



October 2019 Board Brief

STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Florence Smith**, grandmother of Ed Tozzi, middle school teacher; **Katherine Bombalski**, grandmother of Matt Janov, elementary teacher; **Lori Lawson Pomposelli**, aunt of Lisa Lawson, high school teacher; and **John Hofmeister**, Steel Valley Graduate, Class of 1983. 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 stated the **Girls and Boys Soccer** teams would be recognized this evening. He has a personal attachment to the Girls Soccer team because his daughter is on the team, and he is friends with the parents and coaches from the community soccer league. He added that the Boys and Girls Soccer teams supported each other throughout the season by attending each other's games, which is a testament to the leadership of the coaches and parents.

The School Board would also be recognizing two outgoing Board members—**Mary Yuhas** and **Tom Olson**. Mr. Bulger noted that Mr. Olson reached out to him with words of wisdom when he was considering running for the School Board. As an educator, Mrs. Yuhas has brought invaluable wisdom to the Board, and Mr. Bulger has the utmost respect and gratitude for both of them.

Mr. Bulger announced that the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, October 29, is about gathering information and the future of the Steel Valley education system. The School Board's job is to listen. He added that North Allegheny School District is doing something similar.

Student Representatives' Reports

Junior School Board Representative **Kristen Craycraft** reported the past month has been great for both elementary schools! Park School students have been trying their best in their classes and being kind to one another. Fire Safety Day was awesome; the kids and firefighters had a terrific time. Second graders enjoyed their field trip to Triple B Farms, and they all returned with a pumpkin and some good stories. Everyone at Park is excited for Halloween! Second, third and fourth graders have been practicing their dance moves for the costume dance on Friday night, and the kindergarten and first graders are looking forward to the Halloween magic show next week. The kids want to invite everyone to the big parade on October 31 starting at 1:00 p.m. to see their spooky costumes!

The **Homestead Fire Department** held a fire prevention assembly at Barrett School. In recognition of Bully Free Month in October, **Jon Pritikin** conducted a bully prevention assembly. A pepperoni roll fundraiser sold over 1,000 pepperoni rolls. Kindergarten Boot Camp was celebrated on October 16, and over 80 adults participated in the program. The students are excited for the Fall Festival Parade, which will take place on October 31 at 1:30 p.m. in front of Barrett School.

Senior Representative to the School Board **Channing Griffin** reported the middle school distributed progress reports on October 2. A Yankee Candle fundraiser started October 1, and the Middle School Student Government held a lollipop fundraiser "Cancer Sucks" with the proceeds going to the **Maria Heddleston Scholarship Fund**. The students raised \$333 toward the fund.

Gifted students participated in the Academic Endeavors competition at South Allegheny. Congratulations to team members **Michayla Rager, Joe Nguyen, Madeline Wedig, Alex Brown** and **Alyssa Weis** for their 1st place finish. Gifted students in grades five to eight participated in the mobile Fab Lab from the Carnegie Science Center. Students learned about simple machines and the different categories of levers to create grabbers, which was designed in CAD software and cut on the laser cutter. Students then created their own version of an animal or plant cell using the CAD software and etched it onto plexiglass.

On October 11, gifted students participated in a vocal competition at Greensburg Salem School District. In the sixth grade category, **Violet Coyne** placed 1st, **Shatterra Meadows** placed 2nd, and **Sophia Wedig** placed 3rd. Seventh grader **Natalie Twigg** placed 2nd in the seventh grade group.

Students participated in two gifted field trips. On October 24, they visited the Heinz History Center for the History Bowl, and on October 29, students will participate in the Creative Convention at Springdale School District.

The Pittsburgh popcorn fundraiser was delivered. A holiday Sarris Candy fundraiser started on October 22. School Picture day was held on October 9. **Mrs. MacDonald** and **Mrs. Fitzgerald** held an informational meeting for the Fearlessly Girls group. The group of seventh grade girls will be mentoring fifth grade girls. They will meet on eight Wednesdays throughout October, November and December.

The seventh and eighth grade basketball team practices have begun. Seventh and eighth grade cheerleading tryouts will be held on October 28.

At the high school, Channing Griffin reported that Biology students visited the Botanical Gardens. The CHS Debate class toured the University of Pittsburgh campus and sat in on several classes.

The High School Student Council provided donuts for the staff on October 4, and PF Chang's gave teachers small care packages. Crunch Fitness at the Waterfront provided school supplies and classroom items for the staff and students.

Auditions for the fall play *Chemistry* were held October 2. The cast list can be viewed at SVdrama.com. There are plans to renovate the secondary library. Seniors began the PNC job collaborative program. Senior college visits continued this week. Senior recognition took place for most fall sports this week. The Boys and Girls Soccer teams qualified for the WPIAL playoffs.

