 and January 2013 in the amount of \$73,654.22
- Payroll Funding Transfers for November and December 2012
- Citizens Bank Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending November 30, 2012
- PSDLAF Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending November 30, 2012
- Citizens Bank Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending December 31, 2012
- PSDLAF Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending December 31, 2012
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$29,273.10
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$1,209.69
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,867.25
- Band Trip hand checks in the amount of \$1,492.20
- Renewal of the district's school leaders' legal liability insurance coverage for the period February 8, 2013, through and including February 8, 2014, at a cost of \$32,074.00 through Old Republic Insurance Company, through PSBA Insurance Trust
- Tuition rate of \$47.88 per day for Marissa Leshnock to continue attending Franklin Primary Center retroactive to January 7, 2013, per Board Policy No. 202 with payments due as stated

## Operations

The Board approved the facility rental requests as presented.

## Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented except the Gridiron's request for scratch instant tickets
- Payment of \$500 for the disc jockey services of Steve Maffei Company at the prom to be held at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall on May 10, 2013
- Field trip request from the middle school and high school band to Cleveland, Ohio, on April 26 & 27, 2013, at no cost to the district

## Special Assignments

The Board held a first reading of new Policy No. 838 Electronic Records/Signatures

## Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Donation of \$100.00 from **Ms. Laura Schott** to be used in the Franklin Primary Center
- Revised 2012-2013 Steel Valley Middle School PSSA schedule as presented
- Donation of \$100.00 from **Mayor Betty Esper** to be deposited into the Barrett Elementary School music account

## Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the Settlement Agreement and Release and authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the agreement
- Accepted the resignation of **Scott Meade** as presented retroactive to December 17, 2012
- Temporary leave of absence for **Melissa Pentin** from her teaching position for as long as needed
- Appointed **Melissa Pentin** to the position of Interim Middle School Assistant Principal at current salary and benefits for as long as needed
- Created a half-time special education teaching position effective January 23, 2013
- Recalled **Maureen Revetta** to a half-time special education position effective January 23, 2013, for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year
- Increased the day-to-day substitute teacher/nurse pay rate to \$90.00 per day for the first 30 days and \$120.00 per day for the 31st day and thereafter
- **Noranne Yarbough, Jaclyn Sauer, Kayla Quast, Kenneth Pintwala** pending further information, **Edward Shuty Jr.** and **Juli Strang** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2012-2013 school year retroactive to January 14, 2013, at the established rate
- **Nicole Cramer** as a day-to-day substitute nurse for the 2012-2013 school year retroactive to January 14, 2013, at the established rate, contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- Accepted the resignation of **Alissa McNeil** from the tutor position in the KtO program retroactive to December 17, 2012
- Appointed **Lisa Berger** to the position of Reading Tutor at Barrett Elementary School effective January 23, 2013, contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- Rescinded the motion on September 25, 2012, to create a half-time secretarial position in the business office
- Created a full-time accounts payable secretary position in the business office