



STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Re-organization Meeting

At the re-organization meeting held on December 2, 2019, the re-elected Board members, **James Bulger**, **David Colasante**, and **Daniel Rojtas**, and newly elected School Directors, **Maya Adams** and **Meghan Fitzgerald**, were sworn in by **Betty Esper**, Mayor of Homestead Borough. The School Board re-elected James Bulger to the position of President and elected Daniel Rojtas to Vice President. This is Mr. Bulger's third year serving as President of the School Board.

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Robert M. Aber**, former School Board member 1981-1989 and 1991-1999 and husband of Michaelene Aber, retired elementary teacher; **Eleanor M. Lucas**, former substitute cafeteria worker; **Dorthea M. Toner**, mother of Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Minuto, former School Board member 1999-2003; and **Pauline Minuto**, mother-in-law of Dr. Virginia Minuto; **Matthew Faith**, father of Nicole States, Barrett teacher; **Adam Droschak**, cousin of Sara Sullivan, middle school teacher; **Stephanie M. Besterci**, sister-in-law of Michelle Blasko, Park School teacher and mother of Sawyer and Colton Besterci, Park School students; **William H. "Moose" Connelly**, cousin of Donna Perhacs, high school cafeteria worker; **Lawrence A. Cullen**, father-in-law of Denise Cullen, Park School secretary; **Helmet Stano**, uncle of Regina Takos, Park School librarian and middle school instructional resource teacher; **Edward Thompson**, uncle of Bradley Thompson, elementary music teacher; **Pamela Daniels**, aunt of Rebecca Kristen, middle school teacher; **Mary Lou Harkless**, grandmother of Edward Tozzi, middle school teacher; **Michael Esper**, brother of Mayor Betty Esper; and **Danny Hairston**, brother-in-law of Leslie Hairston, Franklin paraprofessional. It was moved by **Mr. Rojtas** and seconded by **Mr. Colasante** to place appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Board President's Report

Mr. Bulger welcomed two new members to the School Board: **Ms. Maya Adams** and **Mrs. Meghan Fitzgerald**. He added that it is good to see they have a desire to serve our community and its students. He also thanked the School Board members for their support in re-electing him President for the third year.

Student Representatives' Reports

Junior School Board Representative **Kristen Craycraft** reported the Park School students participated in the annual Santa's workshop. There is a holiday dance this Friday for students. Third and fourth graders will be attending the upcoming **Cultural Food Fairs**. Later this month students will participate in the holiday concerts and other festive activities.

Barrett students completed twelve days of giving, and the students donated the items to people in need in the community. **Mrs. Andzelik** did a great job of supplying the staff with daily information regarding the program.

Senior Representative to the School Board **Channing Griffin** reported that the High School **SADD** students attended the annual conference at Seven Springs. The job collaborative students toured PNC and observed potential careers. The annual Veterans Day program was held on November 8. Military representatives visited with students during lunches.

The **Ironworks Mentoring Club** met on November 11. Parent truancy meetings were held this week. Semi-formal tickets will go on sale next week. A guest speaker from **Sports World** spoke to all students about making positive choices and good life decisions. The fall play "Chemistry" was held November 22-23. **CHS Chemistry** students attended a lab session at the University of Pittsburgh. **History Club** members and Social Studies students attended the movie "Midway." **Life Skills** students took a shopping trip to the Waterfront. **The Future is Mine** (TFIM) conducted leadership training. Students were encouraged to do their best on the Keystone exams.

At the Middle School, the **Fearlessly Girls** group under the direction of **Mrs. MacDonald** met throughout the month to provide fifth grade girls with opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and opportunities for establishing their voice. The Middle School **PBIS** student team had an initial meeting to provide insight into what positive behavioral intervention and support (PBIS) is and the role the student team would play.

Mrs. Clark led a field trip with approximately 20 students on an Urban Art tour. Ten Middle School **Student Government** members under the direction of **Ms. Noblet** took part in the **Veterans Leadership Program** at Duquesne University. The students participated in a month-long civic engagement as well as volunteered at the breakfast.

