



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
May 20, 2008**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Helen P. Farkal, mother of George Farkal, retired elementary teacher; Tina Lynn Carson, cousin of Jill Fleming-Salopek, secondary literacy coach; John R. Spelman, uncle of Dianne Cain, attendance/residency checker and Erin Noblet, middle school teacher; Anna R. Giran, mother of Jack Giran, retired athletic/activities director; Frank R. Riddle, father of Rebecca Kristen, middle school teacher; William Allen, uncle of Wyona Rompala, Franklin food service; Marian Wilson, mother-in-law of Gerri Wilson, Park food service; Sara Eleanor Burk, grandmother of Bobbi Vargo, Barrett teacher; Thomas Kenavey, father-in-law of Lori Kenavey, Barrett teacher; Albert Hawk, cousin of Walt Baranowski, high school custodian; Sigrid Rousher, cousin of Bill Gentile, elementary music teacher; and Margaret Fetzko, aunt of Don Fetzko, district solicitor. It was moved by Mrs. Terrick and seconded by Mr. Natale to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey recognized several middle school students for their achievement in the Accelerated Reader Book Challenge. The students presented with certificates were Jacque Joll, Meghan Wolf, Caitlin McConville, Leena Zahir, Katy Ruffing, DJ Lewis, Julie Robson, Tu Duc Ho, Taylor Ferko, Logan Perry, Sara Pounds, Dominique Keyes, Shauna Ingraham, Ariel Busche, Bethany Neutrelle, Adeziah Hughes and Shane King.

Dr. Kinavey presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting improvements in student test scores in the district. According to the Pittsburgh Business Times 2008 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools, Steel Valley had the 3rd highest test score improvement in the western Pennsylvania schools encompassing seven counties. Steel Valley also ranked 42nd out of 105 school districts as an Overachieving District. Our students have scored above the state average on the SAT. Dr. Kinavey attributed these improvements to a good team of educators, coaches, deans of students and administrators.

Dr. Kinavey congratulated teachers for receiving Great Idea Grants this year. They are:

Opening Doors Shanna Bradfield

**Math and Science: It's
for the Birds** Sara Bouton, Michael Hofbauer, Terrie Hoffman, Steve Large,
Albert Lesutis, Bryan Macuga and Beth McCallister

Chess Mates Judy Stokes and Kevin Tomasic

Science Department Chair Sue Olsen presented certificates to Kelly Rogan, Miriam McBeth and Chris Toth who were accepted into the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute. The students will attend 10 lectures interacting with other students on Saturdays.

Ms. Ryan Dunmire introduced members of The Future is Mine team who presented a PowerPoint of their projects this school year. The Future is Mine team focused on career awareness and career exploration through peer-to-peer, peer-to-younger peer and individual projects. The team held an Opportunity Fair in March and took part in the annual conference winning a \$375 award for their Superior Peer-To-Younger Peer project entitled The Future is Yours day in collaboration with Steel Center. Fifth grade students from Barrett School went to Steel Center Vo-Tech to learn about 15 different careers. The Future is Mine team includes: Dan Rojtas, Tom Hanna,

Nicole Corsi, Jared Grace, Mark McNeil, Christian Kamensky, Kyle Thomas, Drew Hruska, Christian Maola and AJ Breznai.

The Board re-admitted a minor female student to the high school for the 2008-2009 school year as long as age and residency requirements are met.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services

Mrs. Borges reported that a special education monitoring team would be in the district.

She reported that a group would meet June 13 to look at creating a community mapping for services in the area.

A guidance department link is provided on the Steel Valley website (www.svsd.k12.pa.us) to assist students in finding scholarships, and the counselors can provide additional information. There is a lot of money available for student scholarships.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology

Mr. Colebank announced the upcoming end of the year events:

June 2	9:00 am	Middle School Academic Awards Program
June 3		Kennywood Picnic – No School for Students
June 4		Wellness Inservice Day – No School for Students
June 6	9:00 am	High School Senior Awards Program
June 10	7:00 pm	Commencement

Student schedules will be distributed to students before the end of the school year. Guidance counselors will be available for two additional weeks in June.

