



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
August 19, 2008**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Joseph R. Havrilla, uncle of Carol Sekura and former Board Member; Thomas B. Sowa, father of Jennifer Smith, High School math instructor; Mary Agnes Emery, mother of Vicki Deutsch, substitute caller; Richard S. Shiner, brother of Sherri Titmus, secretary at Franklin Primary Center; Mae Ankrom, aunt of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services; Clinton O'Shell III, father-in-law of Rebecca O'Shell, Park School teacher; Robin L. Gainer, mother of Lana Gainer, middle school teacher; Dorothy Bruchas, grandmother of Denise Barron, Park School teacher; and Josephine Tokay, grandmother of Denise Cullen, Athletic/Activities Office Secretary. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mr. Olson to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Vice President's Comments

Mrs. Terrick welcomed the staff and students back to school for the 2008-2009 school year. The district purchased two new metal detectors and installed a camera security system to ensure the safety of the staff and students.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey noted that the middle school breezeway has been enclosed and will be safer for the students walking between the buildings.

Meet the Principal Night schedule for student/parent orientation:

Monday, August 18 Middle School 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20 Senior High School 6:00 p.m.
Franklin Primary Center 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 21 Barrett Elementary School 5:30 p.m.
Park Elementary School 6:00 p.m.

The teachers and staff return on Monday, August 25, for a clerical day to prepare their classrooms. On Tuesday and Wednesday, August 26 and 27, the teachers and staff will participate in professional development activities. All students begin school on Thursday, August 28.

The Board readmitted a minor female student to the Steel Valley High School for the 2008-2009 school term provided she meets the age and residency requirements of the school district.

Mr. Ducar announced that Mr. Bill Campbell is funding a \$3.3 million project to erect a gymnasium and four classrooms adjacent to the Barrett Elementary School. The building will be built on the current playground.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services

Mrs. Borges announced that a three-day inservice was held for the special education teachers on August 11-13. Changes to Chapter 14 Special Education State Regulations, the new special education forms, and required procedures and best practices in progress monitoring were reviewed.

Training will be offered on the revisions to Chapter 14 Special Education Regulations and Least Restrictive Environment for district staff and parents later this fall.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology

Mr. Colebank announced that a new online portfolio system will be available for parents to check the academic progress and assignments of their children this school year. Parents will receive an access code from the school this fall.

The computer network project is underway for the 2008-2009 school year. New switches are being installed in each building to convert the data traffic from 100 MG to 1000 MG. Additional fiber lines have been installed to increase the performance of the network.

New metal detectors have been installed at the High School. These new metal detectors along with the new camera system will increase the ability to identify and document problems. A committee will be formed to review the function of the system.

Director of Elementary Education

Dr. Policastro reported that elementary students would participate in the Imagination Project in cooperation with the Waterfront. The theme this year is *Homestead: Past and Present*.

The elementary schools will initiate Tuesday Folders this year. On Tuesdays, children will bring home notes and announcements for parents. Parents are encouraged to look for the Tuesday folder and return it to school on Wednesday.

Dr. Policastro reported that teachers and administrators are writing for various grants in the areas of art, environment, and economics. Spanish will be taught at the Kindergarten level this year, and the district will add one elementary grade each year for this instruction.

Data Driven Analysis (DDA) will be implemented in the elementary schools. The DDA framework will assist in monitoring students' academic achievement level, and the DDA framework will utilize a variety of formal and informal assessments. Formal and informal assessments are a systematic process to continuously gather evidence about students' learning.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of the June 17 and 24, 2008 board meetings.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for 2007-2008 in the amount of \$284,981.54
- General Fund invoices for July and August 2008 in the amount of \$307,699.80
- General Fund hand checks for June 2008 in the amount of \$529,941.98
- General Fund hand checks for 2007-2008 in the amount of \$36,292.63

