



January 2020 Board Brief

STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Brian F. Greenhow**, Steel Valley Graduate, Class of 2012; **Charles “Ace” Heberling**, Former WPIAL Executive Director (1976-1997); **Bernice Ruffner**, aunt of Marilyn Zabelsky, Park School teacher; **Richard Tisza**, retired custodian and cousin of Dr. Dennis and Marilyn Zabelsky, school dentist and Park School teacher; **Ernest Abaray**, uncle of Danielle Mays, high school food service worker; **Mary Beth Dorko**, sister of Michelle Maddigan, high school teacher; **Ruth Nowell**, mother of Joyce Eagle, Payroll Secretary, and Karen Barabas, Barrett Secretary; **Mary Butcher**, aunt of Leslie Hairston, Franklin paraprofessional; **Helen Laughran**, retired school nurse (1956-1979); **Wallace Wrzesinski**, uncle of Lori Mehalik, Park School teacher; **Vera S. Recktoosh**, member of the Adult Education Committee; and **Johnny Banyas**, cousin of Marilyn Zabelsky, Park School teacher. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhas** to place appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Board President’s Report

Mr. Bulger stated that a full house for the meeting means we must be acknowledging student achievement. He announced there would be no building changes for the 2020-2021 school year. The Board wants to do this right. They are forming a committee of Board members and staff members to decide how the district will proceed. The School Board members serving on the committee would be **Kathy Ligeros**, **David Colasante** and **Maya Adams** plus Superintendent **Edward Wehrer**. The committee will look at possible roadblocks and what the district can do to become a better school system. Mr. Bulger thanked the folks for doing this hard work.

He revealed that Representative **Michael Turzai** announced his retirement from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Turzai has been a friend of charter schools and charter school funding, but he has not been a friend of public education. Representative Austin Davis represents Munhall Borough and has extended his voice in favor of public schools.

Student Representative’s Report

Junior School Board Representative **Kristen Craycraft** reported both Park and Barrett students have been working hard on their winter tests and enjoying after school activities. 2019 was a great year but 2020 is going to be even better!

The middle school math department will be kicking off the annual **St. Jude Children’s Hospital Math-A-Thon** during February. This will be the 29th consecutive year that the middle school math teachers have organized this service project.

The annual semi-formal dance was very successful. **Mrs. McCallister** and the **Student Council** would like to sincerely thank **Dan Rojtas**, School Board Vice President, for decorating St. John’s Banquet Hall with the chandelier, lights, and tulle to make the hall look beautiful for our students. Congratulations to **Ben Novotny**, **Nikki Csider** and **Channing Griffin** for being selected to participate in this year’s **PMEA District Band**.

January is **School Board Appreciation Month**, and on behalf of the High School Student Council, Miss Craycraft expressed to the School Board her appreciation for their time and dedication to our school. She served cake and coffee to the School Board members.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer recognized the fine work of these Steel Center students:

Madison Rose	Cosmetology	Extra Effort Award 2nd Quarter
Evan Coleman	Electrical Construction	Extra Effort Award 2nd Quarter

The 17 programs offered at Steel Center are extremely valuable to students preparing to be career ready.

Mr. Wehrer stated that January is School Board Recognition Month, and the role of School Director is challenging and fulfilling, the responsibilities are significant and the hours spent are many. The School Board members work together and partner with administrators making decisions in the best interest of our students.

The **Middle School Art Club** with Art Teacher **Natalie Czerwinski** and the **Middle School Student Government** with its sponsor Teacher **Erin Noblet** collaborated on a special project making Batik art banners. The students showed their appreciation of the School Board members by presenting a banner to each of them. Seventh grade student **Abby Fitzgerald** spoke on behalf of the student body how much they appreciate and respect the commitment by School Board members to our school district. She added that they have our best interest at heart and do a lot behind the scenes. Thank you to all the School Board members.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Mrs. Borges announced that **Jennifer Koehler Fandray**, licensed counselor, will speak on "Mindfulness, Relaxation and Grounding for the Adolescent Mind" on February 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Steel Valley High School. For more information, please contact Mrs. Borges.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank reported that it is important for students, especially juniors and seniors, to work hard this grading period. Class rank will be determined at the end of this grading period.

He announced that the District is researching a new student management system. The staff has reviewed the system. Parents would be able to complete forms online through the portal with this system.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- December 2, 2019 re-organization meeting
- December 2, 2019 worksession
- December 5, 2019 regular meeting
- January 2, 2020 special meeting

Friend of Steel Valley

The Board adopted a resolution recognizing **Coyleen Steele** as a Friend of Steel Valley in honor of her distinguished service on the Board of School Directors.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2019 in the amount of \$634,554.59
- General Fund hand checks for November 2019 in the amount of \$860,399.19
- General Fund hand checks for December 2019 in the amount of \$1,921,106.51
- General Fund Revenue Report for November 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2019
- General Fund Balance Sheet for November 2019
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2019

- General Fund Balance Sheet for December 2019
- Food Service invoices for November and December 2019 in the amount of \$35,708.93
- Food Service Revenue Report for November 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for November 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for November 2019
- Food Service Revenue Report for December 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for December 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for December 2019
- Payroll Funding Transfers for November and December 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for November 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for November 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for November 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for November 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2019
- Capital Reserve Balance Sheet for December 2019
- Capital Reserve Revenue for December 2019
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet and Revenue for December 2019
- Refund to Pine Tree Investments Lot and Block 179-N-220 in the amount of \$234.96 for 2019
- Accelerated budget opt-out resolution certifying the tax rate within the inflation index

Operations

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Facility rental requests
- **Kudravy Architects LLC's** proposal to supply services to the District for the High School/Middle School HVAC Program. The cost of the services would be derived on a time and expense basis.
- Payment to **BDA Engineering, Inc.**, in the amount of \$25,960.00 for the completion of Phase 1 of the High School/Middle School HVAC Renovation Program. The funds will be paid out of the 2019 Capital Project Fund.
- Accepted the proposal from **Nevco** to provide a three feet by eight feet marquee in the amount of \$16,865.66 to paid out of the Campbell PR Grant. The installation cost will be borne out of the General Fund within the Facilities Director's budget categories.

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Fundraising requests
- Authorized payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2020

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Held second readings and adopted revisions to Policies 203, 204, 208, 209, 209.2, 212, 220, 222, 239, 247, 249, 251 and 255
- Held first reading of revisions to Policy 210.1

Educational Leadership

The School Board approved the following items:

- Donations from Donors Choose to create a Life Skills Suite in the Middle School in the amount of \$733.00

- Donations from the Steel Valley Veterans Banner Program and the Steel Valley Veterans Committee to the Fearlessly Girls Middle School group for 35 custom t-shirts at a cost of \$282.00
- Donations from Donors Choose for a classroom project “There is Always Time for TIME!” to purchase TIME magazine for third and fourth grade students in the amount of \$223.36
- Donations from Teachers Pay Teachers to fund materials and resources needed for the fifth grade project “X Marks the Spot” in the amount of \$150.00
- Disposal of outdated materials
- Revised the 2019-2020 school calendar and designated February 17, 2020, as a Flexible Instructional Day to make up for the October 2, 2019, school cancellation

Mrs. Yuhas stated that she is looking forward to seeing the completed Life Skills Suite. She is also excited that third and fourth graders would be reading LIFE magazine.

Communications

Mrs. Fitzgerald met with the administrators and counselors about how to market our school district. Next she wants to develop ways to speak with our parents to encourage them to share the District’s good news.

Personnel Management

The School Board approved the following items:

- Family medical leave of absence for employee no. 780 retroactive to January 6, 2020, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Hired Tiffany Cibula as a Districtwide Paraeducator effective on a mutually agreed upon date 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 the District’s pre-employment screenings, which must be completed within 30 days
- Hired Mary Votedian to a full-time secretary position at Barrett Elementary School effective on a mutually agreed upon date at the annual salary of \$21,000.00 plus benefits as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing the District’s pre-employment screenings and receipt of current clearances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Ratified the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025
- Ratified the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025
- Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association

Mr. Bulger thanked the bargaining unit personnel for working through the issues and agreeing on these collective bargaining agreements.

Special Meeting: January 2, 2020

The School Board approved the following motions:

- Appointed Alexis Lucas to a long-term substitute teaching position with an assignment of Special Education Teacher at Park Elementary School and Senior High School for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year 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 SVEA collective bargaining agreement effective January 15, 2020
- Adopted a resolution to appoint Mary Yuhas as school director