



Steel Valley School District

Board Brief

**Board Meeting
September 24, 2015**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Richard Morgan**, husband of retired teacher Mathilda Morgan, brother-in-law of retired secretary Vivian Makusenka and cousin of Marilyn Zabelsky, Park School teacher; **Sandra L. King**, mother of middle school student Madison King and 2014 Steel Valley graduate Shane King; **Joseph Dorko**, father of Michelle Maddigan, high school science teacher; **Lawrence “Deuce” Skurcenski**, high school scorekeeper and statistician; **Mark W. Grimm**, brother-in-law of Kathy Grimm, Barrett paraprofessional; **Adeline M. Gonnella**, aunt of Melissa Draganosky, Park School teacher; and **Margaret Besh**, grandmother of Toni Besh, high school French teacher. It was moved by **Mr. Olson** and seconded by **Mrs. Steele** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

President’s Report

Mrs. Kiefer thanked the School Board members, administrators, teachers, staff and students for a wonderful start to the new school year. Their hard work and determination in preparing for the 2015-2016 school year is paying off.

Thank you to all those who made the middle school iPad Bash a success. Nearly all of the middle school students picked up their new iPads at one of the three iPad Bashes this month.

The **Steel Valley Marching Band** is hosting its Tournament of Bands Competition on Saturday, September 26, at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Student Representatives’ Reports

Mr. Wehrer welcomed and introduced the senior and junior representatives to the School Board. **Elena Chaffin**, the senior student representative to the Board, has been a member of Student Council since her freshman year. She is also a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and was a member of the History Club. Elena has participated in a number of sports teams over the years such as basketball, softball and cheerleading. She played in last year’s powder puff game and will be playing in this year’s game.

She is active in a number of organizations outside of school, such as, Investing Now, The Black Political Empowerment Project, The Coalition Against Violence, The Oasis Theater Company and Strong Women, Strong Girls.

Abbey Caspar, the junior representative to the Board, has been a member of Student Council since her freshman year. She is on the swim team and the cross-country team. She is also a member of the French Club, History Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), The Future is Mine (TFIM) and Creating Value.

Miss Chaffin reported that Mrs. Lisa Duval, the new high school principal, came to us from South Allegheny High School. The students and staff have welcomed her with open arms and are glad to have her as part of the Steel Valley family.

The **Student Government** has planned some exciting activities for Homecoming Week. High School students and staff are encouraged to participate in the themed days during the week of October 12. With help from **Mr. McCallister**, club members and sponsors will host booths at the Homecoming Carnival on Wednesday, October 14, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The Powder Puff game will follow at 6:30 p.m. There will be a pep rally during school for the middle school and high school on Friday. Representatives from the sports teams, cheerleaders, pep band and homecoming court will visit the elementary schools on October 16. The Homecoming game will be held on Friday, October 16, starting at 7:00 p.m. The homecoming queen and runners-up will be announced during halftime of the game.

The high school students are excited about the roll out of the iPads in January.

The new courses offered this year have been well received by the students. In the forensics class, the students were actually measuring blood splatters and calculating data to figure the angle of impact.

The **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** group was chosen by National SADD as one of 10 schools to participate in a new student-led group called the Youth Traffic Safety Committee. Student leaders traveled to Keystone Oaks High School to join students from other schools to come up with activities to promote safe driving among their peers.

The SADD students and **School Resource Officer Boehme** will conduct seat belt checks at Franklin Primary, Barrett and Park Schools.

Fall sports are underway and the students are representing the district in a positive manner. The marching band is hosting a band competition on Saturday evening at Campbell Field.

Two student fan busses will travel to the away football game on Friday against Seton LaSalle. Thanks to Mrs. Besh and Mrs. McCallister for chaperoning the students.

The **History Club** will be taking a field trip to tour the Carrie Furnace, the Pump House and the Bost Building.

Miss Abbey Caspar reported that the iPad initiative is off to a great start in the middle school. Students are actively engaged in challenging lessons and are learning new skills everyday.

Rehearsals for the middle school chorus begin Tuesday for 6th graders, Wednesday for 7th graders and Thursday for 8th graders.

