



Steel Valley School District

Board Brief

Board Meeting
February 27, 2014

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **William M. O'Brien**, husband of Anne O'Brien, retired Park School secretary; **Eugene B. Fetsko, Sr.**, father of Mary Jo Craycraft, Barrett paraprofessional; **Sally Bungert**, aunt of Tom Olson, Board member, and Amanda Olson, middle school teacher; **David Arovits**, uncle of Lori Cannon, KtO tutor, Clay Karadus, middle school teacher, and Mary Yuhas, Board member; **Kathleen L. Grant**, mother of Coyleen Steele, Board member; and **Ralph Kiner**, Pittsburgh Pirate 1946-1952 and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mrs. Ballas** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Donna Kiefer thanked **Mrs. Heddleston**, **Mrs. Baughman**, **Mrs. Besh**, the **High School French Club** and all the staff for an enjoyable evening at the Title I Family Night at Park Elementary School.

Mrs. Kiefer introduced newly appointed Board member **Mary Yuhas**.

She congratulated the middle school team of students who took 3rd place in the gifted competition.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** reported that the kindergarten students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 10 by counting to 100, making necklaces out of 100 fruit loops and other counting activities.

The **Queen of Hearts** visited Franklin Primary Center on February 19. The kindergarten students will participate in reading activities during Read Across America Week February 24-28.

At the middle school, students and teachers have been engaged in lessons and activities focused on influential African-Americans.

The middle school boys basketball team ended their season winning four of their last six games.

The teachers are working hard to ensure students are ready for the PSSA assessment.

At the high school, **Brandon** reported that the boys basketball team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs and played a hard fought game against Mars but lost in overtime.

The **Harmony Club of Homestead** presented an assembly to the juniors and seniors on the relevance of African music today.

The High School hosted the Pennsylvania Literacy Network Conference, and teachers from North Allegheny, Hampton, Woodland Hills, Northgate and McKeesport school districts attended.

The **Drama Club** will present *Annie* on March 6, 7 & 8 at 7:30 PM and on March 9 at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$1 for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. On March 5th, the cast performed for students in kindergarten, 4th and 5th grades.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** invited the parents of young learners to an Early Kindergarten Registration to be held on Tuesday, March 11. This registration will occur at the Franklin Primary Center beginning at 2:30 PM until 5:00 PM to allow working parents to register their children early. Parents may enroll their children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1st of this year for the 2014-2015 school year.

During February, the students in the Steel Valley School District have been exploring the achievements and influences of African-Americans in our country.

On Tuesday, Steel Valley High School juniors and seniors were treated to an engaging presentation by the **Harmony Club of Homestead** on the history of African-American music and a demonstration of how classic secular music is still relevant to them today.

During the event, students learned how some of their favorite artists pay homage to classic African-American artists such as **Shirley Bassey, Nina Simone, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Betty Wright, James Brown, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles** and more.

They also learned about the basic evolution of African-American music from the fields of slavery to modern day during the interactive presentation and were treated to a performance of a few pieces demonstrating the evolution of African-American music.

Elementary Principal **Kevin Walsh** reported that during an assembly at Barrett School, **Greg Kenney** portrayed **Jackie Robinson**, and the students were engaged in the program. Fifth Grade Student **Evan Coleman** along with his 5th grade teachers **Ms. Katie Pisula** and **Ms. Jonette Bost** reported on the posters, research papers and videos created by students.

Fifth grade students from Barrett Elementary School created a video of *Name That Tune* in which they performed a variety of songs for others to guess the song titles made famous by African-American artists.

Mrs. Lauren Baughman, Principal of Franklin Primary Center and Park Elementary School, shared biography books created by the kindergarten classes using Kid Writing about **Barack Obama, Jesse Owens, Roberto Clemente, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges** and **Louie Armstrong**.

To honor famous African-Americans, the third grade students at Park Elementary School created reports in which they spoke from that person's point of view. They even chose to dress up as **Roberto Clemente, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Jr., Tiger Woods, Cullen Andrew Jones** and **Michael Jordan**. The students who portrayed these famous people were **Jason Poniewaz, Brenna Kern, Dacia Hruska, Connor Brady, Julie Spader, Amelia Carr** and **Brooke Farrah**.

Mrs. Toni Besh, High School French teacher, discussed how she combined French culture and African folk tales in her French classes. Students also selected someone in a French speaking country and created a fake Facebook page of them.

In the middle school, the eighth grade science students wrote essays on African-American inventors and how they impacted the students' lives.

Mr. Wehrer introduced **Kevin Rice**, Director of Steel Center Area Vocational-Technical School, and congratulated him for the distinction of being named Career Technology Education Director of the Year for the Western Region of Pennsylvania. **Mr. Kevin Rice** discussed the importance of career technology education, and that it is in a state of change with significant modifications on how we teach students. There are currently 15 programs for students to consider at Steel Center.

