



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
March 27, 2014**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Pauline M. Vitulli**, mother of Susan Salapa, middle school teacher, and grandmother of David Salapa, high school senior; **Albert T. Salapa**, brother-in-law of Kathy Salapa, food service worker and uncle of Susan Salapa, middle school teacher; **George “Porky” Chedwick**, graduate of Munhall High School, former announcer of Munhall’s football games at West Field; **Lawrence M. Rettger**, uncle of Brigid Laird, Park Reading tutor; and **Gerald W. Vernon**, retired maintenance worker in the school district. 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.

Presentation on Interest Rate Swaps

Mr. **Randy Frederick** of Piper Jaffray described the types of interest rate swaps, and he reported that the district has made money over the years. **Mr. Wehrer** believes that the swaps are unwise and uncertain, and he recommended that the Board terminate the swaps. Mr. **Shawn Giran** distributed a resolution to formalize a decision to terminate the swaps with Deutsch Bank and the Bank of America at a cost of not more than \$150,000.

President’s Report

Mrs. Donna Kiefer reported that she would be enforcing a three-minute comment period for each resident.

Student Representative’s Report

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** reported that middle school students would complete the Reading and Math PSSAs on March 25, 26, 27, 31 and April 1 and 2. Middle school students will have an early dismissal on March 25 and April 2.

Eighth grade students will complete the PSSA Writing assessment on April 8, 9 and 10, and the PSSA Science on April 29 and 30.

At the high school, Guidance Counselor **Mr. Novak** provided students with the 2014-2015 Academic Handbook and Course Selection sheets to choose their classes for next school year. Additional courses available in the high school next year will be: Mandarin Chinese, Civics College in High School, Web Design Gaming through the Ages, Journalism and Earth Space.

Spring sports began last week for Boys Baseball, Boys Volleyball and Girls Softball.

Report cards will be distributed on Friday, April 4.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** announced that **Dr. Lynn Yanyo**, Steel Valley Class of 1977, would be the 2014 Commencement speaker. Dr. Yanyo has a Ph.D. in Polymer Science and she is the holder of eight US patents. Currently she is the President at De Novo Ground in Cary, NC.

Middle School Principal Ms. **Melissa Pentin** reported that she is working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh (BBBSPGH) to initiate a mentoring program for middle school students. Ms. **Amanda Sable** of BBBSPGH stated that Eat n' Park Hospitality Group would launch a Workplace Mentoring Program during the 2014-2015 school year with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, and the Steel Valley Middle School has been identified as a partner. Students would be matched in a one-to-one relationship with mentors from Eat n' Park, and they would meet once a week over a three-year period. Ms. Sable reported that students who participate in Workplace Mentoring for a full school year or longer report increased academic performance, improved confidence in school, reduced truancy and higher educational aspirations.

Ms. **Marguerite Luvara**, Middle School Gifted Teacher, announced that on March 4 one of the Middle School Gifted Teams took 3rd place in the Middle School Science Bowl competition that was held in the Steel Valley High School library. Middle School Student **Izzie Furrick** reported that the competition consisted of four rounds: Picture This, Pictionary, a written test and the buzzer round. Team participants were **Kelsey McCafferty**, **Shannon Hartnett**, **Terran Moore**, **Izzie Furrick** and **Ella Kornacki**. Their hard work, weekend study groups and class time resulted in the second win this year for the middle school gifted students.

Mr. **Shawn McCallister** reported that the high school gifted students created and hosted the Science Bowl competition for the middle school teams.

In an earlier competition, the Middle School Gifted team comprised of **Robby Vinay**, **Becky Harhai**, **Morgan Farrah**, **Josh Fossick** and **Izzie Furrick** placed 3rd in the Equations tournament. They competed against seven other middle schools in Allegheny County. Upcoming gifted competitions include Art, Propaganda, English Festival and Writing.

Mr. Macuga reported that our high school student athletes and fans represent the school district very well at activities and games.

Athletic/Activities Director **Shawn McCallister** congratulated Junior **Betsy Novotny** who was invited to audition and then participated in the PMEA District I Choir Festival hosted by the Shaler Area School District on January 8-10. The festival showcased 180 talented vocalists from 52 different southwestern Pennsylvania school districts.

Mr. McCallister presented Certificates of Recognition to student representatives from the following teams and clubs: Steel Valley Drama Club, Varsity Boys Basketball Team, Varsity Girls Basketball Team, Girls Swim Team, Boys Swim Team and the Cheerleading Squad.

Senior **Joseph Yano** auditioned and was selected to the PMEA Region I State Band, and performed in Hershey this week. Joe also performed in the District Band Festival and was selected as one of the top ten students. He plays the bassoon. Senior **Corey Pinkerton** has been selected to play in the Football Coaches Club East West Game in May.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education Report

Mrs. Diana Borges announced that the PASA alternate assessments have been completed by our special needs students.

