



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
October 26, 2010**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Robert L. Stevens, uncle of Sherri Titmus, Franklin Primary secretary; Michael Young, nephew of Wanda Burrell, Barrett cafeteria aide and cousin of Leslie Hairston, Franklin Primary paraprofessional; Albert R. Wahl, brother of Dorothy Alexandroff, high school food service worker; John G. Brosky, member of Steel Valley Veterans Day Committee and Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge; Richard Sperduto, uncle of Matthew Janov, elementary physical education teacher; Leo Casey, cousin of Norma Kearns, Park School food service worker; John J. Donis, West Mifflin School Board Member; Bruno Kruszka, cousin of Judy Stokes, Park School teacher; Coetta Ramsey, mother of Tracy McGrew, middle school teacher; Ken Tartler, uncle of Joe Panaia, Park School custodian; Donald L. Lusk, brother-in-law of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education; Patrick A. Risha, former superintendent of McKeesport, South Allegheny and West Mifflin School Districts; Roger A. Lough, cousin of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education; and Eileen Kennedy, grandmother of Nicole States-Asson, Park School teacher. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mr. Olson to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Cannon congratulated the girls volleyball, varsity football and the boys soccer teams for their hard work and dedication and success in the post season.

Student Representative_s Report

Student Representative Taylor Szczepankowski reported on the activities at Park Elementary School. On October 15, the local firemen provided students with information on fire safety. The men and women also had an opportunity to eat lunch with the students.

During the month of October, Park School's staff participated in a schoolwide Olweus Bullying Prevention training. This nationally recognized program provided all staff members with skills needed to react to bullying situations and create a school environment that is safe for all.

On October 27, Park School will be hosting a kick-off event for its bullying prevention program with a "We're Not Afraid of Bullies" Halloween dance.

At the middle school, Quarterback Charlie Batch and the Steelers Rookie Club, visited students at the middle school to "Play 60." They also donated \$5,000 to the school for physical education equipment.

The middle school English and PSSA teachers are working with Dr. Tracey Czajkowski on improving writing. They have met four times to learn about writing across the curriculum.

The Alice Club, which is a computer program that allows students to create their own video games, has been meeting after school in the middle school. Mr. Singer is the club sponsor.

Miss Kaitlyn Baran reported on the book discussion held at the Carnegie Library by 9th grade students on the book *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines. Students will be attending a mock trial at CCAC on Friday as part of the One College, One Community program.

The 28th Annual Veterans Day ceremony will take place on November 11 at the high school. Secondary

students are participating in an essay contest around the theme Service and Sacrifice. The juniors and seniors participated in the Safety Bug program. The fall play auditions took place.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey congratulated Park School Guidance Counselor Brandi Chalus who recently earned National Counselor Certification by meeting the professional counseling standards set by the National Board for Certified Counselors. She joins five other teachers and counselors with National Board Certification including Susan Large, middle school counselor; Susan Olsen, high school biology teacher; Yvette Logan, high school chemistry teacher; Maria Heddleston, elementary instructional resource teacher; and Roslyn Stulga, elementary art teacher.

On Thursday afternoon, Senior Delrece Williams will be recognized as Student Athlete of the Week by WTAE-TV. Mrs. Cannon added that Delrece holds the new Steel Valley record for the most rushing yards in a single season. He will be attempting to break a WPIAL record on Friday night. We wish him the best.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held next month as follows:

November 2	Franklin Primary Center	12:00-3:00 and 4:00-7:00 p.m.
November 9	Barrett & Park Elementary Schools	12:00-3:00 and 4:00-7:00 p.m.
November 16	Middle School & High School	12:00-3:00 and 5:00-8:00 p.m.

There will be no school for students on the day of their parent-teacher conferences.

The Thanksgiving holiday will begin November 25 through November 29. There will be no school for students over the holiday break. School will resume on Tuesday, November 30.

The High School Drama Club will hold its fall play on November 18-20 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Report cards will be distributed on November 8.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education Report

Mrs. Borges announced that the Queen of Hearts would be reading to kindergarten students on Wednesday, October 13. Mrs. Shelley Hiegel, Coordinator of School and Community Services for ACI, presented information about the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) program. This is a form of therapy for children ages 2 to 7 to promote effective behavior management and discipline techniques as well as enhance a positive relationship between parent and child. Live coaching helps parents learn what they are doing well and provides support with skills they need to master. A classroom will be created at Barrett Elementary School to institute the 12-20 week program.

