



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

Board Meeting  
January 28, 2009

The Board acknowledged the passing of Edward "Gus" Fetzko, brother of Solicitor Don Fetzko and father-in-law of Shari Koroly-Fetzko; Marian J. Baron, retired music teacher; Dr. A. Thomas Caruso, retired choral teacher; George Stretavski, father of Gary Stretavski, retired teacher; Charles "Chick" Davies, husband of Dottie Davies, retired teacher; Irene Johnson, sister of Wanda Burwell, cafeteria monitor at Barrett; William J. Davis, former Munhall Councilman; Elmer W. Baker, uncle of Amber Thomas, school nurse; Bobbie Cameron, uncle of Sharon Fisher, Barrett/Franklin Principal; Lloyd Wright, uncle of Wyona Rompala, food service staff member; Madeleine Clark, aunt of Brian Bungard, middle school teacher; Lucille Cable, grandmother of Lori Kenavey, Elementary Literacy Coach; Margaret Sperduto, grandmother of Matt Janov, Park School teacher; Marjorie Grimm, mother-in-law of Kathy Grimm, instructional aide at Barrett; Lloyd D. Simpson, visual creative consultant for the marching band; James Raver, grandfather of Shanna Bradfield, Barrett teacher; Florance Cousins, grandmother of Denise Barron, Park teacher; Christine Soknich, sister-in-law of Michael Hofbauer, middle school teacher; and Anthony Pusatere, father of retired teachers Dr. McKenna and Mrs. Tyler. It was moved by Mr. Natale and seconded by Mrs. Ballas to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

### **President's Comments**

Mr. Ducar reported that the architect is revising plans for the addition to Barrett Elementary School. Core drilling will be occurring on the playground soon.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kinavey recognized the contributions of school board members and encouraged the community to thank these dedicated men and women.

There will be no school for students on Friday, February 13, due to the teacher inservice day.

The make-up day for the school closing on January 28, will be Monday, February 16 (President's Day). All schools will be in session that day.

The PSSA Writing Assessment in grades 5, 8 and 11 will occur February 9-12, 2009.

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

Mrs. Borges reported that the school district received the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Improvement Grant for inclusive practices from the Department of Education in the amount of \$10,000. The district will purchase the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) curriculum at the elementary level and the PATHS Turtle Unit for Kindergarten. This program focuses on empathy and relational problem solving. The district will develop an Elementary Student Assistance Team at both Park and Barrett to serve at-risk students in grades 1-5. The grant will also provide healthy relationships curriculum in the high school health and physical education department.

## **Director of Academics, Information & Technology**

Mr. Colebank stated that report cards were distributed this week. Students will be given their EdLine Codes to view their grades on line.

Mr. Colebank thanked Mrs. Fleming-Salopek and Mrs. McCallister for coordinating the student assessments.

During the February 13 inservice day, the middle school teachers will be working on course syllabus and placing information on EdLine. Elementary teachers will continue to receive training on differentiated instruction. The University of Pittsburgh will be working with the high school staff on analyzing student assessment data and how to adjust instruction.

## **Director of Elementary Education**

Dr. Policastro reported that the elementary Language Arts curriculum has been completed.

She announced that the University of Pittsburgh has received a \$17,500 grant for kindergarten transition services. They have chosen Steel Valley to implement the Ready for Freddy program to increase kindergarten enrollment for the first day of school.

## **Solicitor's Report**

The Board approved a resolution permanently expelling a minor male student.

The Board approved a consent decree for the purpose of regional voting in electing a Board of School Directors. Region 1 will consist of all election districts of Homestead and voting districts 1, 2, 3 and 9 of Munhall. Region 2 will consist of all election districts of West Homestead and Munhall electoral districts 4, 5 and 10. Region 3 is the balance of Munhall's voting District 2 and Districts 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12. In the May 2009 primary election, there would be three seats at large and one regional seat available. There will also be a two-year at large seat available in the primary. Then every two years, the election sequence starts anew. There will always be three at large seats in every election and either one regional or two regional seats available. Meeting Minutes The Board approved the meeting minutes of:

November 25, 2008 worksession meeting  
December 2, 2008 re-organization meeting  
December 2, 2008 regular meeting

Mrs. Cannon announced that she was misquoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and that she supports the positions of academic coaches in the district. She did not make the statements as reported by Mary Niederberger.

