



*September 2019 Board Brief*

## **STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Memorial Books**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Joell L. Kamauf**, sister of Denise Stephenson, second grade teacher at Park School; **Christopher Chappell**, brother-in-law of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services; **John Graziano**, grandfather of Wendy Ollis, Barrett paraeducator; **James M. Reichert**, cousin of Mickey Pavasko, Barrett custodian; **Eugene Baker**, uncle of Amber Thomas, secondary school nurse; **Harry E. Nieman**, uncle of Ellen Kelly, high school secretary; **William Kalupanov**, retired high school teacher; **John Evanko, Sr.**, uncle of Debra Wright, fifth grade middle school teacher; **Ryan Kerr**, brother of Carrie Cope, fourth grade Park School teacher; and **James P. Miklance**, father-in-law of Traci Churilla, middle school Social Studies teacher. It was moved by **Mr. Olson** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhas** to place appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

### **Board President's Report**

**Mr. Bulger** welcomed **Kristen Craycraft** to the meeting as Junior Representative to the School Board. He noted that there have been many activities during homecoming week, and the Board supports the school district spirit. Funder Under the Bridge fundraiser will be held on Sunday, September 29, from noon until 4 p.m. He invited the community to come out and support the students, especially at the dunk tank. **Mr. Blick** and **Mr. Bulger** have volunteered to sit in the dunk tank.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

Junior School Board Representative **Kristen Craycraft** reported that the school year is off to a great start at Park and Barrett Elementary Schools. First graders at Park School celebrated Grandparents' Day with their grandparents. The scholastic book fair was a success. Student pictures were taken. Officer Phil assemblies enforced the importance of safety to the elementary students. Representatives from the National Center on Education and Economy came from Washington D.C. to learn from Park School. Teachers and staff looked forward to helping educators from across the state to further their view on education.

At Barrett Elementary School, the Officer Phil assemblies encouraged safety to students as well. The first PTO meeting was conducted and officers were determined. **Mr. Charlie Batch** provided book bags and supplies to all students. The special needs staff and reading specialists completed professional development on an intervention program. Student pictures were also completed. The Kindergarten Parent Breakfast was successful with over thirty families in attendance. In two weeks, Barrett's after school program will begin for a ten-week session. This is just the beginning of a very bright school year!

Senior Representative to the School Board **Channing Griffin** reported that the 8th graders are selling frozen meals as a fundraiser. The 5th grade gifted students attended a field trip to Phipps Conservatory, and the Student Government attended the middle school volleyball game to show school spirit. The middle school students started CDT testing. On September 18, the Student Government attended the middle school soccer game. **Dr. Johnson** will be judging the college-themed door decorating contest.

At the high school, several chorus/band students had the opportunity to attend the musical production of The Lion King. Colleges have begun to visit with seniors who are interested in

post-secondary education. Fall sports are in full swing, and most clubs have begun meeting weekly. The Global Hands club had their initial meeting on September 12. The Student Council organized a blood drive that took place last week. They had 35 people donate blood and most were students. Their goal is 40 or more donors for the December drive. The final preparations are being made for the annual Funder Under the Bridge on Sunday, September 29, from 12-4 p.m.

Spirit week has been very successful and many students have participated. The themes for spirit week were Team Jersey Day, Tie Dye Tuesday, Class Color Day, Duo Day, and Ironmen Pride day. Also students decorated their homeroom doors to celebrate the colleges and universities their teachers attended. **Mr. McCallister** will be taking a group of student leaders to the elementary schools tomorrow morning for a pep rally and then middle school and high school will have a pep rally in the afternoon.

The powder puff game took place last night with the win going to the senior girls. **Mrs. McCallister** would like to thank **Mr. Goga** and **Mr. Ford** for coaching; **Mr. Owston** for operating the scoreboard; **Mr. Simpson**, **Mr. Savolskis** and **Mr. Vickers** for refereeing; **Mrs. Bowden** for coaching the cheerleaders, **Mrs. Lyons**, **Ms. Dolton**, and **Ms. Lucas** for helping with the tickets; and **Mr. McCallister** for handling the tug-of-war game. Congratulations to **Anthony DiGiannurio** who was crowned powder puff king. Anthony brought in an amazing \$1,088.44 in donations that will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the fight against cancer. The homecoming football game will take place tomorrow at 7 p.m., and during halftime the 2019 homecoming queen will be crowned.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Wehrer** discussed the dangers of vaping. He is appalled that children are dying from lung problems due to vaping. He added that vaping is unacceptable, and these products need to be banned. As a school district and community we should be encouraging our students to make good choices.