She also announced that for the 4th year, Steel Valley has been awarded the Special Education School Wide Positive Behavior Grant in the amount of \$41,775.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank recognized Calculus Teacher Tim Vickers and Student Christina Martin. Mr. Vickers and Mrs. McCallister accompanied a group of advanced math students to the Arnold Ross Lecture for gifted math students held at the Carnegie Science Center. Ms. Christina Martin was invited to participate in Who Wants to be a Mathematician game show sponsored by the American Mathematical Society. She took 2nd place in the competition and won a T-Inspire graphing calculator and \$500.

Seniors took the PSSA Reading, Math & Writing re-test this week.

At the inservice days last Thursday and Friday, the secondary staff spent time on scope and sequence of curriculum.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of:

- September 21 worksession meeting
- September 27 board meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for October 2010 in the amount of \$525,093.37
- General Fund hand checks for September 2010 in the amount of \$546,525.85
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2010
- Treasurer's Report for August 2010
- Food Service invoices for September 2010 in the amount of \$78,427.53
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending September 30, 2010
- Foundation for Education Technology Account Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending September 30, 2010
- Foundation for Education Barrett Project Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending September 30, 2010
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$24,772.62
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$19,693.72
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$136.13
- Real estate tax refund to Robert A. Pirl, Jr. for Lot & Block 130-R-270 in the amount of \$225.02 due to an overpayment
- Real estate tax refund to Thomas B. Darwin, Sr. for Lot & Block 130-K-318 in the amount of \$2.84 due to an overpayment
- Real estate tax refund to Ordlee & Patricia Felder for Lot & Block 131-F-227 in the amount of \$38.02 due to an overpayment
- Tuition rate of \$1,669.01 for employee Christy Ruffing's son to continue to be enrolled as a first grade student at Park Elementary School beginning December 1, 2010, through the end of the 2010-2011 school year and all terms of Policy No. 202

Operations

The Board approved the facility rental requests as presented waiving rental fees for Permit Nos. 3953 and 3954

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Payment of \$325 for disc jockey services for the winter semi-formal to be held on January 15, 2011, to defray the cost
- History Club request to tour historic sites of Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Hershey, Pennsylvania, on May 28-30, 2011, at no cost to the district. Mrs. Cannon added that there will be no cost to the school district, and students will not miss school since this trip is planned over Memorial Day weekend. The Board held a second reading and adopted new Policy No. 218.1 Student Discipline Secondary Schools.

Educational Leadership

The Board accepted the donation of equipment from NEP Super Shooters for the operation of the Video Production 2 course and SVTV within the high school.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for Audrey Hinkle retroactive to September 27, 2010, not to exceed 60 days in a one-year period
- Family medical leave of absence for Lana Gainer commencing on December 1, 2010, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- John Hrabley, Justin Tauber and Catherine Morrow as day-to-day substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 beginning with the 31st day
- Board President and Board Secretary to execute a Professional Employee Contract for Jeffrey Deabner
- Denied Grievance #10-204 from the Steel Valley Education Association
- Family medical leave of absence for Walter Baranowski retroactive to October 11, 2010, for a period not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Barb Hurley to the districtwide part-time paraprofessional vacancy at the hourly rate of \$7.25 per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement effective October 27, 2010
- Diane Ditano as a substitute in the food service department at the hourly 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 within 30 days
- Jayne Emery-Stoken as a substitute in the food service department at the hourly 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 within 30 days
- School volunteers listed for the 2010-2011 school year Mrs. Kubancsek reported that she was impressed with the recent presentation by Bill Sanders at Barrett Elementary School on September 28. She enjoyed his encouraging words and you won't want to miss this opportunity the next time he's at Steel Valley.

Previous Board Action

The Board accepted an amended settlement agreement proposed at the October 5, 2010, status conference on Civil Action No. 10-191, and authorized the proper officers to execute the agreement. The Board approved execution of all documents related to refunding of the 2003 Series bonds in accordance with bond counsel recommendation.

