



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
April 23, 2013**

The Board acknowledged the passing of **Ruth Fleming-McAlister**, grandmother of Jill Fleming- Salopek, assistant high school principal; **James W. Law**, brother-in-law of Tammy Law, 2nd grade teacher at Park School; **David W. Cotter**, father of Madalyn Cotter, high school freshman and cousin of Jean Kearns, cafeteria worker at Park School; **Mary Ellen Billy**, mother of Brandon Billy, student at Park School; **Robert E. Olson**, uncle of Tom Olson, board member, and grandfather of Amanda Olson, middle school math teacher; and **Robert Johnston**, uncle of Joyce Kornacki, substitute secretary. It was moved by **Mr. Natale** and seconded by **Mr. Olson** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Beth Cannon called for a moment of silence for the City of Boston.

Students from **Mrs. Ruffing's** and **Mrs. Awenowicz's** kindergarten classes led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance by speaking and signing. They also sang the ABCs in a new way. They said the letter, made the sound of the letter, signed the letter, and signed an object that starts with that letter. Kindergarten Teacher **Jennifer Awenowicz** taught the other kindergarten teachers the ABC Phonics program, and they are now incorporating it into their classes as well.

Student Representative's Report

Miss Kristen Moten reported that music education majors from Seton Hill University visited Barrett Elementary School on April 4. This collaboration between Steel Valley and Seton Hill has been ongoing for 12 years to develop positive classroom management techniques prior to their student teaching. Music Teacher **Sharon Kampe** provided a workshop on classroom management tips from Lee Canter's Assertive Discipline and the Positive School Wide Behavior Support program for the Seton Hill students.

The Barrett PTO hosted a Red Carpet Event for students who earned good grades with no discipline referrals.

Officer Fife from the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission and Homestead Police **Officer Meals** made a presentation for the Barrett students on the blue bird. Students will participate in decorating special boxes that these birds can use to nest.

Volunteers from Target read a Dr. Seuss story to the first graders at Barrett.

Miss Moten stated that the middle school students are taking the PSSA Science exams. Students are being selected for the NFL Hall of Fame field trip with **Charlie Batch**.

She announced that May 8 is the Middle School Choral Concert in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. The high school band concert will be held May 8th.

Senior **Melissa Cerda** reported that the safety bug assembly would be held on April 29, and the mock crash would be held on May 7 in conjunction with the prom, which is scheduled for Friday, May 10. These activities are provided to assist students with information to make good decisions.

High school students will be taking the GRADE assessments April 24 - May 3. The AP exams will be given the weeks of May 6 and 13. The Keystone exams will be held May 14, 15 & 16. Finals will be conducted for all students during the week of May 20.

The Dr. Griffin Senior Awards Banquet will be held on May 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at St. John_s Cathedral Center.

Superintendent's Report

Director of Academics, Information & Technology **Mr. Colebank** congratulated the Extra Effort Award winners who attend Steel Center Vo-Tech School for the 3rd quarter of the school year. Certificates of Recognition were given to **Sara Lombardi** for her extra effort in Baking; **Anthony Cutone** for his extra effort in Carpentry; **Colby Templeton** for his extra effort in Computer Information Systems; and **Anthony Romagna** for his extra effort in Retail Food Merchandising and Production. This was Anthony_s 2nd extra effort award this school year.

Mr. Colebank reported on the success of the winter sports teams. The Girls Basketball team finished 8-4 in their section and 14-7 overall. The Lady Ironmen advanced to the playoffs. **CeCe Dixon** was named First Team All Section, Feb 15, Athlete of the Week and Daily News Player of the Week. The girls GPA was a 3.5.

The Boys Basketball team had a successful season after moving up from Class AA to Class AAA. The team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs (but lost in double overtime) in the 1st round game to South Park. Junior **Dorian Broadwater** was named 2nd Team All Section while **Ajan Smith** made 1st Team All Section, Daily News Feb 15, PG All Section and Trib Spotlight Athlete of the Week. The team had an overall GPA of 3.3.

The Boys and Girls swim teams almost doubled their participation from last year. They had a lot of new swimmers with outgoing, positive attitudes. **Tim Sablotny**, one of our foreign exchange students from Germany, qualified for WPIALs in the 100 breaststroke. The swim team had an overall GPA of 3.6.

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** congratulated a group of Barrett teachers and the counselor for their great idea, iPads for Speech Students to Improve Classroom Success. Their proposal was funded by The Consortium for Public Education in the amount of \$2,500. Certificates of Recognition and pins were presented to **Kristie Spotti, Tameka Akins, Maribeth Meals, Sue Wilder, Lori Oleksak** and **Alyson Fisher**.

