



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

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**Board Meeting  
February 26, 2008**

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The Board acknowledged the passing of Gavin Robert Thomas, son of Mrs. Ann Maran, aunt of Winifred Stegena, Barrett Food Service; Miss Grace "Amazing Grace" Ekis, niece of Nicole Asson, 3rd grade teacher at Park School; Mrs. Gloria Robinson, former instructional aide at Barrett and Woodlawn Schools; Mr. John Krappweis, uncle of Lois Habrat, secretary to Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services; and Mr. Ralph Perry, uncle of Therese Safko, paraprofessional at the Middle School. It was moved by Mrs. Terrick 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. Tim McCallister thanked Bill Campbell for his donation to the girls' and boys' sports programs. He also thanked Mrs. Jackman and Mr. Thompson for their many years of service to the children of the community.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kinavey announced that Freshman Miranda Ladik and Taylor Stevens, an 8th grader at the Middle School, were chosen to participate in the National Young Leaders State Conference held in Pittsburgh this week. He also recognized Extra Effort Award winners for the 2nd grading period at Steel Center Vo-Tech School: Dennis Lewis, Mike Cush, Samantha Grimes and Rasmiya Akbar.

Congratulations to Junior Tyrone Ezell for qualifying in the WPIAL wrestling finals. Spring sports will start on Monday, March 3, 2008.

Mrs. Sharon Fisher, Principal of Barrett Elementary School, reported that students walked over 40 miles during recess and were featured in a Subway commercial. The students recognized for their participation in the *Recess Walking Program* at Barrett Elementary School were Liam Dempsey, Danaysia Thurman, Brooklyn McCaskill, Karly Deutsch and Ryan Fossick.

Principal Dr. Beth Tully shared a PowerPoint presentation of the *Year in Review* at Park School. She highlighted Open House, Cookie and a Chat, Pioneer Map Project, Fire Prevention program, Fall Carnival, Parent University, Make-A-Wish Parade, Book Fairs, Most Improved Student program, Veterans' Day program, After School Tutoring, Family Reading Night, Winter Band and Choral Concert, Visits to Parkview Towers, Family Math Night, Crazy Hat Day, Intramurals, Artist-in-Residence and the Keystone Award.

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

Senior Thomas Barefoot reported that the PSSA Writing tests have been completed. He reported that the assembly with motivational speaker Bill Sanders was inspirational. The girls' and boys' basketball teams qualified for the WPIAL playoffs.

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

Mr. Colebank reported that the 4Sight tests have been submitted to the Department of Education. When the scores are received, they will be given to the academic coaches and teachers to assist students with preparation for the PSSA tests.

The science teachers received *Out of the Box* training by Apple Computer. The teachers are performing 30-45 additional professional development hours learning to use the new science equipment provided by the Classrooms for the Future grant. The district will be applying for a Classroom for the Future grant for next year. The PSSA Science assessments will be conducted in 4th, 8th and 11th grades this year.

As part of the accreditation process, Mr. Colebank asked parents to complete the Middle States surveys on the Steel Valley website.

## **Director of Elementary Education**

Dr. Policastro announced that the Educational Leadership Committee of the Board met prior to the board meeting for the purpose of reviewing the K-5 science and math curriculum. She thanked the teachers and the School Board for their support. The next areas of curriculum writing will be K-5 Language Arts and Social Studies.

The district is applying for Waterford National Best Practices School Site recognition for the Early Reading program at Franklin Primary Center.

## **Solicitor's Report**

The Board adopted a resolution to approve a Settlement Agreement to resolve 23 tax assessment appeals in the Waterfront TIF district.

The Board adopted a resolution expelling a minor female student under the terms and conditions of the Articles of Agreement dated January 25, 2008, between the Steel Valley School District and the minor student and her mother.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the January 8, 2008 worksession and the January 22, 2008 board meeting.

