



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
January 30, 2014**

The Board acknowledged the passing of **Winnie Rodosky**, aunt of Shari Koroly-Fetzko, 2nd grade teacher; **Michael M. Hutnik**, retired high school math teacher; **Sally Buchanon**, mother of Maribeth Meals, special education teacher; **Thomas A. Vincent**, retired 5th grade teacher; **Elva R. Cherep**, retired cafeteria worker and school crossing guard; **Virginia Matthews**, mother of Gary Matthews, retired high school teacher; **Regis J. Wolf**, retired middle school science teacher; **Eugene E. Senich**, uncle of Joyce Senich, Franklin Primary Center tutor; **Carole A. Seddon**, aunt of Nicole and John Strom, reading specialist and assistant high school principal; **Michael E. Kranack**, husband of Patricia Kranack, former high school secretary; **Mary Burk**, grandmother of Coyleen Steele, board member; **Jason Sedlak**, 2006 Steel Valley Graduate; **Kathleen E. (Marzec) Butler**, retired 5th grade teacher; **Mary Ferchak**, mother of Michaelene and Bob Aber, retired elementary teacher and former board member and Ray Ferchak, former Facilities Director; **Elizabeth Geraldine Ford**, grandmother of Loren Ford, Franklin Primary custodian; **Elizabeth Nieman**, aunt of Ellen Sabo, high school secretary; **Diane Monkalis**, sister of Denise Blasko, Park School paraeducator, and aunt of Michelle Blasko, special education teacher; and **K-9 Officer Rocco**, City of Pittsburgh Police. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mr. Terrick** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Donna Kiefer thanked everyone involved in the All School Holiday Extravanzas at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools, especially **Mr. Brad Thompson**, elementary music/band teacher.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** reported that in December at Franklin Primary Center, all the kindergarten students received a tee shirt from Santa. The kindergarten students performed *The Littlest Christmas Tree* in the High School Auditorium on December 18.

Franklin Primary Center welcomed the Queen of Hearts on January 16 for her monthly visit. The focus was on playing fair. The students enjoyed a variety of games including the Three Legged Race; Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone? and the Spoon Race. The children created their own memory game to take home and play with their families.

Students at Barrett Elementary School began a new music program entitled, *Glad To Be Alive*, which was developed by **Dr. Kay Atman** from the University of Pittsburgh. The music is related to character education.

Students are participating in after school programs, such as, French class, Science, Legos, boys' basketball, intramurals, Strong Women & Strong Girls, Nook Club, Dance Club, Zoo Club, Chess and App Club.

On December 16, Park Elementary School performed the All School Holiday Extravaganza. Both shows were standing room only. A special thanks goes out to the Choral/Band Director **Brad Thompson**, Choreographer **Denise Blasko**, and Show Assistant **Holli Bobick**.

Elementary staff participated in a Response to Instruction and Intervention refresher on January 14. This professional development was designed to assist with data analysis.

Ms. Bersamina, Middle School Art Teacher, has started an Art Club for middle school students. The club encourages creativity, expression, and art appreciation in a safe environment.

Congratulations to **Dr. Bethany Fenyus** who was nominated for Teacher of the Year.

Middle school students are selling Ironman cards. Sixth grade students will be attending a math play entitled, *Eureka*, at Carlow University.

On Friday, January 31, students were recognized by the Challenge Program, which focuses on community service, academic achievement and improvement and attendance. This is the second year for participation by the high school.

The high school semi-formal dance was held on January 18 at Westwood Golf Club and the theme was *Our Sweet Dreams*. This year's high school musical will be *Annie*.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Eddie Wehrer** announced the changes in the school calendar to make-up the school closings, and he thanked the parents for their patience during these winter months.

February 11	No Early Dismissal
February 14	Student Day
February 17	Student Day
April 17	Student Day
April 21	Student Day

This year the theme for School Board Recognition Month is *Celebrating our Everyday Heroes*. **Mr. Wehrer** recognized the school board members for their service to the children and citizens of the Steel Valley School District. Park School students read poems of appreciation and distributed a framed picture to each school board member. The photo spelled out PARK using items photographed in the Park Elementary School. Principal Lauren Baughman and Teachers Michelle Blasko and Roslyn Stulga assisted the students with their presentation.

Mr. Wehrer noted that the district is grateful when folks volunteer to mentor Steel Valley students. He recognized **Mr. Wes Lyons** for his partnership with our schools as a mentor. Mr. Lyons is building relationships and setting goals with students at Barrett Elementary School, the Middle School and the Credit Recovery program.

Interim Principal **Melissa Pentin** and Teacher **Traci Churilla** presented the goals of the School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention at the middle school. The program improves academic and behavior outcomes for all students. The Core Team determined that many behavior issues occurred in the hallways last school year. The goal this year is to focus on students in the hallways, and the staff has seen a decline in discipline referrals. Good behavior is rewarded with tickets that students can use in the cafeteria. Teachers also refer students to the Principal's 200 Club.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Edward Colebank announced the middle school students would be taking the PSSA field test in writing. PSSA tests will be underway in March. He encouraged parents to be sure students are attending school, getting adequate rest and eating a proper breakfast. The district has provided projectors and screens in all classrooms. SMART Boards will be installed in every elementary Reading classroom K-5. Thirty (30) iPads are being introduced to the middle school math students. A new wide color printer has been installed in the CAD class.

Solicitor's Report

The Board approved a resolution to expel a minor female student.

The Board denied tax exoneration to Cleft of the Rock Ministries for delinquent realty taxes for tax years 2002 and 2003 on Block and Lot No. 130-L-50.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- November 26, 2013 worksession meeting
- December 3, 2013 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2013 in the amount of \$692,839.33
- General Fund hand checks for November 2013 in the amount of \$2,089,029.06
- General Fund hand checks for December 2013 in the amount of \$780,073.91
- Food Service invoices for December 2013 in the amount of \$69,361.80
- Payroll Funding Transfers for November and December 2013
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2013
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2013
- Treasurer's Report for November 2013
- Treasurer's Report for December 2013
- Cafeteria Revenue Report for December 2013
- Cafeteria Expenditure Report for December 2013
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending 11/30/13
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending 12/31/13

- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$31,764.44
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$12,682.99
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,492.74
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$3,040.50
- Authorized necessary budget transfers for the 2013-2014 school year
- Renewed the district's school leaders' legal liability insurance coverage for the period February 8, 2014, through and including February 8, 2015, at a cost of \$29,704.00 from Old Republic Insurance Company, through PSBA Insurance Trust
- Adopted the Act 1 Resolution
- Authorized the refunds listed as a result of changes in assessments for a total of \$61,573.63

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Analysis of constructing a garage/storage building
- Selected Sharp copiers provided by WPS Solutions as the service providers for the school district
- Solicit bids if Costar pricing not available to replace the heating unit in the Middle School entranceway
- Solicit bids if Costar pricing not available to replace the main chiller in the High School
- Solicit bids if Costar pricing not available for the replacement of the boiler and steam traps at Park Elementary School
- Assignment of Agreement Letter from Equitable Energy to UGI Energy Services, LLC

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Payment in the amount of \$400.00 for the disc jockey services for the semi-formal dance held on January 18, 2014

Special Assignments

The Board held first and second readings of the following policies:

- Second reading and adopted revisions to Policy No. 808 Food Services
- Second reading and adopted new Policy No. 808.1 Lunch Accounts
- First reading of new Policy No. 839 Fraud

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the donation of \$100.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Houliaras to be used at Park Elementary School
- Tuition rate of 1/3 of the amount determined by PDE for the 2014-2015 school year

for employee Emilee Garcia's son to be enrolled as a student in Franklin Primary Center and all terms of Policy No. 202

- Accepted the funds from the PA Department of Education for a Special Education RENEW grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 and authorized officials to execute the contract for services
- Revised the 2013-2014 school calendar and designated Friday, February 14, 2014, as a student make-up day and changed February 11 to a full day of school

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **William Edwards** under the provisions of Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year
- Family medical leave of absence for **Russell Firestone** retroactive to January 17, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for **Denise Barron** effective February 11, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Appointed **Hope Wright** as a part-time, long-term substitute special education teacher retroactive to January 2, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a salary prorated upon \$21,341.50 plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement
- Appointed **Kristin Vetro** as a long-term substitute special education teacher at Barrett Elementary retroactive to January 2, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a salary prorated upon \$42,683 plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- **Tricia Stoner** as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate and retroactive to January 23, 2014
- **Kristen Antosz** and **Michael Fastuca** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- Denied two (2) additional paid bereavement days for **Lauren Baughman**
- Accepted the resignation of **Traci Churilla** from the position of 7th grade girls' volleyball coach
- Appointed **Erin Dawso** to the supplemental position of 7th grade girls volleyball coach effective for the 2013-2014 school year
- Created up to five (5) supplemental positions for an after school literacy program at Park Elementary School
- Created a long-term substitute elementary position with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- Created a long-term substitute districtwide special education position with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- Appointed **Amy Lewkowicz** to the substitute call-off position at an hourly rate of \$7.25 per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective February 3, 2014
- **Ashley Hanley** as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days
- **Jennifer Weis** as a substitute for support staff at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's

mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed in 30 days

- Denied Grievance 2013.12.01 received from the Secretarial/Aide Educational Support Personnel Association
- Denied Grievance 2013.12.02 received from the Secretarial/Aide Educational Support Personnel Association
- Accepted the resignation of **Carol Chontos** from the position of high school custodian
- Appointed **Quy Van Nguyen** as a full-time districtwide custodian as per the collective bargaining agreement
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Vincent Natale** as a School Board Member, Interim Board Secretary and representative to the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone effective January 31, 2014