The Middle School held a **Straight "A" Breakfast** for over 70 students in the High School cafeteria. Students enjoyed sausage, eggs, and waffles as a reward for their dedication to academics.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer welcomed newly elected Board members Maya Adams and Meghan Fitzgerald.

He announced that Park Elementary School has been named an **Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022**. This is the second school in the school district to have Apple Distinguished status; the first school was the Middle School. The Park School staff worked very hard to make this happen. Even though only 75% of the teachers are required to earn the Apple certificate, all of the Park School teachers earned this distinction. The STEAM team includes **Dr. Thomas Shaughnessy**, Principal; **Michelle Blasko**, Team Leader; **Kimberly Gennari**; **Roslyn Stulga**; **Katie Pugh** and **Melissa Draganosky**. The team presented the iMovie, which was part of the Apple application. They are working on a Maker Space for children to be creative, inspired and innovative. Mr. Wehrer added that he is very proud and very impressed with their accomplishment.

Mr. Wehrer recognized the following Steel Center students:

Madison Rose	Cosmetology	Student of the Month – October
Evan Riley	Welding	Student of the Month – November
Aleceia Schubert	Culinary Arts	Extra Effort Award 1 st Quarter

Mr. Wehrer noted that the district appreciates the value of Steel Center's programs. College is one route to success, and the trades are another route to success for students. Steel Valley students do very well in their programs at Steel Center, and he is proud of their accomplishments. Steel Center is a valuable part of the Steel Valley learning experience.

Also recognized for **All-Section** and **All-WPIAL** selections in sports are:

Kelsey Salopek	Girls Soccer	All-Section and All WPIAL Player
Matt Wellman	Boys Soccer	All-Section and All WPIAL Player
Carson Perhacs	Boys Soccer	All-Section
Camden Rager	Boys Soccer	Honorable Mention
Riont'e Carter	Football	First and Second Team Offense
NiJhay Burt	Football	Second Team Offense and Defense

Trevon Epps	Football	Second Team Offense
Erica Irvin	Girls Volleyball	Second Team Selection
Hayley Tate	Girls Volleyball	Second Team Selection

The public is invited to attend the many holiday concerts being performed in our schools. There is a blood drive on Wednesday, December 18, in the Senior High School from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank thanked **Beth McCallister**, Academic Math Coach; **Brandi Chalus**, Elementary Counselor; and **Alyson Fisher**, Elementary Counselor for their work in administering the districtwide assessments. An assessment monitor showed up unexpectedly during the Keystone test this week, and he was impressed by our procedures and standards.

Mr. Colebank reminded parents that when students return to school in January, there are only two weeks of school before the end of the grading period. It is important for students to submit all assignments before the holiday break. Equally important is for students to attend school every day.

Mr. Colebank reported that the Department of Education awarded the school district five (5) **Flexible Instructional Days** for each of the next five (5) years. Students will bring home a drawstring backpack, which includes five (5) folders with assignments and instructions. Each folder contains graded assignments for students to complete. Parents will be notified by an AlertNow message when the district is using a Flexible Instructional Day (FID). The message will designate which numbered Instructional Day folder your child is to work on. Your child will continue his/her education at home. Parents must return all forms and signature pages for their child to get credit for attendance. These Flexible Instructional Days are an alternative to making up the school day.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- October 21, 2019 worksession
- October 24, 2019 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for November 2019 in the amount of \$707,108.51
- General Fund hand checks for October 2019 in the amount of \$1,985,992.16
- General Fund Revenue Report for October 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for October 2019
- General Fund Balance Sheet for October 2019
- Food Service invoices for October 2019 in the amount of \$72,208.64
- Food Service Revenue Report for October 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for October 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for October 2019
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for September 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for October 2019
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet for October 2019
- Capital Projects Revenue for October 2019
- ACSHIC Financial Statements and Auditor's Report as of June 30, 2019 and 2018

- Refunds for year 2019 to the following:

Michael & Sharon Blazeovich	Lot & Block 131-D-203	\$180.91
Sharon & Milan Blazeovich	Lot & Block 131-D-205	\$269.68
JCCO Properties LLC	Lot & Block 131-H-310	\$970.67
- Refund to **M & J Wilkow** for Lot & Block 130-C-200 in the amount of \$35,661.38 for year 2018
- Refund to **David J. or Karen L. Poore** for Lot & Block 180-D-196 in the amount of \$460.41 for year 2019

Operations

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Facility rental requests
- Engagement with **BDA Engineering, Inc.**, of Homestead, PA, to provide engineering and professional services. These services related to placing out for bid the air handling systems S1 and S2 and modernizing the temperature control system to a digital building automation system (BAS). In addition, draft alternative #1 and #2 shall include an upgrade to the existing main heating plant to accommodate both full winter heating and low capacity summer reheat and to reconfigure the controls and/or piping on the existing domestic hot water system to prevent scalding in the kitchen area. The total cost for services is \$129,800. In addition, the Board directed the district's solicitor to draft a professional contract in order to engage firm to provide these services.
- Place out for bid and advertise for rehabilitation of two air handlers (S1 and S2) and the installation and purchase of a digital building automation system (BAS)
- Additions to the list of **PA Coach** bus drivers and monitors for the 2019-2020 school year

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Fundraising requests
- Authorized payment of \$800 for disc jockey services at the prom to be held at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall on May 8, 2020

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items as presented:

- Held second reading and adopted revisions to Policy 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance
- Held first reading of revisions to Policies 203, 204, 208, 209, 209.2, 212, 220, 222, 239, 247, 249, 251 and 255
- Retired Policies 248 and 348 – Unlawful Harassment

Mrs. Ligeros reported that **Steel Center for Career and Technical Education** held its first annual Veterans' Dinner on November 12. The students from the **Culinary Arts** and **Baking/Pastry** programs prepared dinner and desserts for the honored guests and their families. The veterans also received free haircuts and portrait photos compliments of the students from the **Cosmetology** and **Advertising/Design** departments.

The Steel Center Board approved three new programs for the 2020-2021 school year. These programs are: Veterinary Assistant, Medical Professions, and Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Services.

Educational Leadership

The School Board approved the following items:

- Authorized the advertising of the 2020 Board meeting dates as presented
- Accepted donations from **Donors Choose** in the amount of \$484.98 to create a Life Skills Suite in the Middle School

- **Krystal Gibbs**, an employee of Steel Valley Wellness, LLC, as a contracted mental health provider to provide professional services at a rate of \$45 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances
- Agreement between the **Caring Foundation** and the school district for school-based peer support groups for grieving children and adolescents
- Accepted a donation from the **Campbell Educational and Community Foundation** in the amount of \$45,000 for the sports teams, baseball team rings and celebration, football team meals, homecoming and elementary day events, senior class and student government events and miscellaneous expenses

Communications

The School Board approved the proposal for marketing services from the **Allegheny Intermediate Unit**. Mr. Bulger noted that he is on the Board of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and he is encouraged that the district will be utilizing the professional services of the AIU.

Personnel Management

The School Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Mrs. Coyleen Steele** from the position of School Director effective immediately
- Created a full-time, long-term substitute Special Education Teaching position for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year
- Family Medical Leave of Absence for Employee #422 beginning December 9, 2019, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- **Susan Agardy** as a Districtwide Paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status, contingent upon passing the District's pre-employment screenings and receipt of current clearances, which must be completed within 30 days, effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- **Sarah Hess** to a full-time position of Middle School/Technology Department Secretary 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, effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- **Ellen Baker** to the supplemental position of Middle School Girls Basketball Coach for the 2019-2020 school year
- **Gregory Wimbs** as a substitute in food service at the rate of \$8.50 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 and passing the District's pre-employment screenings, which must be completed within 30 days
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Karen Barabas** from the position of Secretary at Barrett Elementary School effective February 1, 2020
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Jessica Thompson** from the position of Districtwide Paraeducator retroactive to December 3, 2019
- Memorandum of Understanding between the **Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals** and the School District

Mr. Bulger thanked our retirees and wished them well in the future.

The Board approved **Dylan Stramaski's** Eagle Scout project in memory of **Maria Heddleston**.