Kennywood Ride All Day passes will be on sale in all buildings on April 14. A districtwide early dismissal for all students will be held on Tuesday, May 6. Staff will participate in professional development in the afternoon.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. **Edward Colebank** announced that all students have received course selection sheets; the staff will input schedule selections next week.

Solicitor's Report

The Board approved filing an assessment appeal as to the tax exemption status of realty designated as 130-P-45 and 130-G-288.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- February 21, 2014 special meeting
- February 24, 2014 worksession meeting
- February 27, 2014 regular meeting
- March 10, 2014 special meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for February 2014 in the amount of \$558,394.30
- General Fund hand checks for February 2014 in the amount of \$397,830.90
- Food Service invoices for February 2014 in the amount of \$10,191.05
- Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2014
- General Fund Revenue Report for February 2014
- General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2014
- Treasurer's Report for February 2014
- Cafeteria Revenue Report for February 2014
- Cafeteria Expenditure Report for February 2014
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending 2/28/14
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$24,192.10
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$24,364.75

- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$450.00
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$12,578.00
- Single Audit of 2013 from Maher Duessel
- Real estate refund in the amount of \$1,138.17 as a result of a change in assessment to Tina Thompson for Lot & Block 130-R-276
- Exonerated the Homestead and Munhall tax collectors for year 2013 for uncollected amounts of \$277,077.60 and \$978,468.41, respectively
- Necessary budget transfers for the 2013-14 school year
- Bid for three real estate appraisals to Mr. Gary Bodnar in the amount of \$8,600.00 for upcoming assessment hearings
- Resolution to terminate interest rate swaps
- Business office to create a district bank account to be used for eBay transactions

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Obtain bid specifications for installation of air conditioning in the high school gymnasium
- Preparation of bid specifications and bidding for a maintenance building to house vehicles and other equipment. Bid specifications to be prepared by Ed Smith of Smith Steel Buildings at a cost of \$300.00, and the cost of the project will be paid from the capital projects fund
- Put out a bid for the high school chiller tank

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

Special Assignments

The Board recognized **Vince Natale** for six consecutive years of service on the Steel Valley Board of School Directors by placing books in the Barrett Elementary and Park Elementary School libraries in his honor and presented him with a Gold Card for his meritorious service to the community.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit's 2014-2015 Program of Services Budget totaling \$4,088,563
- Sale of unused typewriters and stenograph equipment on eBay or other means; if any of that equipment is not sold it may be disposed of
- Adopted the 2014-2015 official school calendar as presented
- Partnership with the Workplace Mentoring Program with **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh** and **Eat n' Park Hospitality Group** beginning with the 2014-2015 school year

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Appointed Mr. **John A. Zenone** as Director of Operations/Board Secretary/Right-to-Know Officer/Business Manager for a term of four years at the starting base salary of \$106,000.00, contingent upon Mr. Zenone receiving the required clearances and passing the required drug screen
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. **Janet Doyle** under the provisions of Article XXIX of the collective bargaining agreement effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year
- Appointed Ms. **Amy Selick** as a long-term substitute special education teacher at Barrett Elementary School retroactive to March 10, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year prorated upon Step 1 of the Master's salary (\$44,174) with prorated fringe benefits as per the collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of the Act 151 clearance and passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Appointed **Dianne Furnival** as a long-term substitute elementary teacher prorated upon Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary (\$42,683) with prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to February 24, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school term
- Appointed **Melissa Pentin** to the position of Middle School Principal at a salary of \$68,000 and all benefits according to the Act 93 Agreement effective March 28, 2014
- Family medical leave of absence for Mrs. **Nicole Strom** effective March 31, 2014, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development for Ms. **Meagan O'Toole** for a the 2014-2015 school year per the provisions of Article XV of the collective bargaining agreement and Policy No. 831
- Appointed **Heather Huber** to the KtO Reading Tutor position retroactive to March 10, 2014, for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year at a rate of \$20.00 per hour for 5.5 hours per day and no benefits
- Created three (3) after school math tutor supplemental positions for the middle school
- **Lauren Steffan, Brittany Bauccio and Matthew Arcure** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved daily rate
- Administration to designate up to eight (8) substitute teachers per week as district substitutes for daily substitute needs for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year
- **Ranada Estes** as a substitute for support staff at the 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 in 30 days

Previous Board Action

- At a special meeting held on March 10, 2014, the Board approved the following items:
- Appointed John Zenone to the position of Business Manager/Board Secretary
- Appointed Jeffrey Pingor to the supplemental position of Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2013-2014 school year
- Jerred Masley as an athletic volunteer for baseball for the 2013-2014 school year