On January 30, six students were honored at a reception at Steel Center Vocational-Technical School for winning the second quarter *Extra Effort Award*. Students included **Tara Dudas**, cosmetology; **Tom Pepke**, food service; **Amber Birkhamer**, health assistant; **Anthony Brookins**, heating, ventilation & air conditioning; **Brittany Connors**, protective services; and **Heather Demeda**, retail food merchandising & production. *Extra Effort Award* recipients are chosen by shop instructors each quarter for their demonstration of outstanding attitude, work ethics, attendance and dependability.

Mr. Wehrer recognized Steel Valley High School and Steel Center Vocational-Technical School students who were selected as *Top of the Shop* awardees for the first semester of 2013-14.

Joseph Radakovich	Grade 11	Automotive Mechanics
Ryan Ackerman	Grade 11	Building Trades Maintenance
Kyle Suhajda	Grade 12	Carpentry
Caleb Groce	Grade 10	Culinary Arts
Melissa Kniss	Grade 10	Health Assistant

The awards are given once each semester during an all-school ceremony to students who exemplify outstanding achievement.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Edward Colebank announced the PSSA assessments would begin March 24. He reminded parents to be sure their children are in attendance, get plenty of rest and good nutrition.

Progress reports were distributed on Friday, February 28, for all students.

A districtwide early dismissal for all students will be held on Tuesday, March 11. There will be no school for students on Monday, March 17. Staff will participate in professional development both days.

Solicitor’s Report

The Board approved a resolution to expel a minor male student from February 4, 2014, through and including February 3, 2015.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- January 27, 2014 worksession meeting
- January 30, 2014 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for January 2014 in the amount of \$816,550.44
- General Fund hand checks for January 2014 in the amount of \$353,472.07
- Food Service invoices for January 2014 in the amount of \$36,023.28
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2014
- General Fund Revenue Report for January 2014
- General Fund Expenditure Report for January 2014
- Treasurer’s Report for January 2014
- Cafeteria Revenue Report for January 2014

- Cafeteria Expenditure Report for January 2014
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending January 31, 2014
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$11,880.45
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$6,444.74
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$8,585.00
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$8,651.67
- Authorized necessary budget transfers for the 2013-2014 year
- Adopted the resolution for the district to participate in the Western Pennsylvania Electric and Natural Gas Consortiums
- Terminated the interest rate SWAPS that the school district holds with Deutsche Bank and with Bank of America
- Authorized payment to Maher Duessel in the amount of \$1,950.00 for the Steel Valley Foundation for Education

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Closed the pool to perform an inspection and cost analysis
- Awarded G.E.C. the bid for replacement of the divider curtain in the high school gym at a cost of \$7,985.00, to be paid from the capital projects fund
- Awarded Spartan Athletic Equipment Company the bid to furnish and install new safety pads in the Barrett gym at a cost of \$6,695.00 to be paid from the capital projects fund
- Agreed in principal to retain Honeywell to use Costar pricing to replace the boiler, steam traps, and heat exchanger at Park, the chiller tank in the high school, and environmental system controls in each of our buildings

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Payment in the amount of \$800 for disc jockey services for the prom to be held on May 9
- Payment in the amount of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the cost of the Annual Senior Breakfast for the Class of 2014 to be held on June 4, 2014
- Solicit bids for athletic training services

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted new Policy No. 839 Fraud
- Appointed **Donna Kiefer** as the Steel Valley Board of School Directors' representative for the remainder of the term on the Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation Board of Directors through December 31, 2014
- Voted for **Marianne Neel** as a School Board Trustee for the Southeastern Region of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium for a two-year period effective March 31, 2014

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- High School Keystone Exam Schedule for May 13, 14 & 15, 2014
- 2013-2014 Steel Valley Middle School PSSA Schedule
- Revised the 2013-2014 school calendar and changed the early dismissal from May 13 to May 6
- 2014-2015 Steel Valley High School Academic Handbook
- 2014-2015 Steel Valley Middle School Academic Handbook

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Appointed **Beth Cannon** as Board Secretary effective immediately
- Family medical leave of absence for **Dennis Keesecker** effective March 5, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- **Douglas Khorey** as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- Accepted, with regret, the resignations of **John Strom**, **John Skeels** and **Susan Salapa** from the positions of High School Boys Soccer coach, Assistant Boys Baseball coach and Middle School Drama Club sponsor
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Audrey Titmus** from her position as food service worker in the high school cafeteria effective March 31, 2014
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Dorothy Miller** from her position as food service worker in the high school cafeteria retroactive to December 11, 2013
- **James Petruzzi** as a substitute custodian, contingent upon approval from PSERS and receipt of current Act 34, 114 and 151 clearances and passing the district's mandated physical and drug-screening examinations
- Denied Grievance 2014.02.01 received from the Secretarial/Aide Educational Support Personnel Association

Previous Board Action

At a special meeting held on February 21, 2014, the Board approved the following items:

- Appointed **Mary Eged-Yuhas** as a qualified elector of the school district to the Board of School Directors until the first Monday of December after the first municipal election occurring sixty days after the vacancy to fill the unexpired term of **Mr. Vincent Natale** effective immediately
- Designated the hire date of **Quy Van Nguyen** retroactive to January 2, 2014