



# Steel Valley School District

## Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
September 28, 2016**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Helen Revak Dudas**, aunt of Cindy DeLuca, elementary school nurse; Diane A. Natale, mother of Anthony Natale, former teacher and administrator; and Robert Wargo, board member from 1985-2001. It was moved by **Mr. Bulger** and seconded by **Mr. Olson** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

### **President's Report**

**Ms. Youngblood** thanked the Steel Valley Family for being resilient through the transition this school year. She wants this school year to be a positive experience for the children and parents as we grow and build our community.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Senior School Board Representative **Abigail Caspar** introduced **Abby Ferson** as the new Junior Representative to the School Board. Miss Ferson reported that students would recognize Fire Safety Day on October 14 at Park School. The PTO is planning a Halloween Dance for students in grades three and four on October 19, and they are holding a Fall Fun Game Night for families on October 20. The Halloween Parade will be held on October 28.

Miss Ferson stated that Barrett is off to a great start. Students received Backpacks from **Charlie Batch**, and the students wrote thank you notes to him. They are thankful for everything he does for them. The After School Program is ready to begin in a few weeks. Most of the students have signed up for a program and are excited to start. The Officer Phil and safety assemblies will be conducted next week.

Barrett has received 60 yoga mats and digital yoga curriculum to make recess a more structured activity. The curriculum is designed to help the students with stress and anxiety. The third grade students will receive UNICEF Power bands through a grant.

Miss Caspar reported that the middle school hosted an iPad Bash for fifth and sixth grade students and parents on September 14. Almost 180 families attended and picked up their devices. The middle school is utilizing eBackpack learning management system, which permits teachers to assign, annotate, collect and grade on any internet-connected device.

The middle school soccer and girls volleyball teams had a good start to the season.

A partnership with CMU students and students in the newly created Marketing and Entrepreneurship course has been created. The Carnegie Mellon University students are the founders of **Empowering Entrepreneurs LLC**.

A website entitled **Sprigeo.com** is being used at the high school to anonymously report safety threats, intimidation, bullying, harassment, etc., and increase communication between students, parents, community members and administrators. There is a link on the district website.

Increasing student attendance and eliminating student tardiness is a goal of the high school administration. Last school year, the high school had an average of 9.55% students tardy every day, and this year, tardiness has dropped to 3.96%.

The **Student Government** is planning a Sadie Hawkins costume dance on October 29.

Students have enjoyed dressing up as mathletes, athletes, tacky tourists and in pajamas during homecoming week. The carnival and bonfire have been postponed due to the inclement weather forecast. Powder Puff is scheduled for Thursday beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Campbell Field. Abbey Caspar thanked everyone who makes this week special for students.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Wehrer** announced that the carnival would be postponed until some time in the spring, and the bonfire would be postponed until a football playoff game.

He also reported that we are averaging 486 breakfasts served per day this school year, and last year we averaged 326 breakfasts per day.

Since 2003, our student enrollment declined from 2,287 to 1,470 students in May of 2016. However, this year is the first year since 2003 that our student enrollment has not declined significantly. He sees this as a positive sign that our enrollment is stable right now at 1,463.

In the last three weeks, the football team has been leading 177-0 at half time. Mr. Wehrer does not remember there ever being a sport so dominant. Congratulations to **Coach Steele**.

The **Transforming 12<sup>th</sup> Project** is moving forward. The district has been invited to submit a proposal to **ALCOSAN** for a grant that could be worth \$1 million.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report**

**Mrs. Borges** reported that the parent workshop entitled, "Navigating the Special Education Process," was held this evening with several parents in attendance. The next workshop will be held November 22 at Barrett Elementary School on the topic of positive behavior and supports.

### **Director of Academics, Information and Technology Report**

**Mr. Colebank** noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade iPad rollout has been completed. Tomorrow the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive iPads. The iPads will be stored on a cart in each classroom. They have been pre-configured, and there will be no need for a parent night. Also applications will be available for the classroom teachers.

He is anticipating that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will receive their iPads on Monday, and Kindergarten will follow some time next week. Kudos to the Steel Valley Geek Squad for helping to ready the iPads for the elementary students. The Geek Squad has seven regular members, and they are looking for more students to join.

Mr. Colebank reported that we will be using an electronic version of the CDT assessment and students will be taking the CDTs on their iPads. Progress reports are due next week.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- August 15, 2016 worksession meeting
- August 18, 2016 regular meeting

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for 2015-2016 being paid in 2016-2017 in the amount of \$45,070.13
- General Fund invoices for September 2016 in the amount of \$1,592,350.46
- General Fund hand checks for August 2016 in the amount of \$733,601.97
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2016
- General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2016
- General Fund Balance Sheet for August 2016
- Food Service invoices for August 2016 in the amount of \$14,655.18
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2016
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending August 31, 2016
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2016
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2016
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2016
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2016
- Workers Compensation Panel for the 2016-2017 school year as presented and continues until repealed
- \$1,220.00 more of architectural work associated with the asphalt paving program
- Payment to John Haughey & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$11,340.00 from the Capital Projects Fund
- Payment of PA Coach invoices as presented in the amount of \$15,938.50

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Classified 100 chairs and 175 desks as damaged furniture and approved disposing of the furniture

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Field trip for the History Club students and chaperones to Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement and Busch Gardens from June 3-5, 2017, at no cost to the school district

## **Special Assignments**

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted the revisions to Policy 247 Hazing
- Held first reading of revisions to Policy 707 Facilities

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted a \$1,000.00 donation from the Munhall High School Class of 1966 and George Wintner to be used for Steel Valley Athletics
- School to Work Independent Services Contract between Step By Step, Inc., and the Steel Valley School District for the 2016-2017 school year and authorized the appropriate officials to execute said agreement

## **Communications**

Mr. Rojtas stated that communication is important in the school district. He suggested beginning an Advisory Council to receive input from stakeholders in the school district.

## **Technology**

Mr. Bulger announced that the first meeting of the Technology Committee would be held on October 19 in the high school library. The public is invited to discuss how to better educate our students using technology.

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Created long-term substitute positions of iPad Implementation Specialist and Park Kindergarten for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year
- Appointed Tayler Hammell to a full-time, long-term substitute position with a 2016-2017 assignment of 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Bachelor's Step 2 salary plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to the start of the 2016-2017 school year
- Appointed Reita Kline to a full-time, long-term substitute position with a 2016-2017 assignment of Districtwide Special Education teacher at Master's Step 1 salary plus benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to August 26, 2016, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168
- Appointed Julie Doebereiner to a full-time, long-term substitute position with a 2016-2017 assignment of Districtwide Special Education teacher at Master's Step 4 salary plus benefits according to the SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to August 23, 2016, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168
- Bobbie Santiago, Michael Totin, Cynthia Holden, Jessica Monaco and Christine Schott as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2016-2017 school year at the approved daily rate, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Jamaal Anderson from his position as assistant boys basketball coach effective immediately
- James Bartko to the supplemental position of High School Yearbook, Erin Noblet to the supplemental position of Middle School Student Government and Angela Hafen to the supplemental position of Park Intramural Supervisor for the 2016-2017 school year
- Winter supplemental appointments as presented for the 2016-2017 school year
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mary Kacsur from her position as Districtwide Paraprofessional retroactive to September 2, 2016
- Appointed Jules DeFelices to a Districtwide Paraprofessional position with a 2016-2017 assignment of Middle School at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168, and effective on a mutually agreed upon date