



Steel Valley School District

Board Brief

**Board Meeting
October 29, 2015**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Donna Gump**, mother-in-law of Tim Vickers, high school math teacher; **Catherine Shanoski**, grandmother of Michelle Maddigan, high school science teacher and mother of Charlotte Asmonga, substitute food service worker; **Perry Zirkle**, uncle of Randy Zirkle, high school teacher; **Codi Joyce**, 2010 Steel Valley graduate; and **Ryan W. Conley**, West Mifflin Class of 2016. It was moved by **Ms. Youngblood** and seconded by **Mrs. Steele** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Mrs. Kiefer congratulated **Chelsea Rohan**, homecoming queen, and her court: 1st runner up **Taylor Claus**, 2nd runner up **Saline Auberzinsky**, 3rd runner up **Ally Reichert** and 4th runner up **Cassawndra Brugos**.

Congratulations to the Band and Color Guard for taking 1st place in the Section 8 Championship Tournament of Bands on Saturday. They also won for Visual, High Ensemble, High Percussion and High Music. They will compete in the state championship in Hershey on Sunday, November 1.

The Varsity Football team clinched a spot in the WPIAL playoffs. Congratulations to the players and coaches. Congratulations to the other fall sports teams for successful seasons: Varsity Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, Varsity Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Soccer and the Varsity Golf team.

Congratulations to **Coach Steele** for being named High School Coach of the Week by the Pittsburgh Steelers for the Ironmen's Week 5 victory over Freeport.

Student Representatives' Reports

Abbey Caspar, the junior representative to the Board, reported that students in grades 6-8 are actively utilizing their iPad devices to assist with coursework and complete projects using preloaded applications, such as, Keynote, Garage Band and iTunes U.

The fall sports season has concluded, and the girls and boys soccer teams and the girls volleyball team showed great improvement. The middle school basketball team is preparing for its upcoming season and first game next week.

Abbey reported that the high school had a wonderful homecoming week! The majority of the students participated in all of the weekly themes: wearing pajamas, different colors, superhero outfits and sporting maroon and gold. The homecoming carnival, powder puff game and the bonfire were well attended and enjoyed by the students, faculty and community.

Rachel's Challenge program is coming to Steel Valley on November 12. **Rachel Scott** was the first student victim in the Columbine tragedy, and her story has inspired many to acts of kindness. There will be a community event as well as student assemblies and leadership training for students.

The **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** has been initiating safe driving messages for students and staff, which includes wearing a seat belt and never getting in the car as a drunk driver or with a drunk driver.

High school teachers are continuing iPad training and completed the digital citizenship training. The students are looking forward to getting iPads into their hands.

Writing Across the Curriculum initiative has begun in the English, Social Studies and Science departments. The goal is for writing expectations to be consistent across the disciplines to assist students on the Keystone exams and increase fluency in AP and CHS courses.

The **Student Government** is sponsoring a “Glow Dance” and a winter semiformal. The semiformal is scheduled for January 16 at Westwood Golf Club.

A blood drive is being held on November 13.

Congratulations to the marching band for winning the section tournament.

Senior Board Representative **Elena Chaffin** reported on the elementary school happenings. At Franklin Primary Center, the fire department taught students what to do in case of an emergency. A seat belt safety check occurred on October 12. Kindergarten students participated in a fall festival parade and party on October 29. The **Queen of Hearts** shared stories with the students on October 22.

At Barrett Elementary School, October was a busy month. Students who had not been tardy or absent during September were rewarded with extra gym time on October 2.

Barrett hosted the District Health Fair on October 8. Forty families participated in the flu shot clinic and Optical Academy. The Optical Academy will return on December 7 to complete eye exams for 75 students.

The **Homestead Fire Department** visited Barrett on October 13 reminding students to know the fire exits and safety plans in their homes.

Students enjoyed participating in the homecoming festivities. Thanks to **Denise Barron** and **Jess Andzelik** for creating and hosting a bag toss game at the homecoming carnival.

A Parent University Title I Family Night was held on October 21.

Barrett students paraded to the Munhall Retirement Residence as part of the fall festival on October 30.

Students participated in the tree planting ceremony on October 21 to beautify 12th Avenue along with the Creating Value students and representatives from the **Western PA Conservatory**.

At Park School, students participated in a school wide kick off assembly, fire safety day and a pep assembly. Two fall movie nights for students were held on October 28 and 30, and a fall dance for grades 4-5 occurred on October 29

The Veterans Day assembly was held on November 6. Park School is holding a food drive from October 20 – November 20.

The after school programs are doing well with a lot of student participation.

Superintendent's Report

Since 1983, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association has been recognizing the contributions of dedicated local school directors with long-term service. School directors are first recognized when they reach 8 years of service and again every 4 years thereafter, through the HONOR ROLL OF SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, **Mr. Wehrer** presented Certificates of Appreciation to school directors **Beth Cannon** with 12 years of service and **Tom Olson** with 8 years of service. He thanked them for their commitment and dedication to the students, staff and community in the Steel Valley School District.

For 181 years, the welfare and future of the children of our Commonwealth has been entrusted to local School Boards by the Free Public School Act of 1834. The Board acknowledged **Beth Cannon, Donna Kiefer** and **Donald Bajus** for their commitment to our school district and our community and declared them **Friends of Steel Valley**.

In honor and recognition of their distinguished service to the children and citizens of the Steel Valley School District, a shelf of books shall be placed in the Senior High School Library in honor of Beth Cannon, Donna Kiefer and Donald Bajus. A Steel Valley Gold Card was presented to each for free admittance to all sporting events and activities.

Mr. Wehrer congratulated Band Director **Mike Sisley** and the marching band students for their Section 8 Championship. The students presented six trophies to the Board. Mr. Sisley praised the students for their dedication and commitment.

Homecoming week was full of activities this year, and school spirit was tremendous. Mr. Wehrer thanked all those who had a part in making homecoming week a success. He thanked **Shawn and Beth McCallister** for organizing the homecoming carnival, **Dennis Keesecker** for setting up the bonfire, and the **Munhall Fire Department** for assisting with the bonfire and providing a safe environment.

Mr. Wehrer announced that the fall parade at Franklin Primary Center was held today.

He invited the public to an inspirational evening at Steel Valley High School on Thursday, November 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the auditorium to hear the message and writings of **Rachel Joy Scott**, the first victim of the Columbine school shootings in 1999. The event is sponsored by **Students Against Destructive Decisions** and **Student Government**. The presentation hopes to inspire individuals to replace acts of violence, bullying and negativity with acts of respect, kindness and compassion.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report

Mrs. Borges announced that the annual Veterans Day Program would be held on November 11 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium. On November 6 at 9:00 a.m., Park Elementary School will host veterans for its annual Veterans Day Program, and Barrett will recognize our veterans during its program starting at 1:00 p.m.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank reported that report cards would be distributed on November 11. He noted that 21 members of the Steel Valley Geek Squad were trained on the iPads by Apple.

Solicitor's Report

The Board adopted a resolution establishing a process for enforcing distraints to enable the school district to collect real estate taxes and establish a civil penalty for tenants in possession of the realty who refuse to comply with a distraint notice.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- September 21, 2015 worksession meeting
- September 24, 2015 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for October 2015 in the amount of \$1,142,508.58
- General Fund hand checks for September 2015 in the amount of \$1,032,156.86
- General Fund Revenue Report for September 2015
- General Fund Expenditure Report for September 2015
- General Fund Trial Balance for September 2015
- Food Service Revenue Report for September 2015
- Food Service Expenditure Report for September 2015
- Food Service invoices for September 2015 in the amount of \$48,838.61
- Food Service Balance Sheet for September 2015
- Payroll Funding Transfers for September 2015
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending September 30, 2015
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet for September 2015
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet for September 2015
- Athletics Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expense Statements for September 2015
- Change orders:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Allegheny City Electric | \$2,708.61 |
| Murin & Murn, Inc. | \$13,980.00 |
- Payments from Capital Projects Fund to:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Tower Engineering | \$285.00 |
| Kudravy Architects | \$2,200.00 |
| Allegheny City Electric | \$25,837.36 |
| Honeywell | \$146,153.14 |
- Real estate refund to **John G. Thomas**, Lot & Block 133-F-116, for year 2015, as a result of a change of status to exempt in the amount of \$446.78 and to **Wells Fargo**, Lot & Block 132-M-233, for year 2015, as a result of an overpayment in the amount of \$1,923.34
- **SSIS** proposal and directed the solicitor to draft a three-year contract from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019. The rates for the new agreement are:

| Rates | New |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Hourly Rate Supervisor | \$15.59 |
| Hourly Rate for Non-Supervisor | \$14.64 |
| Overtime Rate - Supervisor | \$23.39 |
| Overtime Rate - Non-Supervisor Rate | \$21.96 |
- Adopted a resolution to acquire realty in the **Borough of Homestead** designated as Block 130 R, Lot 153
- Adopted a resolution to acquire realty in the Borough of Homestead designated as Block 130 R, Lot 00233
- Postretirement Benefit Valuation Report submitted by Willis of Wisconsin, Inc.
- Adopted an Agreement between the school district and **Legal Tax Service** for the continuation of collection of the district's delinquent realty taxes and delinquent 511 taxes for a commission rate of five (5%) percent for an initial term of five (5) years
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the assessment of penalties, interest, costs, fines, charges, expenses and fees incurred, including reasonable attorney fees, in the collection of any delinquent taxes

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Purchase of a van to be paid out of the capital projects fund in the amount not to exceed \$27,500.00. This will be a piggyback transaction with the CWCOG.
- **Tower Engineering** to create High School DDC Controls bid documents and the respective engineering that will go into those documents. The cost of engagement will not exceed \$27,900.00.
- Purchase of three fireproof security cabinets not to exceed \$8,250.00 to be paid out of capital projects
- Proposal from **DES** for \$20,852.47 for the security camera project at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field to be funded from capital projects

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- **History Club** field trip to Philadelphia, Hershey and Gettysburg on June 4, 5 and 6, 2016, at no cost to the school district
- **The Future is Mine Club** field trip to the Annual Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center on April 21 and 22, 2016
- Authorized payment of \$500 for the services of a DJ at the semiformal winter dance to be held at the Westwood Golf Club on January 16, 2016
- Created a new student activity, **Middle School Media Club**

Special Assignments

The Board held a first reading of policies in Section 600 of the Steel Valley Board Policy Manual.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted a donation of library books for the Franklin Primary Center from the **Class of 2000 Reunion Committee** in the amount of \$173.08
- Accepted a donation of \$1,300.00 for the High School Gridiron Club from the **Homestead Lion's Club**

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Appointed **Rachel Sprouse** as a substitute Secondary Assistant Principal at the Middle School at a per diem rate of \$350.00, no fringe benefits, retroactive to October 2, 2015
- Appointed **Aaron Johnson** as Acting Principal at Barrett Elementary School retroactive to October 12, 2015
- Accepted the resignation of **Cheryl Chapman** from the position of substitute teacher retroactive to October 19, 2015
- **Raquel Gaviria, Danielle White** and **Kaitlin Hensel** as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2015-2016 school year at the approved daily rate, contingent upon compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Accepted the resignation of **Tracy Findlay** from the position of KtO Reading Tutor at Barrett Elementary School retroactive to September 25, 2015
- Accepted the resignation of **Matt Janov** from the supplemental position of Intramural Supervisor at Park Elementary School effective immediately
- Appointed **Kacie Titmus** to the position of KtO Reading Tutor at Barrett Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year retroactive to October 7, 2015
- Appointed **Jay Latimire** to the supplemental position of 9th Grade Boys Basketball Coach and **Aaron Felder** to the position of Assistant Boys Varsity Basketball Coach and approved **Angela**

Hafen as a middle school cheerleading volunteer contingent upon receipt of all clearances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014.

- Created one (1) part-time districtwide cafeteria monitor position for the 2015-2016 school year
- Created two (2) districtwide paraeducator positions to support the IEPs of students with disabilities
- Accepted the resignation of **Judi Besnak** from the position of general worker in the high school cafeteria retroactive to September 25, 2015
- Appointed **Dylan Titmus** to the position of full-time custodian with all benefits of the current collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing the district's health examination and mandated screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Appointed **Susan R. Titmus** as a districtwide paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour, contingent upon passing the district's health examination and mandated screening for controlled substances effective on or about October 30, 2015
- 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)
- **Dondi Hartman, Tim Wilder** and **Robert Mangis** as substitute custodians at the approved rate contingent upon receipt of all clearances, passing the district's health examination and mandated screening for controlled substances, and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Tabled a motion to open the supplemental position of Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach
- Conduct an investigation of the Head Boys Basketball Coach