



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
February 26, 2013**

The Board acknowledged the passing of **Helene D. Rager**, grandmother of Carrie Cope, 4th grade teacher at Park School; **John Morrelli**, cousin of Jim Marnell, interim business manager; **Theodore Ankrom**, uncle of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education; **Dillon M. Frank**, Steel Valley Graduate, Class of 2010; and **Jasmine C. Smith**, former Steel Valley Student at McGuire Memorial. 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.

President's Comments

Mrs. Cannon noted that the Administration presented a plan for improving test scores at the Education Committee meeting held on February 12. She noted that all stakeholders would need to play a part in the improvement plan.

Student Representative's Report

Senior **Melissa Cerda** reported that the Franklin Primary Center hosted the Queen of Hearts on February 19 for her monthly visit. On February 26, the kindergarten students participated in yoga during gym class. Barrett PTO President **Keya Williams** facilitated the activity for all classes.

Guidance Counselor **Alyson Fisher** held *Coffee with the Counselor* for parents and guardians at Franklin, Park and Barrett Elementary Schools this month. The topic of discussion was school safety. Superintendent **Ed Wehrer**, School Resource Office **Dan Boehme** and Security Supervisor **Brian Scott** participated in the discussion.

Progress reports were distributed to all students on February 19.

The winners of the 5th grade yearbook cover contest at Park Elementary School are:

Front Cover: **Diana Craycroft**

Back Cover: **Gemma Demeo, Angelina Colaiani, Casey Semenko, Rebecca Hitchens and Hayley Tate**

At the middle school, the PSSA Writing assessments will begin March 11 for 8th grade students. An ice skating party will be held on March 11 at Schenley Park for middle school students. The winner for the middle school yearbook cover is **Angelina Martina**.

The middle school field trips are being finalized. Sixth grade will tour PNC Park and enjoy biking and fishing. Seventh grade will go to the Wildwood Highlands and the eighth grade trip to Washington, DC, will occur in May.

At the high school, **Lindsay Connors** reported that the Teens for Jeans drive sponsored by Student Government and Aeropostle collected jeans, which will be donated to homeless shelters.

The **boys and girls basketball teams** had successful seasons and qualified for the WPIAL playoffs. **Tom Sablotny** qualified for the WPIAL swimming competition. safety.

The High School Drama Club will perform **Beauty and the Beast** on March 7-10.

Ninth grade students will tour Steel Center Area Vocational-Technical School this week.

Superintendent's Report

In recognition of National Career and Technical Education Month, **Mr. Wehrer** welcomed **Shannon Hinkle**, guidance counselor, and **Joe Ronker**, advertising and design teacher, from Steel Center Vo-Tech School. They thanked the district for its support and raising awareness of technical education. Steel Center offers tours of its facility all year long.

The superintendent recognized the efforts of **Student Government** under the direction of President **Casey Hartnett**. Casey organized a drive to collect jeans from Steel Valley employees and the community to donate to Aeropostale. Every January, Aeropostale holds the Teens for Jeans drive and donates the gently worn jeans to local homeless shelters. Mr. Wehrer thanked Casey Hartnett and the Student Government for their efforts in collecting 369 pairs of jeans.

Two Steel Valley students were awarded Steel Center Vo-Tech's *Top of the Shop* award for the first semester of the 2012-2013 school year. Congratulations to **Lindsay Connors** who is enrolled in the Health Assistant program and **Evan Urban** who is enrolled in Electrical Construction at Steel Center Area Vocational-Technical School. The *Top of the Shop* awards are given once each semester from each of the 15 technologies. Selection is based on conduct, attendance, proficiency in course work, and professionalism.

Mr. Wehrer congratulated High School Teacher **Amanda Linder** for her achievement as a National Board Certified Counselor. National Board Certification is a very rigorous process, and we place great value on this achievement.

Kids II Foundation, an organization created to make a difference through the power of giving back, honors and rewards eight women every year for their inspirational fight against breast cancer through the national Pink Power Mom program.

Park School Reading Specialist **Maria Heddleston** was chosen as one of eight Pink Power Moms in 2013. Maria focuses on touching the lives of children through literacy events. It has become her goal to put books in as many homes as she can to foster a bond between parent and child. Maria partnered with ReadAloud.org and has hosted 2 Big Box of Books events for the school community providing boxes of books to hundreds of children ages 0-5. She also assists with the annual Literacy Fair, Dr. Seuss Week and Title I Family Nights. Mrs. Heddleston was honored as a role model to her family and the community with a Certificate of Recognition.

February is celebrated as Black History Month in the school district, and Mr. Wehrer noted that all schools have been studying the many contributions of African-Americans to our history and to our culture.