Barrett and Park Elementary Schools will hold a School Wide Positive Behavior assembly and a safety assembly with **Officer Phil**. Office Phil is the new School Resource Officer at Barrett Elementary School.

There has been a great response from students for the after school clubs at Barrett and Park Schools.

The **Park PTO** had a very successful meeting on Tuesday, September 22. Following the meeting the parents and students were invited to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer noted that through the Community Eligibility Program, we have an 18% increase in breakfast and 9% increase in lunch participation.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report

Mrs. Borges will initiate a parent survey for parents of students with disabilities.

There will be no school for students on Monday, October 12. This will be a professional development day for staff members.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank reported that 22 high school students and 6 middle school students applied to be part of the Steel Valley Geek Squad.

The middle school parent emails have been activated. Mr. Macuga will send an email to parents next week to remind them of their passwords.

The Administration is evaluating the Academic Handbook for next school year. Suggestions for new classes may be submitted.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- August 11, 2015 special meeting
- August 17, 2015 worksession meeting
- August 20, 2015 regular meeting
- August 25, 2015 special meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for 2014-2015 paid in 2015-2016 in the amount of \$14,244.00
- General Fund invoices for September 2015 in the amount of \$689,065.17
- General Fund hand checks for August 2015 in the amount of \$339,427.48
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2015
- General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2015
- General Fund Trial Balance for August 2015
- Food Service Revenue Report for August 2015
- Food Service Expenditure Report for August 2015
- Food Service invoices for August 2015
- Food Service Balance Sheet for August 2015
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2015
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending August 31, 2015
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet for July and August 2015
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet for July and August 2015
- Athletics Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expense Statements for July and August 2015
- Capital Projects Fund disbursements in the amount of \$318,528.68
- Appraisal from Bodnar Real Estate Services, Inc., in the amount of \$900.00 for the two vacant lots on 12th Avenue in Homestead
- Creation of a Request for Proposal for information technology services

Operations

The Board approved the facility rental requests as presented.

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Field trip request for the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C., on May 5-7, 2016, at no cost to the school district

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- 2015-2016 Elementary Student Handbook and Elementary Faculty Handbook as presented
- Accepted a donation of school supplies to the Steel Valley Middle School from **Rev. Keith and Monica Kaufold** of 8th Avenue Place Ministry

- Changed the December board meetings to reorganization meeting and worksession meeting to be held on Monday, December 7, and the regular board meeting to be held on Thursday, December 10 and re-advertise the December meetings
- Entered into an agreement with **Robert Half and Associates** for technology services not to exceed \$40 per hour

Mrs. Yuhas thanked all those who have attended the Educational Leadership Committee meetings. There have been good discussions and we are moving forward. She welcomed the student representatives to the School Board to the meeting. She also noted that she is glad we are having homecoming activities this year.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Created one-half professional position with a 2015-2016 assignment of gifted support
- Appointed **Tracy Findlay** to a temporary professional position as a districtwide elementary teacher with a 2015-2016 assignment of 1st Grade Teacher at Barrett Elementary School effective September 25, 2015, based upon Bachelor's Step 1 salary plus benefits as per the SVEA collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon passing the district's health examination and the mandated screening for controlled substances.
- **Lauren Stuart** as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2015-2016 school year at the approved daily rate, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Denise Williams** from the supplemental position of Student Government
- Supplemental positions as listed
- KtO supplemental positions as listed
- Appointed **Christine Furrick** to the position of districtwide paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour with benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to August 24, 2015
- Created a districtwide paraeducator position to support the IEPs of students with disabilities
- Motion to approve the volunteers listed for the 2015-2016 school year, contingent upon receipt of Act 34 clearance, Act 151 clearance and a signed Verification of Volunteer form (or the FBI federal criminal history clearance)
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Steel Valley Education Association
- Settlement Agreement and Release as presented and authorized the appropriate officials to execute said agreement
- Added **Judi Besnak** to the substitute custodian list

Mr. Olson thanked **Mrs. McCallister** for stepping up to sponsor the student activities.

Mrs. Cannon reported that the **Boys Soccer** team broke a 33-game losing streak.