Mr. Colebank complimented the secondary staff for their exemplary performance analyzing student data with the academic coaches.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro also congratulated the elementary staff for their efforts in reaching high expectations. She reported that the Queen of Hearts would make her last visit to Franklin Primary Center on May 28. She is hopeful that we will receive a grant to continue this program next year.

Dr. Policastro is working with the Waterfront Development on a K-3 art and grades 4-7 essay contests. All work will be displayed at the Waterfront businesses.

She is forming an RTI Committee to support all student needs and to meet the state standards.

Dr. Policastro reported that the K-5 Language Arts curriculum is being written this summer.

Student Representatives' Reports

Senior Thomas Barefoot introduced Miriam McBeth as the new senior student representative to the Board for the 2008-2009 school year. He announced the Senior Breakfast would be held on Thursday, June 5, at 8:00 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Barrett Elementary School will hold a Family Night Carnival on May 21. On May 25, 4th and 5th grade students will be recognized at the Annual Doris Hyde Merit Day held at the Carnegie Library of Homestead. The band and chorus will also perform.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the April 15 and 22, 2008 board meetings .

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for May 2008 in the amount of \$704,868.88
- General Fund hand checks for April 2008 in the amount of \$365,369.18
- Payroll Funding Transfers for April 2008
- Treasurers' Reports for January-March 2008
- General Fund Revenue Report for March 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for March 2008
- Food Service invoices for April 2008 in the amount of \$55,921.25
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending April 30, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending April 30, 2008
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$3,833.67
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$3,952.10
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$1,112.67
- Band Trip invoices in the amount of \$206.45
- Munhall Borough real estate tax refund to Patricia McKeown for Lot & Block 179-J-157 for \$289.85
- Proposed General Fund Budget for 2008-2009 with revenue in the amount of \$27,969,003 and expenditures in the amount of \$27,958,751. Finance Chairperson Vince Natale reported there would be no increase in school taxes.

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented and contingent upon two groups acquiring adequate insurance coverage
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Awarded bid for replacement of the filter and heating system for the high school swimming pool to Ecol-o-Pack Systems, Inc., per specifications, for a total price of \$119,978 to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Increase breakfast and lunch prices for elementary and secondary schools as presented for the 2008-2009 school year
- Renewal of the contract for student photography services to Primetime Shots, Inc., of Munhall, PA, for the 2008-2009 school year, with an option to renew annually at the district's discretion; and with the proviso that the "child find" photograph and information be provided free of charge

Special Assignments

The Board approved the Southeast Area Special School and Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School Administrative Budgets for the 2008-2009 school year

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted the donation from the Adult Education Committee in the amount of \$7,224 to be used for the purchase of seven (7) SMART Technologies Smart Boards
- Awarded the 2008-2009 bid supply requests for general school, athletic, technology, health, art, library, science, music and physical education for a total amount of \$144,572.95
- Educational Services Agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Steel Valley School District for the 2008-2009 school year and authorized the appropriate officials to execute said agreement

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent unpaid family medical leave of absence for John Strom retroactive to April 16, 2008, not to exceed 60 days (12 weeks)
- Sean-Paul Joseph Richman as a day-to-day substitute for the 2007-2008 school year at a pay rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day beginning with the 31st day
- Ryan Cleary as a day-to-day substitute for the 2007-2008 school year at a pay rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day beginning with the 31st day
- Appointed Lisa Lawson, Bridget Stright, Shanna Bradfield and Susan Fontanese as special education teachers and Melissa Ladik and Mary Jo Sklencar as special education paraeducators for the extended school year program from July 7-31, 2008, at a pay rate of \$30 per hour for teachers and regular hourly wages for the paraeducators
- Accepted the resignation of Tim Vickers from the position of High School Golf Coach retroactive to April 14, 2008
- Appointed Bill Abraham to the supplemental position of Head Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach for the 2008-2009 school year
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Irene Connors from the position of food service worker in the high school, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year