



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
January 23, 2007**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Mrs. Geraldine Palmieri, Senior High teacher; Mr. James Guy, husband of former Board Member Robin Guy; Mr. Kevin Harrison, Steel Valley student; Mrs. Thelma Rice, Former Board Member and Aunt of Kim Watkins; Mr. Albert V. Lesutis, father of Al Lesutis, Middle School teacher; Mrs. Janet M. Luvara, mother of Marguerite Luvara, Senior High teacher; Mrs. Pauline M. Pushcar, mother of Rita Slava, retired teacher. In their memory, books will be placed into the Steel Valley School District Libraries.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Kinavey noted that January is School Director Recognition Month and wanted to thank Beth Cannon, President, Joseph Ducar, Colleen Fedor, Brian Heddleston, Kimberly Kubancsek, Vice President, Edward McCallister, Timothy McCallister, Martha Sloan and Pamela Terrick, the Steel Valley School Board Members, for their outstanding service to the children and citizens of the district. The theme this year is "Creating Opportunity & Inspiring Dreams" and some of the opportunities the Board has created are the Dual Enrollment Program, Work to Career Study Program, new PSSA courses at the Middle School and Senior High School as well as tutoring programs throughout all schools in the district.
- The Board approved readmission of a minor male student to the Senior High School on a probationary basis for the remainder of the 2006-07 school term.
- The Crisis Team presented an overview of the procedures that were taken during and after the recent events in the district. The next Crisis Team meeting will be held near the end of February. The date, time and place of this meeting will be advertised and parents and citizens are invited to attend.

Solicitor_s Reports

- The Board adopted the resolution expelling a minor male student for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year and the first semester of the 2007-08 school year.

Pupil Personnel & Special Services Report

- Mrs. Diana Borges reported that the district has been awarded two grants. The first is a \$58,440 Pennsylvania Department of Education special education grant to enhance school based behavioral health services for students. Steel Valley has also received a \$10,000 grant to improve effective inclusive practices for the 2006-07 school year.

Secondary Education Report

- Mrs. Bethany Fenyus noted that the following 13 Steel Valley teachers have been selected as nominees for the Teacher Excellence Program:

Bryan Macuga	Brian Bungard	Steve Singer	Sara Bouton
Hampton Conway	Toni Besh	Ryan Dunmire	Yvonne Smid
Traci Churilla	Christina Levkus	James Dauray	William Seaman
Jennifer Williams			

- Congratulations to Sharon Ellis and Susan Olsen, Steel Valley High School teachers, who have been inducted into the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers.
- A Memorial Scholarship is being established in the name of Mrs. Geraldine Palmieri. This scholarship will be awarded to a student studying business or technology education.
- The district would like to recognize the following Steel Valley Alumni and their unique contribution or specialty:

Mr. Ed Piskor who recently illustrated the book Macedonia

Mr. Jim Tamsula who became the San Francisco Forty-Niner's Football Team Line Coach

Mr. Tony Bonacorso, a featured hockey player at Arizona State University, who has been selected to play for Team USA at the World University Games in Torino, Italy.

- Congratulations to the Steel Valley Middle School on their Keystone Achievement Award. .

Elementary Education Report

- Ms. Carole Policastro reported on the consecutive Keystone Achievement Awards for Park Elementary School. Park Elementary has been receiving these awards since 2003.

Board Secretary's Report

- Mr. Bichko reported on architect's and plumbing invoices.

Student Representatives' Report

- Grades 8 through 11 have been practicing for the upcoming PSSA writing tests that will be taken on February 12-23, 2007.
- Middle School students utilizing the Study Island Program have surpassed their goal of answering 500,000 questions. This program is used in PSSA test preparation classes.
- Middle School Principal, Mr. Kevin Walsh, will be showing a Smart Boards presentation at the February Board meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

November 28, 2006	Worksession Meeting
December 5, 2006	Re-Organization Meeting
December 5, 2006	Regular Meeting
December 11, 2006	Reconvened Re-Organization Meeting
December 11, 2006	Special Meeting

Financial Management

- The Board approved the following financial items:

General Fund hand checks for November 2006	\$274,387.23
General Fund hand checks for December 2006	\$782,344.28
General Fund invoices for December 2006	\$575,422.37
Payroll Funding Transfers for December 2006	
Food Service invoices	\$63,166.13
Capital Improvements 2000-2001 Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending December 31, 2006	
Steel Valley Foundation for Education Statement of Income and Expenses for the month ending December 31, 2006	
Custodial invoices	\$398.39
Band Trip invoices	\$775.20
Custodial/Hand Checks	\$14,433.01
Band Trip/Hand Checks	\$492.65
Middle School/Hand Checks	\$1,680.30
Athletic/Hand Checks	\$16,399.32

Authorized Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Kenneth & Loretta Weir in the amount of \$254.02

Authorized West Homestead Borough real estate tax refunds to Frank & Dina Urda in the amounts of \$398.65 and \$331.90 for a total of \$730.55

Authorized West Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Helen Kalansky-Buchko in the amount of \$12.50

Authorized West Homestead Borough real estate tax refund to Park Corporation in the amount of \$1,804.11

Authorized West Homestead Borough real estate tax refunds to Armand & Lisa Gress in the amounts of \$370.83, \$378.40 and \$370.83 for a total amount of \$1,220.06

Approved the appointment of Alice Paylor as Deputy Tax Collector for the Borough of Homestead, as appointed by the elected Tax Collector, Mrs. Bessie Phillips

