



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
March 30, 2016**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Louis Hutcherson, Sr.**, uncle of Tameka Akins, special education teacher at Barrett Elementary School; **Ronald “Toody” Lucas**, 1988 graduate of Steel Valley and brother of Jim Bartko, high school secretary; **Glenn G. McNeish**, retired maintenance supervisor for the Munhall and Steel Valley School Districts and father of Kimberly McNeish Kubancsek, former Steel Valley Board Member; **Tamara A. “Tami” (Rochford) Claire**, Steel Valley Graduate and daughter of Cathy Rochford, retired Barrett Elementary School teacher; **Roy M. Uplinger, Jr.**, uncle of Kim Watkins, secretary to the Superintendent; **Joseph M. Dolan, Sr.**, grandfather of Dan Rojtas, Steel Valley Board Member; **Richard J. Puzio**, former Steel Valley Board Member; and **Arthur Raimondo**, uncle of Dr. Carole Policastro, instructional resource teacher at Barrett Elementary School. It was moved by **Mrs. Steele** and seconded by **Mr. Bulger** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

### **Student Representative’s Report**

Student Representative to the School Board **Elena Chaffin** reported the high school would be offering new electives to promote STEAM education. Some of the new courses include robotics, creative writing, public speaking, entrepreneurship and marketing, and coding and application creation. The students are excited about these new courses.

The **Student Government** sponsored a very successful blood drive on March 14. High school students, staff members, a School Board member and community members donated blood, and over 100 local patients will be supported and potentially saved due to the generosity of everyone who gave or volunteered.

Other recent Student Government service projects include the Math-A-Thon and St. Jude Jeans Days that raised over \$3,000 for **St. Jude Children’s Hospital** and Jeans for Babies Day that raised \$383 for **The March of Dimes**.

Prom tickets will go on sale starting April 4 through April 15 and can be purchased before or after school. Over 70 students sold hoagies to pay for their prom ticket this year.

Spring sports have started, and Elena wished the baseball, softball and boys volleyball teams the best of luck. Student artists experienced Painting with a Purpose as a fundraising opportunity.

High school teachers are beginning a post-secondary planning initiative called **iCare**, which stands for Ironmen Career and Readiness Education. This program will assist students plan for continued success after they leave Steel Valley.

In the middle school, the boys volleyball season is in progress with home games starting at 3:15 p.m.

The middle school administration initiates weekly updates via the Alert Now phone system every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

The PSSA Assessment schedule is as follows:

- English Language Arts will be conducted April 11-14
- Math assessment will be held April 18-20
- Science assessment for 8<sup>th</sup> grade only will be conducted on April 25-26

At Park Elementary School, students and staff celebrated Read Across America Week with educational activities. The PTO meeting was well attended on March 9.

On March 10, Park School hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> **Parent University** this school year. The parents had an opportunity to learn more about curriculum and programs offered in the school. Parent workshops included iPads, PA Core Math, Hands-on Science, transition to middle school and more. Families dined together and then the children went to a galaxy far, far away while the parents went to school. Staff members guided the children through Star Wars themed reading activities, and the children received a Star Wars book of their choice.

Park students received an ice cream reward through the School Wide Positive Behavior Support program. Students and staff attended Carnegie Science Center assemblies on March 18. The students learned about anatomy and how the inside of the body works.

Sixty dads attended breakfast with their children at Barrett Elementary School. **Mr. Aaron Felder**, principal intern, spoke to the dads about the important role they play in their children's lives. Counselor **Alyson Fisher** shared data about the needs of Barrett students, and she asked the dads to increase their participation in school activities.

Barrett students and staff put on an amazing Black History Month showcase with guest presenter, **Mr. Sean Gibson**. Students spent the month learning about the Negro Baseball League. March kicked off with Seuss Week, and the students wore crazy hats, silly socks and of course dressed wacky for Wednesday. A Title I Family Night took place on March 2 as part of the celebration. First Grade Teachers **Mrs. Barron** and **Mrs. Gennari** gathered the first grade students from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools for a Seuss Day of activities on March 4.

One hundred Barrett Moms attended the Moms and Muffins breakfast on March 22. Barrett Parent **Tammy Thompson** and Counselor **Alyson Fisher** spoke to the moms about the importance of working together to help our children achieve academic success.

