



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

Board Meeting  
February 24, 2009

The Board acknowledged the passing of Raymond Knight, father of Jodi Geyer, high school teacher and Anthony P. Kanz, father of Chad Kanz, middle school teacher. It was moved by Mr. Natale and seconded by Mrs. Kubancsek to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

### ***President's Comments***

Mr. Ducar announced that the core drilling at the Barrett Elementary School playground occurred in preparation for the construction of a new gymnasium and classrooms.

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

Miss Miriam MacBeth reported that Franklin Primary students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by wearing mismatched socks on Monday, top hats on Tuesday, wacky clothes on Wednesday and eating green eggs and ham on Friday. Dr. Kinavey and Mrs. Fisher also read to the students.

The Park PTO sponsored an ice skating social for students and their families at the Schenley Ice Rink. Officer Boehme has been presenting the D.A.R.E. program to the fifth grade students on Mondays at Park School.

The Middle School is holding a Family Night on Monday, March 2, for families. The staff is finalizing the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. The 5th grade Step-Up Day will be held in May. Fifth graders will be scheduling their 6th grade classes this spring.

Student scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year is taking place at the high school. The 3rd quarter progress reports were distributed to middle school and high school students on February 24. The PSSA Writing assessment was completed. Students are preparing for the upcoming PSSA Reading and Math assessments scheduled for March 17-19. The high school will have a delayed start to school at 10:30 a.m. for 9th, 10th and 12 graders on March 17-19. Juniors shall report at 7:15 a.m. and testing will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The spring musical entitled *Anything Goes* will be held in the high school auditorium on March 12-15. A Career Opportunity Fair is scheduled for Friday, March 20, in the high school.

High School Principal Mr. Schlanger; Brittany Dunmire, Senior Class President; and Miriam MacBeth, Senior School Board Representative hosted a tour of the Senior High School and participated in the Leadership Pittsburgh XXV group discussions on Thursday, February 19. Former superintendent of the Steel Valley School District Dr. Jerry Longo hosted the tour of the Steel Valley High School and roundtable discussions.

### ***Superintendent's Report***

Dr. Kinavey announced that Steel Valley Middle School students are once again participating in a Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This is

the 18th year the school district has participated in the event and has raised more than \$30,000. Thanks to Secondary Math Coach and Department Head Mrs. Beth McCallister for coordinating this worthwhile event.

Middle School Principal Kevin Walsh and Social Studies Teacher Ed Tozzi presented highlights of the **Second Step Program** taught at the Middle School. This new violence prevention program is taught in Social Studies classes once a week, and students learn decision-making skills, anger management, empathy and problem-solving skills. This program is supported by a \$7,500 grant from Healthy Highmark.

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

Mrs. Borges thanked Mr. Walsh for continuing the anti-violence message at the middle school through the **Second Step Program**. Through Mr. Walsh's efforts in acquiring the grant, the middle school has been able to continue this worthwhile program.

She announced that Barrett Elementary School and the Middle School kicked off the **It's Just Not Right** bullying prevention program. School-Based Behavioral Health Grant received this school year. Teachers will present a weekly lesson on bullying and wear their t-shirts promoting our **Bully Free Day**.

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

Mr. Colebank reported that the 8th grade students and high school students have begun the scheduling process for the 2009-2010 school year. The middle school Academic Handbook will be presented to the School Board for approval in March.

#### ***Director of Elementary Education***

Dr. Policastro reported that a meeting would be held on March 6 to plan for the **Ready for Freddy** program as part of Kindergarten transition.

She announced that Dr. Briscoe from Indiana University of Pennsylvania is assisting the Barrett Elementary Staff in student behavior management and autistic support on March 12.

Dr. Policastro and Mrs. Beth McCallister are working on a project to create a butterfly garden and enhance the pond area adjacent to the Senior High School.

#### ***Meeting Minutes***

The Board approved the meeting minutes of:

January 20, 2009 worksession meeting  
January 28, 2009 regular meeting

#### ***Financial Management***

The Board approved the following financial items:

- Adopted the resolution to authorize the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note from Citizens Bank in the amount of \$1.75 million at 2.7% to mature on April 30, 2009
- General Fund invoices for February 2009 in the amount of \$597,597.05
- General Fund hand checks for January 2009 in the amount of \$452,922.41
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2009
- General Fund Revenue Report for January 2009

- General Fund Expenditure Report for January 2009
- Food Service invoices for January 2009 in the amount of \$50,753.55
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending January 31, 2009
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending January 31, 2009
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$45,560.44
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$2,411.19
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$300.00
- Advertising of bids for art, athletic, general school and office supplies, health, home economics, library, music, science, physical education and technology supplies for the 2009-2010 school year
- Advertisement of bids to replace exterior entrance doors located at Park Elementary School, Franklin Primary Center, and restroom doors at Barrett Elementary School, to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund
- Tuition rate of \$2,815 for the 2009-2010 school year and all terms of Policy No. 202 for employee Lori Mehalik's daughter to be enrolled as a kindergarten student at Franklin Primary Center

Mr. Natale announced that a Finance Committee meeting would be held on March 10 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

### ***Co-Curricular Leadership***

The Board approved the following item:

- Attendance of the Varsity Swim Team to Splash Lagoon in Erie, Pennsylvania, on April 22, 2009, at no cost to the district

### **Special Assignments**

The Board held a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 140 Title I Districtwide Parental Involvement and new Policy No. 140.3 Title I Parent Involvement Middle School Program

### ***Educational Leadership***

The Board approved the following items:

- Kindergarten Transition Program "Ready for Freddy" for the 2008-2009 school year at no cost to the district
- Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between Community College of Allegheny County and the Steel Valley School District
- Inclusive Practices Mini-Grant Agreement and authorized the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said agreement
- Accepted a donation from PPG Industries Foundation in the amount of \$850 to the Middle School for public education support

## ***Personnel Management***

The Board approved the following items:

- Allen Renfro, David McGhee, Allison Harris, Dana VanKirk-Brown, Diane Rys, Lisa Gamrat and Myriah Olson as day-to-day substitutes for the 2008-2009 school year
- Holly Jabs to the supplemental position of 7th grade girls volleyball coach and Ryan Cleary to the supplemental position of boys varsity assistant volleyball coach
- Authorized the Office of Pupil Personnel and Special Services to contract with Steel City Therapy, LLC for Occupational and Physical Therapy Services
- Karen Rae DeMartino as a substitute instructional aide and food service worker at the 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
- Terminated the employment of Lynn Anderson, probationary employee in the Senior High School cafeteria, effective immediately