Approved the Steel Valley School District 2007-2008 Proposed Preliminary Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$26,908,415.00

Authorized the district's solicitor to retain the services of certified real estate appraiser Mark Shonberg in the amount of \$4,000 for the assessment appeal of Guardian Self Storage

Operations

The Board approved the following:

Facility Rentals as presented

Facility rental requests as presented

–Fundraising requests as presented

–Donation, to the High School Spirit Store, of old uniforms and equipment which may have nostalgic and/or pecuniary value; and authorize the Spirit Store to retain any proceeds; and authorize the Director of Facilities to coordinate the disposal of those uniform and equipment items which have no apparent nostalgic or pecuniary value

–Payment of Burt Hill Invoice No. 0119193 in the amount of \$314.20 as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project for services rendered during the period of October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006

–Payment to FranJo Construction in the amount of \$4,765 as presented on their Payment Application No. 5, their final payment application on the High School Auditorium Renovation Project

–Payment of Burt Hill Invoice Number 0119425, in the amount of

\$223.73, as presented on their progress billing for the High School Auditorium Renovation Project

–Adopted the resolution to designate David Conrad as a Friend of Steel Valley

–Accepted a donation of backpacks containing school supplies from Costco Wholesale for students at Barrett Elementary School and the 6th grade students at the Middle School

–Awarded bid for districtwide cell phone service to Verizon at a cost of \$28.69 per line per month. The quotation includes equipment at no cost to the district and provides the sharing of 200 minutes per line per month and the monthly service fees will be subject to e-rate reimbursement of approximately 60%

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following:

–Opening a custodial account for the History Club

–The transfer of \$20,400 from the general fund to the History Club custodial account to be used to commission a painting of James Campbell for the entrance to the middle school gym for \$5,000 and \$15,400 for upcoming projects by the History Club to be mutually agreed upon between the School Board and the History Club for projects that benefit the students

–Creation of a Guitar Club for Senior High School students with Jason Novak as the volunteer sponsor

–The revised Steel Valley Cheerleading Parent Group Bylaws as presented

- The Board approved developing a cooperative agreement between the Steel Valley School District and St. Therese students who are residents of the District, for the Spring 2007 Steel Valley Athletic Program for sports that are not offered at St. Therese so long as there is no violation of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL)

Special Assignments

- The Board approved the following items:

–Held a first reading of revisions to Policy No. 140 Title I Districtwide Parental Involvement, new Policy No. 140.1 Title I Parent Involvement Barrett Elementary School Program and new Policy No. 140.2 Title I Parent Involvement Franklin Primary Center Program

–Appointed Mrs. Martha Sloan as the School Board representative to the Enterprise Zone for 2007

Educational Leadership

- The Board approved the following Educational Leadership items:

- _ The Inclusive Practices Mini-Grant Agreement and authorized the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said agreement

- _ Adoption of Holt Algebra I, Holt Algebra II and Holt Geometry, authored by Bennett, Jackson, Scheer, Chard, Milgram & Waits and published by Holt for the 2007-08 school year at an approximate cost of \$21,500

- _ Adoption of Calculus: Concepts and Context, authored by James Steward and published by Thomson for the 2007-2008 school year at an approximate cost of \$1,700

- _ Adoption of Working, authored by Dr. Larry J. Bailey and published by Thomson-South-Western for the 2006-07 school year at an approximate cost of \$1,650

- _ The 2007-2008 Senior High School Academic Handbook with revisions as presented

- _ The 2007-2008 Middle School Academic Handbook as presented

- _ The Special Education Performance Grant/School Based Behavioral Health Grant, Contract for Services and authorize the Board Secretary and Board President to execute said agreement

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following Personnel items :

- Adopted the Administrative Compensation Program as presented for school years 2006-2010

- Unpaid leave of absence for Dawn Kunca-Kapolka on February 15 and 16, 2007

- Unpaid leave of absence for Erin Cain on November 21, 2007

- Appointed Anthony Verbanick to the position of tutor at a rate of \$30 per hour per the EAP tutoring grant through May 8, 2007

- Retroactively approved the attendance of Diana Borges to the School Based Behavioral Health Grant meeting in Harrisburg on January 18, 2007 at no cost to the district

- Attendance of Yvette Logan at the International ChemEd 2007 Conference to be held July 28-August 2, 2007 at the University of North Texas at a total approximate cost of \$762

- David Aber, Wendi Weller, Kathryn Diener, Peter Chichvak, Marissa Sacco, Nicole Salopek, Ralph Valenzi, Frederick Kuehner, Tim Hinkle and Jason Burk as substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day thereafter

- Accepted the resignation of Clay Karadus from his supplemental position of Boys' Volleyball Head Coach

- Appointed individuals to the 2006-2007 Winter/Spring athletic supplemental positions as listed

– Amendments to the Secretarial/Aide Education Support agreement previously ratified on December 5, 2006, as presented

– Brian Keesecker as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner, and also as a summer worker, pending passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened

–Matthew Dolan as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner, and also as a summer worker, pending passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened

–Michael Thomas as a substitute custodian, a four-hour cleaner, and also as a summer worker, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened

–Andrew Breznai as a substitute custodian and as a four-hour cleaner, contingent upon receipt of acceptable Act 34 and 151 clearances and passing the district's mandated physical examination and drug-screening test, which must be done within 30 days or the position will be re-opened

– Motion to deny Grievance Nos. 12-2-06, 12-3-06, 12-4-06, 12-5-06 and 12-20-06 due to no violation of the collective bargaining agreement