Earlier in the month, the home of a 2nd grader from Barrett Elementary School caught fire. As the after school math tutoring program was ending, two of our teachers, **Sue Wilder** and **Dr. Carole Policastro**, smelled smoke. Both teachers ran into the burning house to look for the family. No one was at home at the time.

Second grade teacher **Jonette Bost** is the student_s teacher. Ms. Bost comforted the student and the family when they returned to their home. She made sure they had something to eat and gave them gift cards that she had in her wallet. Mr. Wehrer presented the _Steel Valley Angels_ with Certificates of Recognition for their bravery and compassion.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education

Mrs. Borges announced that the Steel Valley Literacy Fair will be held on April 25 from 5:00- 8:00 p.m. in the Senior High School.

Park School will hold its All-School Revue on May 15 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

On May 19, a Prince and Princess Tea is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. This event will benefit the Steel Valley Literacy Team_s efforts. Characters from Beauty and the Beast will be available for photos with the children.

Celebration in Education will be held on May 22 at Park Elementary School. On May 23, the Park School Band and Choral concert will be held in the high school auditorium at 1:00 p.m.

The Annual Step-Up Day for all fifth grade students will be conducted on May 24 at the Middle School.

Mrs. Borges announced that April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a complex disorder of the brain with so many levels to the disability from slight to severe. Before 1990, the chance of a child having autism

was 1 in 2,000. In 2012, it_s 1 in 88 and 1 in 55 boys. Last school year, the school district added a K-2 autistic support class. Next, Mrs. Borges would like to add a sensory room where students can go to de-escalate and calm down. With the donation from Mr. Campbell, we are using iPads in the classroom with the students.

Mrs. Lori Oleksak, autistic and life skills support teacher, discussed the use of the five iPads in her classroom. Students trace letters on the iPad to increase their fine motor skills. The iPad is used to play learning games, sorting, counting and as a reward. Mrs. Oleksak finds that students are more inclined to use technology to complete tasks. Her presentation showed various students using the iPads and being fully engaged.

Solicitor's Report

The Board accepted Anthony Barna_s appraisal bid of \$3,500.00 for each appraisal of Office Depot and Amity Square realties located in the Waterfront

The Board accepted the appraisal bid of **Anthony Barna** for appraisal of Commercial Net Leasing 130-G-100 (Shop_n Save) for consultation at \$200.00 per hour, and if appraisal needed, not more than \$2,500.00.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the March 19, 2013 worksession meeting and the March 26, 2013 regular meeting.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for April 2013 in the amount of \$323,781.25
- General Fund hand checks for March 2013 in the amount of \$326,854.30
- Food Service invoices for April 2013 in the amount of \$37,225.13
- Payroll Funding Transfers for March 2013
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending March 31, 2013
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$11,536.29
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$1,410.30
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$2,035.00
- Band Trip/hand checks in the amount of \$2,206.65
- Authorized payment from the Capital Projects account to Westmoreland Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$14,291.80, for the electrical upgrade at Park Elementary School

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Purchase of a Patriot Portable Lift from Aqua Creek Products at a cost of \$6,000.00
- Awarded the quote to J.A. Rutter Company to top dress the high school football practice field at a cost of \$3,442.44
- Awarded the quote to Advanced Turf Solutions to seed and fertilize the high school football practice field at a cost of \$1,132.90
- Awarded the quote to Manny Lopez to deep tine, spread and grade the high school football practice field at a cost of \$4,000.00

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Participation of the high school choir to sing with Foreigner at its May 24 concert at the Carnegie Library of Homestead_s Music Hall
- Request for the Future is Mine students and Mrs. Susan Olsen to participate in the Annual Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center on April 25 & 26, 2013

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to lease one classroom at Barrett Elementary School for the 2013-2014 school year
- Adopted a resolution to authorize the Superintendent to sign all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and authorized the use of electronic signatures by the Superintendent

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Family medical leave of absence for Emilee Garcia retroactive to April 9, 2013, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Child rearing leave of absence for Amanda Linder for the 2013-2014 school year according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement
- Suzanne Morgan as a day-to-day substitute teacher retroactive to April 7, 2013, for the remainder of the school term
- Erin Dawso as a day-to-day substitute teacher retroactive to April 22, 2013, for the remainder of the school term
- Bradley Pietryga and Kasey Poorman as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2012-2013 school year
- Resignation of Calley Lasure from the position of Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach effective immediately
- Denied Grievance #3-20-2013 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement as alleged
- Collective bargaining agreement between the Steel Valley Educational Support Personnel Association and the Steel Valley Board of School Directors as presented retroactive to July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015
- Collective bargaining agreement between the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals and the Steel Valley Board of School Directors as presented retroactive to July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014
- Denied Grievance #12-232 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement as alleged