A voter registration table was set up during high school lunches. Senior students listened to a motivational speaker on October 16. School Picture Day took place on October 1.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer thanked **Bill McLaughlin** for organizing the Funder Under the Bridge event. It was a spirited display of Steel Valley pride due to Mr. McLaughlin's efforts and **Mr. Kann** of the Waterfront Development. Funder Under the Bridge has raised over \$16,000 for the middle school and high school student activities and sports teams over a three-year period. Mr. McLaughlin thanked the Board for the recognition. His driving force is seeing the three boroughs come together for this event.

Mr. Wehrer added that the Girls and Boys Soccer teams represented Steel Valley with distinction on the soccer field this season. **Bill Abraham** and **Mark Perhacs** showed wonderful leadership and skill as the head coaches. Coach Abraham noted that he coached an incredible group of young ladies in the toughest section this season. He added that **Kelsey**

Salopek made All Section. Coach Perhacs couldn't be more proud of the Boys Soccer team. Each team received a Certificate of Recognition for their great seasons.

The Board approved resolutions recognizing Mary Yuhas and Tom Olson as Friends of Steel Valley. Mr. Wehrer noted that Mrs. Yuhas and Mr. Olson have been leaders on the School Board. Mrs. Yuhas has served five years from 2014-2019, and Mr. Olson has served twelve years from 2007-2019. They have spent a lot of time providing leadership and direction to the Steel Valley educational community. Their commitment and dedication to this community will be missed. Thank you to both of them.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Mrs. Borges reported on upcoming events:

October 29	Town Hall Meeting	6-9 PM	HS Auditorium
November 1	Clerical Day for Staff		No School for Students
November 6	Report Card Distribution		
November 7	Veterans Day Program	9 AM	Park School
November 8	Veterans Day Program	9 AM	Senior High School
November 13	Parent Teacher Conferences	12-3 & 5-8 PM	Barrett & Park Schools
November 14	Veterans Day Program	1 PM	Barrett School
November 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences	12-3 & 5-8 PM	Middle School and Senior High School
Nov 21-23	Fall Play: <i>Chemistry!</i>	7:30 PM	HS Auditorium
Nov 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Holiday		No School for Students
December 2	Inservice Day for Staff		No School for Students

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank reported the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the district's Flexible Instructional Day (FID) application. The district will create assignments for each student to complete when a flexible instructional day is used. He added that the School Board requested that the principals develop instructional videos, and the principals have chosen four topics to be recorded for parents to view.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- September 23, 2019 worksession
- September 26, 2019 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for October 2019 in the amount of \$297,082.33
- General Fund hand checks for September 2019 in the amount of \$1,342,892.28
- General Fund Revenue Report for September 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2019
- General Fund Balance Sheet for September 2019
- Food Service invoices for September 2019 in the amount of \$50,741.69
- Food Service Revenue Report for September 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for September 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for September 2019
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2019
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet for September 2019

- Capital Projects Revenue for September 2019
- Management Letter and Statements of Receipts, Disbursements and Change in Cash Balance for the Real Estate Tax Collectors of Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead for the periods July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 and July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

Operations

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- List of bus/van drivers or monitors for **PA Coach** for the 2019-2020 school year as presented
- Quote from **PALCO** to purchase an emergency generator at CoStar pricing in the amount of \$23,973.00 to be paid out of the Capital Reserve Fund

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Authorized payment of \$500.00 for the disc jockey services at the winter semi-formal dance to be held at St. John Cathedral Center on January 11, 2020

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Held second reading and adopted revisions to Policy 103 Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment – School and Classroom Practices
- Held first reading of Policy 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance
- Board Member **Kathy Ligeros** as representative on the Joint Advisory Committee of the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education and Mon Valley School for the remainder of Mr. Olson's term

Mr. Bulger thanked Mr. Olson for his commitment to Steel Center for Career and Technical Education and the Mon Valley School. He added that our students were well served by Mr. Olson. Mr. Olson added that he was honored to serve on the School Board.

Educational Leadership

The School Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the donations of school supplies from **Crunch Fitness at the Waterfront** to be used by the students and teachers in the schools
- Accepted a grant of \$181,458.00 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency titled "Suring up the Seams of Safety"
- Accepted the generous donation of rose bouquets for the Homecoming queen and her court as well as the boutonnieres for each of the escorts from **Colasante's Flowers in the Park**
- **Keith Kaufold, Shelley Hiegel** and **Aysia Hunter** as contracted mental health providers to provide professional services at a rate of \$45 per hour, not to exceed \$63,000, for the 2019-2020 school year

Communications

Mrs. Ligeros welcomed new Board members **Maya Adams** and **Meghan Fitzgerald**.

Personnel Management

The School Board approved the following items:

- Hired **Josephine Owens** as a substitute food service worker at the rate of \$8.50 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing pre-employment screenings and be in compliance with Act 168, which must be completed within 30 days
- Rescinded the hiring of **Jayne Emery** as districtwide paraeducator effective immediately