



## **STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Memorial Books**

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Sandra L. Mehalik**, mother-in-law of Lori Mehalik, Park School Kindergarten teacher; **John Merichko**, brother-in-law of Diana Merichko, high school cook, and uncle of Jennifer Perhac, middle school paraprofessional; **Hazel Hunt**, retired Barrett Instructional Math Resource teacher; **Natalie Wrzesinski**, cousin of Lori Mehalik, Park School Kindergarten teacher; and **Vickie Walker**, niece of Diana Borges, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services. It was moved by **Mrs. Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Mrs. Ligeros** to place appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

### **Presentation**

**Ms. Susan Cooper** of BDA Engineering stated that the HVAC MS/HS Project is in the home stretch. The first air system, which is larger, has been switched over and is operating in SPAN mode. The second air system is being switched over tonight and will be operational tomorrow. The factory will start up the heating and cooling roof top units. Once the factory starts up the units, they will be starting on the next phase--boiler units. The two (2) new boilers are installed and will be up and running soon. Other than ceiling tiles being put back in place, the general contractor is basically done. **Mr. Colebank** reported that two (2) cameras are looking at the back of bulk heads and three (3) cameras still need adjusted.

Ms. Cooper reported that the project came in within budget and with \$40,355 left in the contingency fund. **Mr. Keesecker** noted that this project was one of the smoothest he's been involved with.

### **Board President's Report**

**Mr. Bulger** reported that **Mr. McCallister**, Athletic Director, high school gifted teacher, and SVEA President, is a special guest on the Zoom meeting. The Board passed a Health & Safety Plan that offered hybrid learning, remote learning or Steel Valley Cyber Academy. The hybrid model would allow one (1) student group to receive in-person learning on Monday/Tuesday and the second group would attend in-person on Thursday/Friday. Everyone would be remote on Wednesday. The teachers, administrators and School Board thought it was a good plan. However, the facilities were not ready due to items not delivered on time. The District is now using a plan for synchronous student learning. Students were given new iPads, logging in from home and following their daily schedule. The synchronous learning has been going well. This model of synchronous learning is superior to what we were going to do. If we start on October 5 with the asynchronous model, the students would not be receiving live instruction four (4) days a week. It would be a step back. We need to be ready for the next step.

The Board met with the teachers and administrators to see how the district could continue with synchronous learning and in-person learning. It was determined to finish the first grading period with the synchronous model. The second nine-week period would begin with hybrid and synchronous learning. This gives the District time to come up with the best possible plan, and it will allow an opportunity to test the interactions between students and teachers. We will also resurvey parents about returning to the buildings.

Mr. Bulger reported there have been concerns about attendance at sporting events. The first week the District provided two (2) parents passes for outdoor sports and no spectator passes for indoor sports. Starting today, four (4) family passes were offered for outdoor sports and two (2) parent passes for indoor sports. Live streaming of the games is continuing.

Since Allegheny County increased the indoor gathering limit, the School Board meetings will return to being held on two different nights. The October worksession and executive session will be held on Monday, October 26, and the regular voting meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29. The meetings will also be streaming on YouTube live.

### **Student Representatives' Reports**

**Ms. Kristen Craycraft**, Senior Student Representative to the School Board, reported that the middle school sports season started with soccer, cross country, and volleyball. She welcomed the new staff members to the middle school: **Ms. Vasy**, math teacher; **Ms. Lucas**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher; and **Ms. Olack**, substitute secretary. **Dr. Johnson** would like all of the students to keep up the good work during remote learning and remind all parents to sign up for their child's Sapphire account.

In the high school, students are off to a good start with remote learning. Virtual college visits have been scheduled, and students should refer to **Mr. Novak's** guidance page for details. The last day for schedule changes will be Friday, September 25. Teacher office hours are from 2:10-2:50 p.m. daily. Evening office hours are also available, and Kristen referred students to the guidance page for dates and times as well as Zoom links. The SV Tech Support team is available to help with any technology concerns by calling 412-464-3600 ext. 1551.

Fall athletics have begun. Thanks to all of our subscribers, all home sporting events will be broadcast on our YouTube channel.

**Student Council** had a blood drive scheduled for September 21, but it had to be canceled due to COVID-19. They are hoping to hold blood drives in January and April. Hosting these blood drives not only helps save lives, it is a way for students to earn community service hours. Blood drives also provide scholarship money that our Student Council awards to some of our seniors each year.

**Steel Valley Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** had a busy school year. Since Pennsylvania SADD had to cancel their conference this year, they have been hosting virtual sessions each week that many of our SADD members have participated. Steel Valley SADD President and PA SADD student leadership member, **Sophia Thompson**, co-hosted one of the sessions. SV SADD also organized a social media campaign that encouraged everyone not to drink and drive.

**Mr. Ben Novotny**, Junior Representative to the School Board, reported on the elementary schools. At Barrett Elementary School, teachers are doing a great job adjusting to the instruction on the Google classrooms, and the majority of the students are focused on their academics at this time.

Parent training is taking place this evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to accommodate the needs and concerns related to the current use of technology.

Lunch and dinners are being distributed daily to students, and the lunch ladies are doing a fantastic job. Families can pick up lunch between 10:30 and 12:30 on Monday through Friday, and dinner is distributed between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday at all three schools.

Barrett has two student teachers for the fall session. **Ms. Kady Paczkoskie** is working with **Sue Wilder** in fourth grade, and she is from Duquesne University. **Ms. Abbie Bauer** is working with **Alyson Fisher** to be a school counselor, and she is enrolled at California University. Please check out her Bitmoji related to careers on the Barrett Office Google Classroom in the student career resource section.

The school year is off to a great start at Park Elementary! Students have been working hard in their virtual classrooms, and they are learning a lot. Park staff would like to thank parents and guardians for their patience and flexibility during this difficult time. Thank you for staying positive and working with us to get the year off to a good start! Let's continue to work together to do the best job we can for the kids.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Mr. Wehrer** announced that teachers are working evening hours to support students. If students have questions, they should take advantage of those evening hours. Parents and students can find the links to Zoom meetings on Google Classroom in the School Office.

**Girls Varsity Soccer** team is undefeated, and Mr. Wehrer is very proud of them. He is expecting them to have a fantastic season.

Meal distribution is available during lunchtime Monday through Friday. All the schools are offering these meals, and we would like students to take advantage of them. We want children to have good nutrition. The District is also providing meals on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Middle School sports have started this week.

On behalf of the Wehrer family, I would like to express our thanks for the prayers and support.

### **Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report**

**Mr. Colebank** asked parents to sign up on the Sapphire Student Management system. The District will use the information in Sapphire as communication tools via phone calls, emails and texts. Each student can have four (4) family member accounts. Parents can add phone numbers to receive a phone call, phone number for a text and an email address. He suggested parents check their child's attendance on Sapphire. If you have any questions, please utilize the [svtechsupport@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:svtechsupport@steelvalleysd.org) or phone 412-464-3600 ext. 1551.

Mr. Colebank discussed recommendations for iPad use. Twice per week, it is appropriate to wipe down iPads with a sanitary cloth and then wipe with a dry cloth. He noted to keep the protective case on the iPads. He advised students to shut off iPads before charging them by using the power button or "shut down" for a full charge.

### **Solicitor's Report**

The School Board exonerated the unpaid realty taxes on the following unseated lands owned by the Borough of West Homestead and identified as Block and Lots: 131-A-62, 131-A-64, and 131-A-67.

### **Financial Management**

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for September 2020 in the amount of \$521,163.45
- General Fund invoices for 2019-2020 paid in 2020-2021 in the amount of \$13,536.47
- General Fund hand checks for August 2020 in the amount of \$1,094,045.89
- General Fund hand checks for 2019-2020 paid in 2020-2021 in the amount of \$801,328.54
- General Fund Revenue Report for August 2020
- General Fund Expenditure Report for August 2020
- General Fund Balance Sheet for August 2020
- Food Service invoices in the amount of \$3,493.72
- Food Service Revenue Report for August 2020
- Food Service Expenditure Report for August 2020
- Food Service Balance Sheet for August 2020

- Payroll Funding Transfers for August 2020
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2020
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2020
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2020
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for August 2020

- Payments to:

A-1 Electric, Inc.	Pay Application #3	\$50,658.75
Canova Electric	Invoice #41430	\$19,240.00
Lugaila Mechanical, Inc.	Pay Application #4	\$564,819.88
P2 Contracting LLC	Invoice #AIA 3	\$114,191.26
Sunray Electric Supply Co.	Invoice 1339669-1	\$591.22
Sunray Electric Supply Co.	Invoice 1339979-1	\$406.67
Sunray Electric Supply Co.	Invoice 1339320-1	\$630.71
Sunray Electric Supply Co.	Invoice 1339152-1	\$476.87

The funds will be paid out of the 2019 Capital Project Fund for the HS/MS HVAC Project.

- P2 Contracting LLC Change Order for the HS/MS HVAC Project to furnish and install 2 hr. rated access panel in music room plaster ceiling for Electrician for \$446.47

### Operations

The Board tabled a motion to approve the facility rental as presented.

### Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

### Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- 3Rs School Service Agreement between the Pittsburgh Study, which is an initiative of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Barrett Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year
- Memorandum of Understanding between Adagio Health and the District for the purpose of implementing the Power Up Eat Right Nutrition Education Program effective October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022
- Accepted a grant of \$20,000 from the Department of Education for Dyslexia Screening and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program Expansion for the 2020-2021 school year
- Disposal of surplus laptop equipment that is damaged or outdated from the list as presented and approved the professional staff, who have requested their device that specifically stores their documents and files, to purchase at the cost of \$120.00
- Disposal of damaged and retired IT wireless equipment from the list as presented
- Amended Health and Safety Plan as presented

### Personnel

The School Board approved the following items:

- Family Medical Leave of Absence not to exceed 60 days in duration for Employee No. 1272 retroactive to August 31, 2020
- Appointed **Alexis Lucas** to a long-term substitute teaching position with an assignment of 5th grade in the Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year at a prorated salary of \$41,687 Bachelor's 2<sup>nd</sup> year non-tenured status and according to Policy No. 328.1 plus prorated benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 2, 2020
- Appointed **Hanna Brandebura** to a long-term substitute teaching position with an assignment of History teacher in the Senior High School until the end of the approved leave

of absence for Employee No. 505 or for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, whichever comes first, at a prorated salary of \$41,687 Bachelor's 2<sup>nd</sup> year non-tenured status and according to Policy No. 328.1 plus prorated benefits as outlined in the SVEA collective bargaining agreement retroactive to September 2, 2020

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Leslie Hairston**, districtwide paraprofessional, effective September 28, 2020
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **Joan Tezbir**, food service worker, effective November 2, 2020
- Leave without pay through the duration of illness, retroactive to June 8, 2020, as found in Article XI, Section B.1 of the Steel Valley Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professional collective bargaining agreement for Employee No. 576. Employee will be able to continue individual hospitalization once the FMLA eligibility period has expired as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement.
- Promoted **Traci Riley** to a full-time cafeteria cook position at Park Elementary School retroactive to September 14, 2020
- Transferred **Keith Caito** to the position of cafeteria general worker assigned to Park Elementary School retroactive to September 8, 2020. He will be placed at the bottom of the seniority list for the Steel Valley Support Personnel Association collective bargaining agreement.
- Hired **Gregory Wimbs** to the position of cafeteria monitor at Barrett Elementary School and hired **Judy Van Hyning** to the position of cafeteria monitor at Park Elementary School, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and passing the District's pre-employment screenings
- List of applicants as presented to the substitute call list for custodial and food service staff when needed, contingent upon receipt of current clearances and passing the District's pre-employment screenings
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Carolyn Whewell** from the supplemental position of Varsity Cheerleading Coach retroactive to September 15, 2020
- Fall supplemental appointments as presented for the 2020-2021 school year