The Harmony Club of Homestead presented a schoolwide assembly at the high school with speaker, **Halim Genus**, who is a University of Pittsburgh student. Mr. Genus talked about the history and the seven guiding principles of Kwanzaa, such as, faith, responsibility, and community. He also shared his educational experience at Pitt and his professional goals.

At the Middle School, the 8th grade class is planning a field trip to see the play on the first African-American Supreme Court Justice **Thurgood Marshall**. It's a one-person play portrayed by Steel Valley graduate **Montae Russell**. Free tickets were provided for attendance to this event.

At Park Elementary School, students in grades 1-5 have been focusing on different art projects. The 5th grade art classes have been working on *story pillows*, inspired by the work of African- American artist Faith Ringgold. Students in 4th grade are exploring making masks from around the world. This week the projects by students in grades 1-5 will be displayed in the Cultural Park School.

The Franklin Primary Center staff read African-American literature to students and taught them folk songs.

Students from Barrett Elementary School treated the Board to an abbreviated version of their Black History program. First grader **Jayden Parker** shared his dream of becoming a police officer, and second grader **J_Loni Gardner** spoke about inspiring people from her family. **Rionte_Carter** dressed as **_Soul Train_** host Don Cornelius and introduced each musical tribute performed by the dance team. Students who also participated were **Jacob Tinta, Nickia Bursey, Jamir Turner, Ashley Korbra, Jennifer Nguyen, Jahmeya Smith, Randy Keller, Cody Harff, NawJa Jones, Calid Johnson, Carl Watson, NiAysia Parker, Christopher Korbra, Aliyah McEnheimer, Kaiden Jefferson, Ayauna Welch, Damonte Gales, Marques Brown, Nautica Williams and Ciara Leasure**. This was the creation of the BKW Production Team, better known as Barrett teachers **Ms. Bost, Ms. Kampe and Ms. Wilder**.

Mr. Wehrer recognized the boys and leaders from Cub Scout Pack 4 and Boy Scout Troop 4 of Munhall for organizing a community drive for victims of Hurricane Sandy in Staten Island, New York. Certificates of Recognition were presented to scouts **Kyle Stramaski, Dusten Pisarcik and Nate Chiarizio** and leaders **Leeann Chiarizio and Brian Stramaski**.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges announced that the elementary schools would celebrate Dr. Seuss week starting March 4.

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 January 15, 2013 worksession meeting, January 22, 2013 regular meeting and January 31, 2013 special meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for February 2013 in the amount of \$392,002.73
- General Fund hand checks for January 2013 in the amount of \$352,416.57
- Food Service invoices for February 2013 in the amount of \$56,284.94
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2013
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending January 31, 2013
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$20,487.34
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$684.17
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$5,705.00
- Adopted the resolution indicating that the Steel Valley School District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its schools for the 2013-2014 fiscal year by more than its Act 1 index

Operations

The Board approved fundraising requests as presented.

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Held a second reading and adopted new Policy No. 838 Electronic Records / Signatures
- Adopted new procedure and form for reporting suspected student abuse

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the Olweus Bullying Prevention Grant in the amount of \$4,500.00
- Accepted the donation of the original Steel Valley High School building construction sign from the Joseph R. Havrilla family and High School History Club

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Sharon Adams** under Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement effective August 1, 2013
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Kathy Butler** retroactive to December 3, 2012
- Appointed **Anthony Hritz** to a long-term substitute special education position retroactive to February 8, 2013, for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school term on Step 1 of the Master_s scale with fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement
- Additional hours as needed for **Mr. Marnell** to serve as interim business manager/board secretary at the rate of \$50.00 per hour and no fringe benefits retroactive to February 4, 2013
- **Molly Cunningham, Courtney Sturm, Katlyn Hubans, Jennifer Jones and Kimberly Kennedy** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2012-2013 school year at the pay rate of \$90 per day for the 1st 30 days and \$120 per day beginning with the 31st day contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- **Robert Urban** as a day-to-day substitute at the pay rate of \$90 per day for the first 30 days and \$120 per day beginning with the 31st day retroactive to February 8, 2013
- Permitted the Administration to designate up to six (6) substitute teachers per week as district substitute teachers for daily substitute needs for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year
- Spring supplemental positions as presented for the 2012-2013 school year _ Authorized the recall from the furlough list of a paraprofessional to a daily half-day assignment at the Batch Center
- **Jean Emro** as substitute staff for the KtO program for the 2012-2013 school year

Previous Board Action

The School Board awarded State Security & Investigation Services as the district security services company until June 30, 2013, with a renewal of a one-year period.