



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
October 22, 2013**

The Board acknowledged the passing of **William Purifoy, Sr.**, retired fire chief of Homestead Borough and a 1977 Steel Valley graduate; **Jeffrey M. Jennings**, a 1986 Steel Valley graduate and brother-in-law of Tim McCallister, former board member; **Rachel Kelley**, grandmother of Nick Seech, high school teacher; and **Robert B. Graham**, former custodian and football coach in the school district. It was moved by **Mr. Terrick** and seconded by **Mr. Ducar** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

### **President's Report**

Mrs. Beth Cannon congratulated Gabby Olson, our 2013 Homecoming Queen. Gabby is the daughter of Board Member Tom Olson. She also recognized Shane King, PPG Academics in Motion Student Athlete of the Week and the Marching Band for its 1st place win in the Chapter 8 Championships.

### **Student Representative's Report**

Student Representative Brandon Tomasic reported that Barrett Elementary School held a fire safety assembly and completed a fire drill with the Fire Chief of Homestead. An After School program is occurring at Barrett Monday through Thursday.

A Health Day was held on October 17 in the Campbell Recreational Facility at Barrett Elementary School to allow community members to receive information and assistance on health issues.

An assembly on the Dignity & Respect program was conducted at Barrett Elementary School with all fifth grade students in the district. **Charlie Batch** was in attendance.

A mini Walk-A-Thon was held on October 12 to "walk all over pediatric cancer." Participants raised \$1,600 for the Four Diamonds Foundation.

Park School's Family Math Night—Monster Math Theme is scheduled for Monday, October 28, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The Park Power Halloween Parade will be held on Thursday, October 31, at 1:00 p.m.

Park School will hold its annual Veterans Day program on November 6 at 9:00 a.m.

First Grade Teacher **Mrs. Gennari** and her class participated in "Read for the Record" on October 3 as part of a national reading celebration.

On Thursday, October 17, the Steel Valley High School hosted the Pennsylvania Literacy Network (PLN) Conference. Administrators, academic coaches and teachers participated in an intensive training session provided by professors from the University of Pennsylvania. The PLN workshop provided participants with strategies for establishing classroom environments that are rich in problem-

solving, critical thinking, logical reasoning and practical techniques that connect content to the real world.

The Powder Puff King contest raised \$1,430.00 for Spina Bifida. The contestants were seniors **Corey Pinkerton, Dom Keyes, Adam Votedian, Shane King** and Junior **Connor Szczepankowski**. The 2013 Powder Puff King is **Connor Szczepankowski**.

The Homecoming Court winners are:

4 <sup>th</sup> Runner Up	<b>Allie Noll</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Runner Up	<b>Kenzie Fisher</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	<b>Natalie Konish</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	<b>Thu Dinh</b>
Homecoming Queen	<b>Gabby Olson</b>

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Wehrer** congratulated the Marching Band for earning 1st place in the Chapter 8 Championships. We wish them well in the Atlantic Coast Championship in Hershey this weekend.

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** introduced **Bryan Macuga**, High School Principal, to discuss the College in High School courses being offered to students in the Senior High School. Five courses are offered for 18 college credits from the University of Pittsburgh. An Analytic Geometry and Calculus 1 course taught by **Tim Vickers**; Basic Applied Statistics taught by **Patrick Loughran**; Basic Physics for Science & Engineering 1 taught by **Benjamin Lander**; Intermediate College French I taught by **Toni Besh**; and Communication and Rhetoric taught by **Gary Goga**. Families can save a considerable amount of money by having their children enroll in these courses while they are still in high school. The cost of each course at Steel Valley High School is \$225.00 versus taking 3 credits at Pitt for \$2,028.00 and 4 credits for \$2,704.00. The University of Pittsburgh and all other colleges accept these credits.

Mr. Wehrer recognized the distinguished service of Board Member **Joe Ducar** and declared him a *Friend of Steel Valley*. Mr. Ducar served 16 consecutive years on the Steel Valley Board of School Directors. During his tenure, he served three years as President of the School Board, Chairperson of the Operations Committee, and President of the Steel Valley Foundation for Education. He directed the construction of the James Campbell Gymnasium, the construction of the William V. Campbell Recreational and Education Facility at Barrett Elementary School and the renovation of the William V. Campbell Athletic Field. In recognition of his service to the children and citizens of the Steel Valley community, a shelf of books will be placed in the Senior High School Library in his honor. Mr. Wehrer presented Mr. Ducar with a Steel Valley Gold Card, which gives him lifetime admittance to all events and activities.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education Report**

**Mrs. Diana Borges** announced that there would be no school for students on Friday, November 1. This is a scheduled inservice day for staff members. Report cards will be distributed on November 5. November 12 is the districtwide early dismissal for all students.

