



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
September 24, 2013**

The Board acknowledged the passing of **Shirley Pido**, mother of Holli Bobick, Park School paraeducator and sister of Joy Kardos, former food service supervisor; **William J. Bevan**, great grandfather of Deirdre Kamauf, kindergarten teacher; **Joseph A. Chuba**, former teacher at Homestead High School where he was also assistant football coach and basketball coach; and **Robert P. Rochford**, husband of retired teacher Cathy Rochford. It was moved by **Mr. Natale** and seconded by **Mrs. Kiefer** to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Edward Wehrer** introduced **Mrs. Toni Besh**, World Language Department Head, to discuss the new Mandarin Chinese course offered after school. Eighteen high school students are attending the virtual classroom Monday through Thursday via satellite from the A. W. Beattie Institute in the North Hills. Mrs. Besh stated that it is a difficult language, but the students are up for the challenge and feel it is a great opportunity.

Mr. Wehrer announced that the Allegheny County Department of Public Works closed Homestead-Duquesne Road between Franklin Street and Duquesne Avenue to vehicle traffic effective September 12. Foot traffic will be permitted up until the actual work begins, which is expected to start on October 15 and will last approximately three weeks. The road will be closed to foot and vehicle traffic during construction.

Our band competed at Elizabeth Forward this past week, and they received a score of 76.4. This score puts the band in 2nd place out of 26 bands along the East Coast. We wish the band good luck this weekend at Baldwin.

High School Science Teacher **Sue Olsen** submitted applications for 12 junior students to participate in the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute.

We have four (4) students taking a Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) at Brown University, which is an Ivy League school. The course is three weeks long, and it is designed specifically for high school students considering engineering. The students are: **Brittany Furlong**, **Layla Phoutavong**, **Ajan Smith** and **Milan Star**.

Student Representative's Report

Junior Brandon Tomasic reported that **Dr. Kay Atman** from the University of Pittsburgh introduced a music program based on character education for the students at Barrett Elementary School.

The 4th and 5th grade girls from Barrett and Park Elementary Schools will be attending a Pitt Women's Basketball game in early November. The 5th grade students from Barrett Elementary School are preparing for a field trip to Providence Plantation located in Ellwood City, and the National Character Education Foundation will provide financial assistance.

Principal **Kevin Walsh** will attend an ASSET training program on elementary science.

The 5th grade safety patrol captains at Park School are **Ben Votedian, Anthony Perry, Alayja Owens** and **Kamryn Blasko**.

Park School held its *Park Power Kickoff* with **Mr. Jon Pritikin** telling his amazing story of how he overcame being bullied as a child. They also held an Officer Phil assembly on safety.

On October 12, the students and staff of Park School are participating in a Mini-Walk-A-Thon to benefit pediatric cancer. The walk will take place at Griffin Field adjacent to the Senior High School at 9:30 a.m.

Middle School students will participate in an anti-bullying program conducted by the school psychologist, and the 6th grade students will work with counselors from the Allegheny Children's Initiative learning social skills and how to deal with peer pressure.

In the high school, a class in Mandarin Chinese began for the first time. Students from Point Park University are tutoring students after school in math, language arts and social studies.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services and Elementary Education Report

Mrs. Diana Borges announced that students would be dismissed early on Tuesday, October 8, to allow for a professional development opportunity for the staff.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mr. Ed Colebank noted that the district would be conducting Alert Now test calls to parents and guardians to update phone numbers in the student management system.

Progress reports will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Colebank reported that 32 secondary students are enrolled in the Steel Valley Cyber School using Edmentum by Plmastery tests.