He thanked **Mr. McLaughlin** for organizing the Funder Under the Bridge event and encouraged the community to participate on Sunday and support our students.

Mr. Wehrer discussed the re-organization of the elementary schools. He believes that all students K-12 should be educated together in the Steel Valley School District. Students might be together for the 2020-2021 school year. This will require change, and no decision on what this will look like has been made. The Board and Administration want input from all employee groups, parents, students and the community. A Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 28, beginning at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium to offer people an opportunity to discuss the topic of re-organization.

The Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) designation for the middle school and high school has been a motivator. There is an achievement gap in attendance and academics for African American students. A Stanford University study of the gap between school districts shows that the gap can be attributed to socio economic factors. Bringing students together lessens the impact of that poverty.

This will be an opportunity to strengthen our school system overall and build a better system. Mr. Wehrer believes that Steel Valley will come out stronger. He would like our Mission Statement to be: To support the development of healthy and thriving students, staff and community.

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

**Mrs. Borges** reported that the parent training held on September 18 went well. It was conducted by **Jennifer Fandray**, a licensed professional counselor. The next parent training will be conducted in January.

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report**

**Mr. Colebank** reported that each student in the high school would receive a communication handout listing their password, email address, schedule, and Edustar login and password. Parents may email the building secretary to receive their own Edustar login and password.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- August 19, 2019 worksession
- August 22, 2019 regular meeting

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for September 2019 in the amount of \$455,602.83
- General Fund hand checks for 2018-19 paid in 2019-20 in the amount of \$44,927.63
- General Fund hand checks for August 2019 in the amount of \$309,536.92
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2019
- General Fund Balance Sheet for August 2019
- Food Service invoices for August 2019 in the amount of \$28,137.28
- Food Service Revenue Report for August 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for August 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for August 2019
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for July 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2019
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet for August 2019
- Capital Projects Revenue for August 2019
- Refund to St. Gregory Russian Orthodox GC Church in the amount of \$955.29 as a result of exoneration for year 2018

### **Operations**

The Board approved the facility rental requests as presented.

### **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- History Club field trip to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Hershey, Pennsylvania on May 23-25, 2020

### **Special Assignments**

The Board held a first reading of revisions to Policy 103 Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment – School and Classroom.

## **Educational Leadership**

The School Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the donations of various educational materials in the amount of \$1,481.95 from DonorsChoose.org for middle school projects entitled “K’NEX and Learn,” “Is a Bubble Always Round?” and “Creating with Cricut”
- Designated 21 textbooks titled, History of our World, the Early Ages, as damaged and approved disposal of the textbooks
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s 2019-2020 Services Agreement
- Dr. Dennis Zabelsky as the school dentist for the 2019-2020 school year at a flat fee of \$200 per fiscal year. The dental service is for second, fifth and seventh graders.
- Adopted the Resolution allowing the District to participate in the Flexible Instructional Day Program to be used as an alternate approach to delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in a customary manner
- Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between Vision to Learn and the school district to provide vision screenings, vision examinations and related services for students and to provide glasses, if needed, at no cost
- Revised the 2019-2020 school calendar and designated November 13 and 14, 2019, as possible Act 80 days to conduct Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 13 and to conduct Secondary Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 14.
- Educational Settlement Agreement and Release as presented

## **Communications**

Mr. Colebank reported that the district would expand to a 4G system next year.

## **Personnel Management**

The School Board approved the following items:

- Appointed Kacie Titmus to a full-time, long-term substitute teaching position with a 2019-2020 assignment of Kindergarten teacher at Park Elementary School at a prorated salary of \$40,019 Bachelor’s non-tenured status and according to Policy #328.1 plus prorated benefits as outlined in the current SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to August 22, 2019, contingent upon passing pre-employment screenings, receipt of current clearances and compliance with Act 168
- Re-elected Mr. Edward Wehrer to the position of Superintendent of Schools for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, with a base compensation of \$138,707.65 according to the terms of the agreement
- Accepted the transfer of Ms. Gale Emery to the Administrative/Confidential Secretary position from the Middle School/Technology Secretary position at a prorated annual salary of \$35,000.00 effective November 1, 2019
- Winter and Spring Athletic Coaching positions for the 2019-2020 school year as presented
- Volunteers as presented for the 2019-2020 school year contingent upon receipt of current clearances and verification of volunteer forms
- Appointed Jayne Emery to a Districtwide Paraeducator position at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status, contingent upon passing the District’s mandated pre-employment screenings and receipt of current clearances, which must be completed within 30 days with employment effective on a mutually agreed upon date