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled as follows:

November 7	Franklin Primary Center	12-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 pm
November 11	Senior High School	12-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 pm
November 13	Middle School	12-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 pm
November 14	Barrett & Park Schools	12-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 pm

Various Veterans Day programs are being conducted throughout the district

November 6	Park Elementary School	9:00 am
November 7	Barrett Elementary School	9:00 am
November 8	Senior High School	8:45 am

A meeting of parents of gifted students will be held on November 6 beginning at 5:30 pm in the high school to highlight the gifted happenings.

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

**Mr. Ed Colebank** noted staff is preparing for the Keystone exams to be held in December.

He reported that we have 72 students enrolled in the Steel Valley Cyber School, and 51 students are full-time status. Through the Career Technology Education Library, the district will offer eight (8) online vocational courses to our students in addition to core subjects.

Mr. Colebank shared a mock-up of one page of the new website design with school board members. One of the key features on the website will include a student spotlight button.

### **Solicitor's Report**

The Board renewed the Propel Charter School agreement to operate a public school within the Steel Valley School District beginning July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018.

The Board approved a modification to the Superintendent's contract.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- September 17, 2013 worksession meeting
- September 24, 2013 regular meeting

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for September 2013 in the amount of \$686,709.11
- General Fund hand checks for September 2013 in the amount of \$475,000.14

- Food Service invoices for September 2013 in the amount of \$49,697.86
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2013
- General Fund Revenue Report for September 2013
- General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2013
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending September 30, 2013
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$14,266.28
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$7,356.71
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$1,883.95
- Treasurer's Reports for July, August and September 2013
- Cafeteria Revenue Report from July through September 30, 2013
- Cafeteria Expenditure Report from July through September 30, 2013
- Refund in the amount of \$254.78 to William Toulon, for Lot & Block 179-P-296, as a result of a change in assessment
- Refund in the amount of \$238.06 to Robert T. and Renee L. Kane, for Lot & Block 133-C-076, as a result of a change in assessment
- Authorized necessary budget transfers for the 2013-2014 school year

## Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Awarded roof contract to Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance, Inc., and authorized district officials to execute resolution for the roofing project at the middle school/high school building in the amount of \$440,691.00
- Awarded Gymnasium Equipment Company (G.E.C.) the replacement of the bleacher motor's power drive system in the high school gymnasium at a cost of \$17,985.00 per their quote dated October 22, 2013
- Awarded Coppola Construction, Inc., retroactively, the asphalt paving of Park School's gravel lot in the amount of \$8,500.00, to be paid from the capital projects account
- Business manager to solicit bids for plumbing and electrical services for the 2013-2014 school year

## Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Accepted the donation of a whirlpool from NovaCare Rehabilitation
- Creation of a Robotics Club for high school students for the 2013-2014 school year with **Shawn McCallister** and **Ben Lander** as volunteer sponsors
- Marching Band to tour New York City on April 4-6, 2014, at no cost to the district

## Special Assignments

Board Member **Tom Olson** reported on the breakout sessions, innovative educational ideas and vast knowledge to be gained at the Annual School Leadership Conference in Hershey. He attended as a

representative for Steel Center Vocational-Technical School. He would like to see other board members attend in the future.

**Mr. Olson** commended **Mr. Wehrer** for riding the bus and shadowing our students at Steel Center Vocational-Technical School on October 17.

### **Educational Leadership**

**Mrs. Ballas** thanked **Ed Colebank** for the website update.

### **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- 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 supplemental position for the Barrett After School Program with a stipend of \$1,800.00 for the 2013-2014 school year
  - Winter and spring supplemental appointments as presented for the 2013-2014 school year
  - Appointed **Allie Fisher** for the supplemental position of Barrett Intramural Supervisor for the 2013-2014 school year
  - **Samuel Musselman** as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
  - **Judi Besnak** as a substitute food service worker at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits
  - **Elaine Becker** (retroactive to September 20, 2013) and **Christine Furrick** as substitutes in the areas of secretary, paraprofessional and cafeteria monitor at the rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, and as a substitute KtO tutor at the rate of \$15.00 per hour and no benefits
  - School volunteers listed for the 2013-2014 school year, contingent upon receipt of appropriate Act 34 and 151 clearances
- Denied grievance #73013 and grievance #10113 received from the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association