



## Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting  
December 2, 2014**

### **Re-organization Meeting**

Congratulations to **Mrs. Donna Kiefer** on her re-election as Board President and **Ms. Colette Youngblood** as Vice President of the Board of School Directors for the second year.

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Edward A. Bakota**, grandfather of Jill Callahan, third grade teacher at Park School; **Henry Smid Jr.**, uncle of Vonnie Smid, secondary science teacher; **Aimee G. Stultz**, niece of Susan Olsen, high school Biology teacher; **Charles W. Mort**, grandfather of Roy Mort, high school custodian; **Alberta Reichert**, aunt of Mickey Pavasko, Barrett custodian; and **Rita Mayo**, aunt of Linda Terrick, fifth grade teacher at Park School. It was moved by **Mr. Terrick** and seconded by **Mrs. Steele** to place an appropriate selection of books into the school libraries in their memory.

### **Student Representative's Report**

Student Representative **Brandon Tomasic** reported that students at Franklin Primary Center participated in the High School Veterans Day program by singing *You're a Grand Old Flag*. Students visited the **Carnegie Library of Homestead** on November 25. They toured the library and listened to stories by the librarian.

At Barrett, **Pat Warnick** and her dog **Howie** are providing weekly reading therapy to second grade students in **Mrs. Szczypinski's** classroom. The students have been very excited to read to **Howie**. Research shows that reading fluency improves with reading practice. **Ms. Warnick** has been a volunteer for many years at Barrett Elementary School; she is the sister of retired Barrett teacher, the late **Kathy Marzec Butler**.

On November 10, Barrett held its annual Veterans Day assembly in a dinner theater style atmosphere. National Career Week was recognized from November 10-14 with volunteers sharing information with students about their careers.

The kiln has been installed and loaded with the first set of pots created by fourth grade students. The addition of the kiln has given the art room a new excitement. They are very grateful to **Mr. Campbell, Mr. Walsh** and **Mr. Keesecker** for their roles in acquiring the kiln and arranging the installation.

The first issue of *PAWSitive Press* was distributed to students featuring articles written by fifth grade students. Barrett also launched a Facebook page in October to post upcoming Barrett events.

The **All School Holiday Program** will be conducted on December 18 at 9:00 a.m. at Barrett Elementary School.

Barrett's fifth grade students experienced several field trips recently. The fifth grade boys attended a **Pittsburgh Penguins** hockey practice, while the girls watched a **Lady Panthers** basketball game. The entire fifth grade class traveled to **Providence Plantation** to learn about early colonial life.

Students were able to turn in 10 power cards for entrance to the **Thanksgiving Movie and Popcorn Nights** on November 25 & 26 at Park School.

Veterans Day was celebrated on November 13 at Park School. A special thank you to the **Mrs. Denise Blasko** and the **Veterans Day Committee** for a special program.

Park School hosted **Family Math Night** on November 20. They would like to thank **French Teacher Toni Besh** and the **French Club** for their help with the event.

The **All School Holiday Program** will be held on December 19 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at Park Elementary School. Thank you to Substitute Music Teacher **Mrs. Kerri Kleinhans** for her hard work preparing students for the program.

Eighth grade students attended a performance of *The Tell-Tale Heart* and other Edgar Allan Poe plays on November 20.

On December 9, the **Middle School PTO** has planned an ice skating party at Schenley Ice Rink. The next PTO meeting will be held January 5, and the schoolwide kick-off for the Ironman card sale will begin January 8.

In the high school, students will be taking the Keystone exams on December 9-11.

On November 7, the **College in High School Debate** class toured the University of Pittsburgh, attended college classes, and attended a debate on concussions and youth football.

The winter sports season began on November 17, which include boys and girls basketball, swimming and, new this year, bowling.

On November 26, a ceremony was held to honor the **Boys Baseball** team and present them with their 2014 WPIAL Championship rings.