- General Fund hand checks for July 2008 in the amount of \$444,031.25
- Payroll Funding Transfers for June and July 2008
- Treasurer's Report for May 2008 General Fund Revenue Report for May 2008
- General Fund Revenue Report for June 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for May 2008
- General Fund Expenditure Report for June 2008
- Food Service invoices for June 2008 in the amount of \$8,101.00
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending June 30, 2008
- Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending June 30, 2008
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$15,969.03
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$650.00
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$3,265.54
- West Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Gary & Beverly Anthony for Lot & Block 90-H-86 in the amount of \$281.38 as a result of a change in assessment Quote from PSBA through Cusumano Agency for renewal of package, automobile and umbrella insurance for the 2008-2009 school year for a total cost of \$60,214
- Proposal from Valuation Engineers, Inc., at a cost of \$5,900 for the initial appraisal, \$690 per year for the continuation of the annual revaluation; and \$495 per year for the continuation of the annual accounting supplement
- District officers to sign the Full and Final Release for All Property Damage Claims from York Claims Service and accept the payment of \$5,650 for property damage that occurred to the high school entryway by George's Moving and Storage
- Officers of the district to sign the engagement letter dated June 30, 2008, from local auditor Maher Duessel, at a cost of \$12,340 for basic financial statements and the Single Audit, \$2,050 for the audit of the Act 511 tax collector, and \$1,700 each for the Homestead, West Homestead and Munhall Borough tax collectors
- Kades-Margolis proposal for 403(b) compliance services at no cost to the school district
- Offer of \$30,000 for the purchase of property located at 224 East 12th Avenue, Homestead and authorize the proper officers of the district to complete all necessary steps required to effectuate the sale, including but not limited to a title search, and payment of the purchase price, recording the deed and realty transfer tax

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Fundraising requests as presented
- Advertising of bids for installation of air conditioning in the middle school cafeteria/gymnasium to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund
- Advertising of bids to raze the Woodlawn building, to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund, for the purpose of building a suitable school building structure

Special Assignments

The Board held a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 218 Student Discipline and of new Policy No. 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying.

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Revised the 2008-2009 school calendar to include an Act 80 day on Thursday,

October 23

- Disposal of 450 Social Studies textbooks located at the middle school
- Letter of Agreement between the Steel Valley School District and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide nonpublic services to low income students at St. Therese and Ascension Schools for the 2008-2009 school year

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Reinstated all persons who were replaced by teachers as event workers and Co-Curricular Committee to develop a policy to fill these positions
- Accepted the resignation of Tim McCallister from the Board of School Directors effective immediately
- Accepted the resignation of Hampton Conway from the position of middle school math teacher effective immediately
- Accepted the resignation of Amy Hogg from the position of first grade teacher at Barrett Elementary School effective immediately
- Accepted the resignation of Karen Suppok from the position of high school physical education/health teacher effective immediately
- Accepted the resignation of Dr. Beth Tully from the position of Principal of Park Elementary School effective immediately
- Unpaid child rearing leave of absence for Kristie Spotti commencing after the exhaustion of her accumulated sick leave and personal days
- Jamie Fleck to a temporary professional position in foreign language assigned to the high school with salary and benefits based upon 2nd step Bachelor's as per the collective bargaining agreement effective at the start of the 2008-2009 school year
- Ryan Cleary to a long-term substitute position in math assigned to the middle school with salary and benefits based upon 1st step Bachelor's as per the collective bargaining agreement effective at the start of the 2008-2009 school year and contingent upon his passing a general physical exam and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Jonathan Edwards to a long-term substitute position in social studies assigned to the middle school with salary and benefits based upon 3rd step Bachelor's as per the collective bargaining agreement effective at the start of the 2008-2009 school year
- Regina Takos, Christy Ruffing, Nicole Adams and Kim Gennari as teachers at a rate of \$30 per hour and approve Betty Lyons and Mary Lou McConnell as paraprofessionals at a rate of \$15 per hour for the Title I Summer Camp retroactive to August 4-15, 2008
- Board Vice President and Board Secretary to execute Professional Employee contracts for Tameka Akins, Nicole Asson, Denise Barron, Traci Churilla, Elizabeth Holland, Benjamin Lander, Bryan Macuga, Dana Mathews, Larry McKern, Melissa Pentin, Mariann Reilly, Kimberly Sheaffer, Kristie Spotti and Susan Wilder
- Renewed contracts for school psychologist services at the listed rates effective immediately
- Office of Pupil Personnel and Special Services to contract with Therapeutic Specialists, Inc., for occupational and physical therapy services as required at the listed rates
- Accepted the resignations of Susan Salapa from the supplemental position of middle school academic challenges and Clay Karadus from the supplemental position of girls_ volleyball head coach
- Supplemental positions for the 2008-2009 school year
- Supplemental positions of department chairpersons for the 2008-2009 school year
- Day-to-day substitute teachers and school nurses for the 2008-2009 school year

at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter

- Day-to-day substitute teachers Rachel Burner, Tracey Betschart, Jessica Ducar, Katherine Resanovich, Jessica Kapsha, Stephanie Guarino, Brian Keesecker, Juli West, Lisa McCartney, Grace Link and Nicole Goga for the 2008-2009 school year at a rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter
- Volunteers for the 2008-2009 school year contingent upon receipt of Act 34 and 151 clearances
- Increase of \$1.50 per hour for Irvin Williams, security guard at Barrett Elementary School, effective for the 2008-2009 school year