Solicitor's Report

The Board authorized the Solicitor to respond to Allegheny County that the school district will participate through the Solicitor in the negotiations for the donations of realty designated as 179- N- 25, and authorized the Solicitor to agree on behalf of the school district to extinguish any existing liens on said realty pursuant to 53 P.S. § 7108.1 (b)

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- August 6, 2013 worksession meeting
- August 13, 2013 regular meeting
- August 23, 2013 special meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$36,573.32
- General Fund invoices for August 2013 in the amount of \$399,215.28
- General Fund hand checks for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$91,601.99
- General Fund hand checks for August 2013 in the amount of \$227,781.43
- Food Service invoices for August 2013 in the amount of \$20,878.04
- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2013
- General Fund Revenue Report for July 2013
- General Fund Expenditure Report for July 2013
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2013 General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2013
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending August 31, 2013
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$6,495.41
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$148.83
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$4,305.00
- Band invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$795.60
- Appointed Tom Olson as the treasurer for the school district
- Appointed PNC Bank as the depository for the district for the 2013-2014 school year
- Authorized Kristin Van Strien to assist the district in the e-Rate application for year 2014 at an estimated cost of \$4,000
- Authorized the purchase of vacant properties adjacent to Barrett Elementary School through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program
- Authorized necessary budget transfers for the 2012-2013 school year

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Authorized the soliciting of bids to replace the remainder of the middle school/high school roof to be paid from the capital projects account
- Repainting of lines and purchasing new nets at the tennis courts
- District officials to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the school district and the three boroughs effective for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years
- Awarded electrical installation of the Pavilion to Canova Electrical Contracting, Inc., per specifications, to be paid from capital projects

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- 8th Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C., on May 8-10, 2014, at no cost to the district
- History Club Field Trip to Boston, MA, and West Point, NY, on May 24-25, 2014, at no cost to the district

Special Assignments

Board Member Tom Olson will attend the School Leadership Conference in Hershey as a representative for Steel Center Vocational-Technical School.

The Board approved the following items:

- Held second reading and adopted revisions to Policy No. 123 Interscholastic Athletics
- Chose the following PSBA candidates:

President-elect	Mark Miller
Vice President	Larry Breech
Treasurer	Otto Voit
At-Large Representative	Dan O'Keefe

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Adopted the School Emergency Operations Plan for emergencies and disasters occurring within the Steel Valley School District
- 2013-2014 Education Plan as presented by the Superintendent

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of David Krakoff effective immediately
- Appointed Douglas Broglie to the position of Interim Middle School Principal retroactive to September 9, 2013, at a rate of \$300 per day and no fringe benefits
- Appointed Rachelle Bersamina as a half-time, long-term substitute art teacher for the duration of Mrs. Linder's leave of absence at a prorated salary on Master's Step 1 and prorated fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 11, 2013
- Appointed Toni Besh to the Mandarin Chinese supplemental position for the 2013-2014 school

year retroactive to September 16, 2013

- Approved Brittany Boker, Briana Nasson, Hope Wright, Tayler Hammell, Jeffrey Pingor and Garrett Mackenzie as day-to-day substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year, contingent upon receipt of current clearances at the approved daily rate and retroactive to August 27, 2013
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of furloughed secretary Ellen Mooney from the position as part-time secretary in the middle school office, retroactive to January 2, 2013
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Stephen Thompkins as a districtwide paraeducator retroactive to September 9, 2013
- Appointed Mary Jo Craycraft as a districtwide paraeducator at a rate of \$7.25 per hour and fringe benefits according to the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and passing the district's mandated screening for controlled substances which must be completed within 30 days retroactive to September 16, 2013
- Appointed Virginia Franklin to the position of general worker in the Barrett and Franklin cafeterias, 4.5 hours per day, at the 90-day probationary rate of 85% of \$9.60 (\$8.16) per hour and all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 9, 2013
- Created a part-time cafeteria aide position (2 hours per day for 180 days) at Park Elementary School, with all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement
- Approved a family medical leave of absence for Audrey Titmus, high school cafeteria worker, retroactive to September 9, 2013, not to exceed 60 days
- Approved a family medical leave of absence for Michael Mulligan, high school custodian, retroactive to September 23, 2013, not to exceed 60 days