



October 2018 Board Brief

STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **James E. “Arbo” Auberzinsky**, brother of Coach Rodney Steele and Board Member Coyleen Steele; **Zachary Feschuk**, son of Shirley Feschuk, retired kindergarten teacher; **John J. Rusnak**, brother of Audrey Hinkle, retired elementary teacher and administrator; **Harry “Herky” L. Cush**, uncle of Holli Bobick, Park paraprofessional and brother of Joy Kardos, retired food service supervisor; **Jeffrey W. Deabner, Sr.**, father of Jeff Deabner, high school science teacher; **Catherine R. Smith**, aunt of Terri Vargo, middle school paraprofessional and aunt of Traci and Kerry Riley, Park cafeteria worker and substitute custodian; **Laura A. Ditka**, sister of Anthony Ditka, bond counsel; and **George Pavucsko**, retired high school custodian. It was moved by **Mr. Olson** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhas** to place a selection of appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Board President’s Report

Mr. Bulger congratulated the faculty, staff and administrators of the middle school for being recognized as a Distinguished School by Apple.

The end of the first nine-week grading period will be completed on Friday, and one-quarter of the school year is finished. The administrative re-organization at the start of the year has been going well in the secondary buildings. The dress code is being followed, and there have been good activities and programs going on.

Student Representatives’ Reports

Junior Representative Channing Griffin announced that the Homestead Fire Department held a fire prevention assembly at Barrett Elementary School on October 16 for all grade levels. The kindergarten ABC Bootcamp Fashion Show was a hit on October 19.

On October 30, Barrett School staff will present an evening program for the students to celebrate Halloween, and on October 31 the students will participate in a parade through Homestead and Munhall Boroughs.

PSSA proficient and advanced students will visit the Apple Store to learn about Coding and Swiping, and the third and fourth grade students will participate in the **University of Pittsburgh Girls Basketball** game on November 7.

The students at Park Elementary School have been working hard and are excited for Halloween! Fire Safety Day was awesome, and the students learned a lot with the fire fighters. The second, third, and fourth graders got their moves on at the Halloween Costume Dance, and the kindergarten and first graders attended the Halloween Magic Show.

Miss Isabella Furrick reported the middle school received notification from Apple that they have been recognized as an **Apple Distinguished School**. They are extremely proud of this designation and look forward to continuing the process of creating an educational environment where sound collaboration and instructional practices take place.

The middle school soccer and volleyball teams have completed their seasons for the fall, and the middle school boys basketball season is beginning. CDT testing has been conducted in the middle school, and the data has been shared with students in order to prepare for more in-depth learning. The middle school art club meets weekly with **Ms. Czerwinski** on Thursdays after school. **Dr. Fenyus** met with the eighth grade parents regarding the Washington, DC, trip in May.

Truancy meetings were conducted with specific parents in order to address and remedy attendance concerns. Seventh grade students completed the first STREAM event, "Crash Test Dummies," with **Mr. Hofbauer, Mr. Large, Mr. Tozzi, and Dr. Vinay**. Congratulations to all participants. **Mrs. Olson's** homeroom won the first pizza party reward for the dress code challenge.

Students participated in themed dress down days during Homecoming Week, and at the football game on Friday, October 5, Homecoming Queen **Brooklyn Sanders** was crowned.

On October 9, about 40 seniors visited the CCAC College Fair. They learned a lot of valuable information to help them make decisions about their futures.

The **Funder Under the Bridge** fundraiser was held October 21 at the Waterfront highlighting the students in the school district. Eighteen student groups from the middle and high schools participated in this extremely successful event. Each club will be awarded over \$200.

SADD promoted Red Ribbon Week in the high school with information booths during lunch and by wearing red ribbons. Channing distributed a red ribbon to each of the School Board members and administrators.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer proudly noted the Steel Valley Middle School has been recognized as an **Apple Distinguished School for 2018-2021** for the innovative use of 1:1 technology, providing engaging educational experiences, and focusing on creativity and 21st century skills.

He added that this Apple partnership began when Apple asked **Bill Campbell** how they should recognize him, and Bill told them to take care of Steel Valley, his alma mater. We purchased iPad devices and professional development for our staff to determine what is the best teaching and learning with 1:1 devices.

Mr. Wehrer noted that this has been a district effort, and he recognized Director of Academics, Information & Technology **Mr. Colebank** and the IT staff of **Mr. Vettel** and **Mr. Mayle** for bringing the devices to our students and staff. Mr. Wehrer is proud of the middle school team, and he is confident they will continue to get better.

Mr. Wehrer congratulated Middle School Teacher **Erin Noblet** for being presented with the Mon River Fleet Woman of Achievement in Education award. The award was presented through the PA State Health Improvement Plan Community Partnerships and celebrates women who are making a difference in the Mon Valley region.

Erin is our middle school autistic and life skills teacher. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Erin is the student government sponsor for the middle school. She works with students to build school spirit and give back to the school and communities. With 70 student leaders, they have raised \$1,200 for the Veterans Leadership Program of Western PA, donated 500 pairs of socks to local homeless shelters and collected 300 books for elementary school book drives.