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for January/February 2008 in the amount of \$612,766.29
- General Fund hand checks for January 2008 in the amount of \$436,330.13
- Payroll Funding Transfers for January 2008
- Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2007
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2007
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2007
- Food Service invoices for January 2008 in the amount of \$62,613.62
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending December 31, 2007
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending December 31, 2007
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending

- December 31, 2007
- Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending January 31, 2008
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending January 31, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending January 31, 2008
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$19,423.91
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$8,150.59
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$874.00
- Band Trip invoices in the amount of \$1,000.00
- Act 183 agreement to join the Allegheny County Regional RWAN in July 2010 appointing IU3 to work on behalf of the Steel Valley School District to petition vendors for reduced costs while filing E-Rate documents for reimbursement
- Amendments to Section 2.1 and Section 4.1 of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium Agreement of September 1, 2003
- Appraisal of Pier One Imports for years 2001 through 2008 by Gary Bodnar at a cost of \$3,000
- Advertisement to solicit bids for the 2008-2009 school year by the Board Secretary for the following supplies: art, athletics, audio visual, general office, health, home economics, library, music, physical education, science and technology education
- Board Secretary to advertise for bids for the District Security Camera Project

Mr. Natale announced a meeting of the Financial Management Committee of the Board on Tuesday, March 4, in the High School Conference Room beginning at 5:30 p.m. to continue working on the 2008-2009 school budget.

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Agreement with Strategic Energy LLC to cover the timeframe from January 2009 to January 2011 between Strategic Energy LLC and the district
- Awarded a one-year HVAC maintenance agreement including the existing DDC system to Honeywell for \$99,500 and rejected all other parts of bids
- Board Secretary to advertise for bids for the high school Auditorium Sound System Renovation project
- Board Secretary to advertise for bids for the enclosure of the dock area at the high school/middle school
- Authorized the Board Secretary to advertise for bids for roof repairs at Park Elementary School
- Awarded a contract to Gymnasium Equipment Company at the quoted price of \$7,595 for installation of a roll-up divider curtain for the high school gym to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund
- Removal of the bleachers in the auxiliary gym/middle school cafeteria and authorized the advertising of selling them on the WPIAL website
- Sale of the 1992 GMC van to Rogers Auto Sales for \$60.00 and authorized the sale of the 1980 GMC pick-up truck to Ronald McKee for \$250.00
- Purchase of the 2005 GMC pick-up truck 4X4, automatic transmission from Dennis J. Keesecker for \$15,000 or the lesser amount owed on the pay off of the present loan

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Attendance of 8th grade students and chaperones to Washington, DC, on May 9 & 10, 2008, at no cost to the district
- Accepted a donation of \$42,820.70 from Mr. Bill Campbell to be used for miscellaneous girls' sports needs, new varsity football game jerseys and weight room improvements

## **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the Middle School and High School Academic Handbooks for the 2008-2009 school year as presented.

Mrs. Terrick commended Mrs. Susan Olsen, Science Department Head, and a team of science teachers for helping students prepare and present their projects at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition.

## **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Unpaid leave of absence for Amber Thomas, High School/Middle School Nurse, effective immediately for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Priscilla Jackman from the position of Elementary Academic Literacy Coach effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, under the provisions set forth in Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement
- Approved Kelli Buksar, Alyssa LaFrankie, Catherine Banaszak, Katie Welch and Bobbi Santiago as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year
- Retroactively appointed Jessica Andzelik, Denise Stephenson and Benjamin Laughton to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour paid from the EAP Tutoring Grant
- Attendance of Dr. Mary Cay Rojtas-Milliner to the Pennsylvania School Librarian's Association Annual Conference held in Hershey, PA, on May 1-3, 2008, at a cost of \$423.00
- Creation of a Visual Arts Club and approved a new supplemental and stipend for a High School Visual Arts Club sponsor effective for the 2007-2008 school year to be agreed upon by the Board and Steel Valley Education Association
- Accepted the resignation of Bradley Thompson from the supplemental position of Band Director effective at the completion of the 2007-2008 school year
- Accepted the resignation of Mark Rider from the supplemental position of High School Assistant Football Coach effective February 6, 2008
- Supplemental stipend of \$1,589.07 for the High School Bowling Sponsor for the 2007-2008 school year and a 5% increase each year of the current collective bargaining agreement
- Amy Lewkowicz as a substitute in the food service department at \$7.15 per hour and no fringe benefits, contingent upon receipt of an acceptable Act 114 clearance, passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances which must be completed in 30 days