The **Honors Choir** consisting of juniors and seniors performed at Parkview Towers on November 12. Junior **Adam Pasay** made District Choir.

**Mrs. Logan** and **Mr. McKern** hosted the annual Chemistry Week in November.

A select group of **SADD** students took the initiative to spend a day off from school at the SADD Conference on November 18.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Ed Wehrer** introduced Assistant Principal **John Strom** to recognize the accomplishments of the players and teams during the fall sports season and the Extra Effort Award winners.

This year both the Girls and Boys Cross Country teams improved greatly. The boys team had a record of 5 wins and 3 losses in section 5 Division II. The team GPA this season was 3.4.

The Girls Varsity Soccer team endured a tough season. They played hard to the last whistle of every game. Captains **Jodi Joll** and **Cayley Labishak** provided leadership to the team. The team's GPA this season was 3.8.

The Golf team, led by Senior Captain **Jesse Cantley**, compiled a 6-8 record, finishing fourth in the section. Jesse placed first at the Century Conference Tournament, was a sectional qualifier for the fourth straight year, and participated in the Division II individual championship. The team maintained a 3.3 GPA this season.

The Boys Varsity Soccer team entered this year with great optimism and energy to compete in their new WPIAL Section 5. The senior leadership of Captains **David Grace, Steven Ruffing,** and **Connor Szczepankowski** would prove to be very important toward the development of the team's playing style. Seniors **Connor Tuttle** and **Nicholas Abraham** were mainstays on the defense while **Anthony DeMartino** and **Justin Tester** created the majority of the team's scoring chances. The team's GPA was a 3.3.

The Varsity Football team completed its season with a 6-3 record and placed fourth in their section. The Ironmen earned a WPIAL playoff spot, but unfortunately lost in the first round to Washington High School. Congratulations to the 2014 Century Conference All Section players: **Tyrone Freeman, DeWayne Murray** and **Brandon Donovan**. The team's GPA was 2.6.

The Girls Volleyball team finished their season 4-12 overall. This season was a great improvement from last year, with their senior captains **Kristen Moten, Jill Wellman,** and **Marissa Stahl** leading the way. The team had great communication and a strong ability to work together. They are looking forward to next season and continuing to build the program. The team's GPA was a 3.7.

Marching Band finished in first place at multiple competitions throughout the year. They also took third at two other competitions. They qualified to perform in the Atlantic Coast Championships at Hershey Park where they placed 18th. **Ryan Lasek, Amber Travis** and **Milan Starr** will represent the school district in District Band at Greater Latrobe High School.

**Mr. Strom** recognized the following students who were honored at a reception at Steel Center for Career & Technical Education on November 6 for winning the Extra Effort Award for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2014-2015 school year:

<b>Anthony Wright</b>	Advertising & Design
<b>Hunter Wallace</b>	Building Trades
<b>Annie Ribeau</b>	Computer Information Systems
<b>Abigail Berneburg</b>	Cosmetology
<b>Regis Robson</b>	Electrical Construction

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

**Mrs. Diana Borges** announced the dates and times of the high school choir's community performances:

December 12	10 a.m.	<b>Honors Choir</b>	Pittsburgh International Airport
December 15	12 Noon	<b>Honors Choir</b>	BNY Mellon–One Mellon Center Lobby
December 19	12:20 p.m.	<b>Concert Choir</b>	Allegheny County Courthouse

The high school **Winter Band Concert** will be held December 17 beginning at 6:00 p.m., and the **Choral Concert** will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The elementary **All School Holiday** concerts will be held at Barrett Elementary School on December 18 beginning at 9:00 a.m., and at Park School on December 19 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Students will be dismissed early on December 16 for the staff to attend professional development. On December 23, the students and staff will be dismissed early to begin the holiday break.

## Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

**Mr. Colebank** announced that progress reports would be going out next Wednesday.

He noted that the Apple equipment has arrived, and the professional development for the teachers will begin this month.

### Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- September 4, 2014 special meeting
- October 27, 2014 worksession meeting
- October 30, 2014 board meeting

### Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for October 2014 in the amount of \$577,034.50
- General Fund hand checks for October 2014 in the amount of \$1,566,826.26
- Food Service invoices for October 2014 in the amount of \$50,953.63
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2014
- General Fund Revenue Report for October 2014
- General Fund Expenditure Report for October 2014
- Trial Balance for October 2014
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for month ending October 31, 2014
- Custodial/hand checks in the amount of \$14,679.55
- Middle School/hand checks in the amount of \$5,882.50
- Athletic invoices/hand checks in the amount of \$1,150.00
- Band Trip/hand checks in the amount of \$898.25
- Authorized payments from Capital Projects in the following amounts to **Tremco** for \$39,505.47; **Honeywell** for \$9,325.00 and \$23,325.00; **Franjo** for \$120,000.00 and \$46,000.00; and **Allegheny Safe & Lock, Inc.** for \$8,443.12
- Real estate tax refunds:
  - **Marlene Price**, Lot & Block 179-K-172 in the amount of \$31.60 for year 2014
  - **Jiyun Gazdik**, Lot & Block 132-D-120 in the amount of \$438.99 for year 2013
  - **Patricia Sommers**, Lot & Block 181-A-43 in the amount of \$228.48 for year 2013
- Independent Auditor's Report issued by Grossman Yanak & Ford, LLP for Allegheny County Health Consortium for years ending June 30, 2014 and 2013
- Accepted the Gas Consortium's recommendation to enter into a contract for the purchase and sale of natural gas for the period November 5, 2014, through August 2016

### Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Awarded the bid for the 2001 16 ft. Texas Bragg Trailer in the amount of \$527.00 to **Al Gaudino**
- Awarded **Blair Construction** the Post-Metal Building bid in the amount of \$138,356.00
- Inclusion of District facilities and grounds in the recreational planning to be conducted by the boroughs of Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead

### Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- Authorized payment of \$800 for the disc jockey services of **Steve Maffei Company** at the prom to be held at The Circuit Center on May 15, 2015

- Authorized payment of \$2,500 to the Senior Breakfast/Reception account to defray the costs of the **Senior Breakfast** for the Class of 2015

### **Special Assignments**

The Board held a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 117 Homebound Instruction

### **Educational Leadership**

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted a donation of \$7,400 from **The Pittsburgh Foundation** to support the planning for the Creating Value Program
- Adopted 2015 Board meeting dates
- Accepted the Special Education Performance Grant in the amount of \$8,915 and appropriating the associated expenses
- Accepted a donation of \$102,500 from the **Campbell Educational and Community Foundation** for training and the operation of the Creating Value program
- Accepted a donation of \$69,921 from the **Campbell Educational and Community Foundation** to support the new technology partnership with Apple
- Accepted a donation of \$291,791.70 from **Apple Inc.** to implement the first phase of the new districtwide technology initiative. This donation from Apple is in honor of **Bill Campbell's** exceptional service with Apple Inc.

### **Personnel Management**

The Board approved the following items:

- Denied two (2) additional paid bereavement days for **Susan Olsen** on November 6 & 7, 2014
- **Randy Taylor** to the supplemental position of Varsity Assistant Girls Basketball Coach and **Will Smith** as a Varsity Girls Basketball volunteer
- Rescinded the supplemental appointment of **Eric Roberson** to the position of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach
- Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health for **Bradley Thompson** for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year per the provisions of Article XV of the collective bargaining agreement and Policy No. 831
- **Corey Keyes** as an athletic volunteer for the Varsity Boys Basketball program retroactive to November 25, 2014
- Appointed **Aaron Felder** to the supplemental position of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach retroactive to November 26, 2014
- Appointed **Ed Tozzi Jr.** to the supplemental position of Bowling Coach retroactive to November 26, 2014