Congratulations to the **Varsity Football Team** for clinching a playoff spot. Prior to the first playoff game on November 2, the high school will hold a pep rally and bonfire on Thursday, November 1, at the former Woodlawn Building site starting at 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to cheer on the Ironmen.

Mr. Wehrer thanked **Bill McLaughlin** for his efforts in putting together **Funder Under the Bridge** for our students. He also thanked **Carey Kann**, General Manager of the Waterfront, for marketing the event and giving Steel Valley School District an opportunity to stand out. It was an impressive day with entertaining performances, games and food provided by the student groups. They raised \$4,385, and each student group that participated will receive \$243.

The **High School Drama Club** will present the murder mystery, "If Cain Were Able ...," on November 15, 16 and 17 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The Fall play was written by High School Teacher **Michael Altman**. Our student representatives are also participating: **Channing Griffin** will serve as the student director and **Izzie Furrick** is playing one of the daughters. Best of luck to our student representatives and everyone involved.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Mrs. Borges announced that report cards would be distributed on Friday, November 2.

The annual **Veterans Day** programs are scheduled as follows:

November 8	9:00 AM	Park Elementary School
November 9	9:00 AM	Senior High School
November 13	1:00 PM	Barrett Elementary School

The **Parent/Teacher Conferences** are scheduled as follows:

November 14	12-3 and 5-8 PM	Middle School Senior High School
November 15	12-3 and 5-8 PM	Barrett Elementary School Park Elementary School

Students will begin their Thanksgiving holiday break on Wednesday, November 21 through Monday, November 26. An inservice day for the faculty and staff will be held on Wednesday, November 21.

Mrs. Borges noted that a parent training entitled, "Do Labels Define a Person's Worth," is scheduled at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3 on November 7 beginning at 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM. This event focuses on understanding how expectations, supports and imagination are necessary for leading a meaningful life for people with intellectual disabilities.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank announced that the new website will be live on Tuesday. The word "staging" will no longer be used. The Steel Valley website is steelvalleypsd.org. He reported that the district wants the website to be the hub of information for parents, students, staff and the community.

He reported that 84% of student households returned the household survey. He added that every household needs to complete the survey each year. We need the data to be accurate for reimbursements, grants and determining economically disadvantaged. If you have not sent in the survey, please take a few minutes to complete it and return it to the school office.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- September 5, 2018 special meeting
- September 24, 2018 worksession
- September 27, 2018 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for September 2018 in the amount of \$492,033.27
- General Fund hand checks for September 2018 in the amount of \$2,043,980.90
- General Fund Revenue Report for September 2018
- General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2018
- General Fund Balance Sheet for September 2018
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$44,280.82
- Food Service Revenue Report for September 2018
- Food Service Expenditure Report for September 2018
- Food Service Balance Sheet for September 2018
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2018
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2018
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2018
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2018
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2018
- Capital Projects Activity for September 2018
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet for September 2018
- Real estate tax refunds for **Douglas Koehler** in the amount of \$260.98; **Charles Thomas** in the amount of \$1,055.07; **Julianne Gensemer-Kuhns** in the amount of \$225.59; and **Commercial Net Lease Realty** in the amounts of \$100.37 and \$103.59
- Engagement letter with **Kudravy Architects, LLC**, to provide an opinion letter regarding the facilities according to the fee schedule as presented, not to exceed a cost of \$2,000

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Phone system upgrade for \$38,204.75 with DES paid from the Capital Project Fund

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Payment of \$400.00 for the disc jockey services at the winter semi-formal dance to be held on January 5, 2019

Technology and Communications Leadership

Mr. Colebank announced that he would hold mini seminars for parents about the devices and technology their children use each day at school beginning at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Education Leadership meetings each month.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the donation of tools and a shop vac from **Franjo Construction** for The Forge. Mr. Bulger thanked Franjo Construction for its donation, which will assist students with hands on learning in the middle school.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for **Seth Mayle** retroactive to September 21, 2018, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Extended a child rearing leave of absence for **Julie Kamnikar** through March 26, 2019
- Extended **Emily Doyle's** appointment as a full-time, long-term substitute teacher through March 26, 2019, with an assignment of health and physical education teacher at the high school at Bachelor's Step 1 (\$45,233) salary according to Policy No. 328.1 plus benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement
- Created a full-time districtwide paraeducator position to support the IEPs of students' disabilities
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Angela Hafen** from the position of paraprofessional at Park School retroactive to October 12, 2018
- Hired **Jesse Manso** as a substitute secretary, paraprofessional and cafeteria monitor at the rate of \$9.00 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 and passing pre-employment screenings, which must be completed within 30 days
- Winter athletic coaching supplementals for the 2018-2019 school year as presented, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and completion of the PIAA coaching requirements
- Volunteers as presented for the 2018-2019 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and a verification of volunteer form
- Athletic volunteer as presented for the 2018-2019 school year
- Appointed **Deborah Gallagher** as a Districtwide Paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status plus benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing pre-employment screenings, compliance with Act 168 and receipt of current clearances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Appointed **Vicki Deutsch** to the supplemental position of Park School Intramural Supervisor for the 2018-2019 school year
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Tim Vickers** from the supplemental position of High School Head Baseball Coach effective immediately

Mr. Blick thanked Mr. Vickers for his time as the Varsity Head Baseball Coach.