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2008 and January 2009 in the amount of \$982,211.94
- General Fund hand checks for November 2008 in the amount of \$383,273.73
- General Fund hand checks for December 2008 in the amount of \$549,543.25
- Payroll Funding Transfers for November and December 2008
- Treasurers' Reports for October and November 2008
- General Fund Revenue Report for November 2008

- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for November 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2008
- Food Service invoices for December 2008 in the amount of \$62,436.59
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending November 30, 2008
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending November 30, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2008
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$31,663.81
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$7,634.65
- Band Trip Hand Checks in the amount of \$4,808.85
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$3,011.58
- Adopted the resolution indicating there will be no increase in the rate of any tax for the support of the school district for 2009-2010 fiscal year by more than the index established by the Department of Education pursuant to Section 311 of the Taxpayer Relief Act
- Authorized Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Peggy Kernan for Lot and Block 180-N-160 in the amount of \$230.30 as a result of an overpayment
- Authorized Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Marc Steinert for Lot & Block 180-F-50 in the amount of \$235.00 as a result of an overpayment
- Authorized Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Carrie Morrow for Lot & Block 181-E-120 in the amount of \$235.00 as a result of an overpayment
- Authorized Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Ann Calvert for Lot & Block 181-A-259 in the amount of \$399.37 as a result of an overpayment
- Exonerated the Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead tax collectors for year 2008 for uncollected amounts of \$317,064.56, \$939,401.33 and \$203,012.35 respectively

Mr. Natale announced that on February 10, the Financial Management Committee would hold a meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the high school conference room.

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Disposal and donation of eight (8) OS9 laptop computers that cannot be upgraded for use with district applications and donate them to senior citizen groups

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the following item:

- Attendance of JV and Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball teams to the KSA Events 2009 Basketball Tournament in Orlando, Florida, from December 16-21, 2009, at no cost to the district

## Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Re-appointed Vincent Natale as the Steel Valley Board of School Directors' representative for a two-year term on the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation Board of Directors through December 31, 2010
- Voted for the officers and depository/treasurer of the Southeastern Area Special School Board and the Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School Advisory Board

## Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- 2009-2010 Steel Valley High School Academic Handbook
- Starfish Summer Literacy Program at Park Elementary School for the summer of 2009 at no cost to the district
- Accepted the donation of books to Park Elementary School library from John and Judy Merisko in memory of their son John Merisko in the amount of \$500
- Personnel Management The Board approved the following items:
  - Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Jennifer Pecora commencing after the exhaustion of her accumulated sick leave and personal days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
  - Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Melissa Walters after the exhaustion of her accumulated sick leave and personal days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
  - Unpaid family medical leave of absence for Susan Wilder retroactive to the exhaustion of her accumulated sick leave days, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Authorized the Board President and Board Secretary to execute a Professional Employee Contract for Ebony Cunningham
- Professional development requests from Ed Colebank, Ellen Sabo and Mark Cherpak to attend the ACAPA Spring Conference to be held in Hershey, PA, on March 18-20, 2009, at an approximate total cost to the district of \$1,700.00
- Christina D'Odorico, Jerred Masley, GeorgAnne Hoffman, Philip Merriless, Curtis Plumb, Kathleen Adamek and Denise Rogan as day-to-day substitutes for the 2008-2009 school year
- Dianne Furnival and Brian Keesecker as tutors for the EAP tutoring program at a rate of \$30 per hour
- Accepted the resignations of Ryan Dunmire as Fitness Center Supervisor and Matt Kunej as Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach effective immediately
- Appointed Patrick Connelly to the Middle School Yearbook supplemental position effective immediately
- Jeff Pingor as a baseball volunteer
- Reimbursing Barrett Teacher Shanna Bradfield for the replacement cost of her glasses in the amount of \$143.00
- Jeffrey Petruzzi as a substitute custodian at the rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Dawn Horvath as a substitute custodian at the rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Michael Ferson as a substitute custodian at the rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for

controlled substances

- Andrea Bynum as a substitute in the food service department at \$7.15 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of an acceptable Act 114 clearance, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Maria Palaza as a substitute instructional aide and secretary at a rate of \$7.15 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances
- Brian Charles as a substitute custodian at the rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 114 clearances, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances