



Steel Valley School District

Board Brief

**Board Meeting
January 28, 2016**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Georgeanne Youngblood**, sister-in-law of Board President Colette Youngblood and stepmother of Brittany Youngblood, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach; **Margaretta P. Ellis**, grandmother of Bridget Ellis and Ryan Ellis, former Steel Valley teachers; **Eugene P. Besnak**, father-in-law of Judi Besnak, substitute custodian; **Paul J. Shaffer**, retired custodian; **Carl Drezga**, son-in-law of Jean Kearns, Park School cafeteria worker; and **Anna Louise Wilson**, aunt of Susan Wright, secondary art teacher. It was moved by **Mrs. Steele** and seconded by **Mr. Olson** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

President's Report

Ms. Youngblood noted that the iPad distribution to high school students went well.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative **Abbey Caspar** reported on the activities at Franklin Primary Center. Kindergarten students participated in a Christmas Sing Along on December 21. A Title I Family Night was held on December 16 with a Polar Express theme. The **Queen of Hearts** read to the students on January 21, and the librarian from the **Carnegie of Homestead** read to the students on January 26. The Kindergarten students took a field trip to the **Children's Museum** on January 29.

Fifth grade students from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools traveled to the **Steel Center for Career and Technical Education** for a Career Exploration Day on December 10. Students toured the school and participated in a variety of hands-on activities in six different technical areas including: Culinary Arts, Protective Services, Cosmetology, Carpentry, Applied Health and Auto Mechanics.

At Park Elementary School, a **Parent University** was conducted on December 3 for parents, and there were activities for students. A very nice Holiday Revue was held on December 15. Breakfast with Santa was a fun time and a huge success.

Barrett Elementary School hosted the Holiday Revue on December 17 with record high attendance. There was standing room only for the show.

Barrett students collected pennies during the Penny Wars activity and chose to donate their collection to the **Ronald McDonald House, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Reflections of Grace Foundation, Make A Wish Foundation** and the **American Cancer Society**.

All Barrett students received either a book or mittens from Santa, thanks to the **Mittens for Gavin** project and teacher donations.

A STEAM event was held on December 21-22 at the Middle School. Sixteen 7th graders participated in an educational immersion event, which blended elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math; team building exercises; and human-centered design principles.

Teachers **Mike Hofbauer**, **Steve Large** and **Mark Fallon** assisted with the event along with Penn State University Professor **Dr. Daniel Borsch**.

An iPad application workshop was held for staff members focusing on EdPuzzle, Socrative, Padlet, iTunes U and Numbers.

Student registration for **Heart and Sole** is occurring in the Middle School. This international program features a running program, as well as positive messages and coping skills to navigate through life and encouraging girls to set and reach goals. Registration and more information are available through **Rebecca Kristen**.

The high school held a door-decorating contest for the holidays, which really brightened up the high school. **Abbey Caspar** reported that the students enjoy these types of activities.

On December 23, the high school held an activity day, and teachers offered different activities for the students to participate. Some of the activities included holiday arts and crafts, Dance Dance Revolution, gingerbread house building, movie in the auditorium, wiffle ball in the gym, robotics and board games.

Many students showed what it means to “Pay it Forward” by buying another student an Xbox One, games and accessories for Christmas.

The iPad Bashes occurred the first week in January at the high school and went very well. Many high school teachers attended the events, demonstrating their support of the initiative and for the students. The teachers and students are excited to have this technology to incorporate into their lessons and daily routines.

The winter semiformal was held at the Westwood Golf Club on January 16. The students had a great time. **Mrs. Beth McCallister** did a fantastic job planning the event.

The Senior Snow Tubing Day was wonderful. Students formed a chain of tubes and slid down the hill together. Thank you to Mrs. McCallister for planning this annual event.

Steel Valley SADD students hosted an information table during lunch periods to promote National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week. SADD students encouraged their peers to learn the facts about how drugs and alcohol can negatively affect your body and mind. There was a Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge, and students discussed a number of great ways to have fun that do not include using drugs or alcohol. Steel Valley SADD made the National SADD Facebook page!

Stand Together, a program with **TFIM**, is planning a project that will stop the stigma associated with mental illness. The project consists of a different activity focusing on mental illness during the week of February 22-26.

On behalf of the **Student Government**, the students thanked the School Board members for their leadership and presented them with a cake for School Board Appreciation Month.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Wehrer recognized the **Varsity Football Team** for a tremendous season (10-2) and making the semifinal game of the WPIAL AA Playoffs. **Coach Steele** thanked the Board for their support of the **Academics in Motion** program, which helps the players academically through tutoring.

Mr. Wehrer thanked the Student Government for honoring the School Board members with a cake.

He recognized the amazing students who participated in **Vinny's Wish**. He added that this is an indication that the culture of kids caring about kids and staff caring about kids is evident. Mr. Wehrer noted that he is proud of the high school students.

Mr. Wehrer announced that the **DCNR** awarded a grant to **Homestead Borough** for the renovation of Frick Park and Corry Playground. The DCNR will work with the **Creating Value** team to design these community areas. Donations included \$260,000 from **DCNR**, \$130,000 from **ALCOSAN** and \$100,000 from the **William V. Campbell Educational and Community Foundation**.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report

Mrs. Borges announced that the school district would hold Parent/Teacher Conferences the week of February 1. There will be no school for students on Friday, February 12, due to a professional development day for staff.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Colebank reported that the iPad rollout at the high school was successful. There are 51 devices to distribute to high school students. He also announced that the district must find a new Internet provider.

Solicitor's Report

The Board approved the following items:

- Payment to **Christopher Mills** in the amount of \$255.00 for arbitrator services.
- Accepted the terms and conditions set forth in the Southwest Allegheny County Tax Collection District Confidential Agreement and Authorization, and authorized the proper officers to affix their signature and seal to the contract on behalf of the District.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- November 11, 2015 special meeting
- November 24, 2015 special meeting
- December 7, 2015 reorganization meeting (Revised)
- December 7, 2015 worksession meeting
- December 10, 2015 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for December 2015 in the amount of \$794,410.21
- General Fund hand checks for December 2015 in the amount of \$958,485.25
- General Fund Revenue Report for December 2015
- General Fund Expenditure Report for December 2015
- General Fund Balance Sheet for December 2015
- Food Service Revenue Report for December 2015
- Food Service Expenditure Report for December 2015
- Food Service invoices for December 2015 in the amount of \$37,027.75
- Food Service Balance Sheet for December 2015
- Payroll Funding Transfers for December 2015
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending December 31, 2015
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2015
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for December 2015
- Athletics Balance Sheet, Revenue Statement, Expense Statement and Disbursement Report for December 2015

- Refund as a result of exoneration to **Robert or Michaelene Aber** for 133-A-252 in the amount of \$864.59 for year 2013
- Financial Statements and Audit Report for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium as of June 30, 2015
- Permitted the application for an American Express credit card in the District's name and the Business Manager, not to exceed \$5,000.00 in credit balance
- Payments from the Capital Projects Fund as follows:

Dagostino Electronic Services (Campbell Field Cameras)	\$10,417.28
Delrey Windows (HS/MS Project)	\$7,857.00
W.B. Mason (Fireproof Cabinets)	\$5,418.00
Tower Engineering (HS/MS Project)	\$1,034.63
Tower Engineering (HS/MS Project)	\$1,718.63
Tri Star Chrysler Dodge Jeep (Caravan)	\$23,740.00

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Contract with **Reliapole Inspection Services Company** at a cost of \$7,481.00 for the inspection of the Campbell Field light poles, the High School/Middle School light poles and the Tennis Courts/Dek Hockey light poles
- Contract for Architectural and Construction Administration services with **Kudravy Architects LLC** to be billed at time and material, as presented, not to exceed \$12,200.00 for the bituminous paving project at the High School and Park Elementary School
- Contract with Kudravy Architects, LLC to perform the services of Construction Administration at a cost of \$2,500.00 for the ADA Restrooms
- Permitted Administration to look into potential Internet service providers

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Authorized payment of \$2,500.00 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the **Senior Breakfast** for the Class of 2016

Special Assignments

The Board approved the following items:

- Adopted the **Pennsylvania School Boards Association's** Principles for Governance and Leadership as a guide for working together more effectively for better student achievement
- Held second reading and adopted the revisions to Policy 601 Fiscal Objectives
- Held second reading and adopted new Policy 622.1 Capitalization of Fixed Assets
- Nominated Board Member **James Bulger** as a candidate for all open positions on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted a donation of \$220,000 from the **Campbell Educational and Community Foundation** for Public Relations Services
- Accepted a donation of \$500 from the **Homestead Lions Club** for the Senior Class Breakfast
- Accepted a donation of \$7,737.23 from the **Homestead-area Economic Revitalization Corporation (HERC)** to support the Transforming Twelfth Project
- Permitted, at district expense, registration and attendance of Ms. **Colette Youngblood** for the National School Boards Association conference scheduled for April 8-12, 2016

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Created a full-time professional position of **Cyber School Coordinator**
- Family medical leave of absence for **Kimberly Glinka** to commence immediately upon the custody of a child for adoption not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for **Julie Kamnikar** to commence April 24, 2016, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Appointed **Nicole M. Mascia** to a part-time (0.5) temporary professional teaching position with a 2015-2016 assignment of part-time districtwide speech and language support teacher at a prorated salary based upon Master's Step 2 plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of Act 168, passing a physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Lisa Harrier** from the supplemental positions of High School Drama Vocal and High School Drama Instrumental and the resignation of **Alex Hinsey** from the supplemental position of High School Boys Volleyball Coach effective immediately
- Appointed **Sally Altman** to the supplemental positions of High School Drama Vocal and High School Drama Instrumental, appointed **Mary Jo Sklencar** to the supplemental position of Co-Supervisor for Park Intramurals and appointed **Mary Jo Craycraft** to the supplemental position of Co-Supervisor for Park Intramurals for the 2015-2016 school year, contingent upon receipt of all clearances
- Permitted distribution of Steel Valley Gold Cards to retired employees who are 65 years and older
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Tonya Jenkins** from the Middle School/High School secretarial position retroactive to January 22, 2016
- Appointed **Renee Gelston** to a food service worker position with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement effective immediately
- Appointed **Kelly Chalfa** to a food service worker position with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening
- Appointed **Mary Kacsur** and **Kaitlin Craycraft** as districtwide paraeducators at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing a physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening, effective on mutually agreed upon dates
- Appointed **Melanie Zortea** to the position of cafeteria monitor and assigned to Park School with all benefits of the collective bargaining agreement and appointed her as a substitute in the food service department with no benefits, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, passing a physical exam and passing the district's mandated controlled substances screening, effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Melissa Scanga** from the long-term substitute position of 5th grade teacher at Barrett Elementary School retroactive to January 26, 2016