At the Franklin Primary Center, **Officer Fritz** brought the K9 dog to visit with the kindergarten students. **Mr. Stephen**, librarian from the Carnegie of Homestead, came to read to the children during story time. A Title I Family Night took place at Franklin, and the PTO held an evening painting fundraiser.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Wehrer** announced that the Creating Value members interviewed architectural design firms for the Transforming 12<sup>th</sup> Project.

### **Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Report**

**Mrs. Borges** announced that disability awareness activities are occurring in the middle school and high school. There are signs, daily announcements and parent training calendar on the website for special education training.

### **Director of Academics, Information and Technology Report**

**Mr. Colebank** reported that the end of the third grading period is coming to a close. The school district will determine the ranking of students and announce the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2016. Students are encouraged to keep up their grades through the end of the year.

## **Solicitor's Report**

The Board accepted the bid by **Anthony Barna** to do the appraisals for the school district on the realties designed as Block and Lot 130-H-200 at the bid cost of \$3,500 and Block and Lot 130-G-100 together with Block and Lot 130-G-101 at the bid cost of \$3,500.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- February 22, 2016 worksession meeting
- February 25, 2016 regular meeting

## **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for February 2016 in the amount of \$752,536.05
- General Fund hand checks for February 2016 in the amount of \$421,529.83
- General Fund Revenue Report for February 2016
- General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2016
- General Fund Balance Sheet for February 2016
- Food Service Revenue Report for February 2016
- Food Service Expenditure Report for February 2016
- Food Service invoices for February 2016 in the amount of \$42,053.82
- Food Service Balance Sheet for February 2016
- Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2016
- Capital Projects Statement of Income and Expense for month ending February 29, 2016
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2016
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2016
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2016
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2016
- Maher Duessel CPAs to perform audit work for the period ending June 30, 2016, at a rate of \$22,100.00
- Arthur J. Gallagher & Company as the insurance agent for the school district
- Statement of Real Estate Tax Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances for the period ending December 31, 2014, and associated Management Letter comment for the Boroughs of West Homestead, Munhall and Homestead
- Payments from the Capital Projects Fund in the amounts of \$18.44 and \$6,846.25 to Tower Engineering
- Placing out for bid the school and athletic supplies for the 2016-2017 school year

## **Operations**

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Placing out for bid the waste removal services

## **Co-Curricular Leadership**

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

## **Special Assignments**

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted the revisions to Policy 328 Compensation Plans/Salary Schedules
- Held second reading and adopted new Policy 328.1 Credit for Salary Placement
- Held first reading of revisions to Policy 240 Awards
- Held first reading of revisions to Policy 217 Graduation

- Voted for Judith E. Andzelik to a School Board Trustee position for the Southeastern Region of the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium for a two-year period effective March 31, 2016

### **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Adopted the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented
- Adopted the 2016-2017 Academic Handbook for the Senior High School
- 2016-2017 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget totaling \$2,021,185
- 2016-2017 Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit

### **Communications**

Mr. Wehrer announced that a School Board Retreat is planned during the evening hours of April 13 and 14 with Dick Jones Communications.

### **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Appointed Erika Tkach to a full-time long-term substitute position effective on a mutually agreed upon date for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school term based upon prorated Master's Step 1 salary plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of a health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Appointed Tayler Hammell to a full-time long-term substitute position retroactive to March 3, 2016, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school term based upon prorated Bachelor's Step 1 salary plus prorated benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement and contingent upon receipt of a health examination, screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Christie Barron and Rachel Campedel as day-to-day substitute school nurse and teacher effective immediately for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school term at the approved daily professional substitute rate and contingent upon compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Arica Smith to the Boys Varsity Head Volleyball Coach position and Andrew Greenhow to the Boys Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach position effective immediately, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Superintendent to participate in the Superintendent Academy for an intensive professional development experience focused on establishing systems to address the needs of students in poverty
- Appointed Ashley Hanley to the position of part-time secretary in the district with prorated salary and benefits according to the secretarial/aide collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon passing a general physical examination, the district's mandated screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Appointed Lynan Cochrane to the position of Districtwide Paraeducator at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status according to the secretarial/aide collective bargaining agreement effective on a mutually agreed upon date, contingent upon passing a health examination, the district's mandated screening for controlled substances and compliance with Act 168 of 2014
- Increasing the daily substitute rate for teaching professionals to \$120.00 per day effective immediately
- Removing staff salaries from the Steel Valley website