



STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **Melvin Jackson**, father-in-law of Tameka Akins, special education teacher at Barrett Elementary School; **Alan D. Martin**, father of Susan Wright, high school art teacher; **Connie P. Minchoff**; mother-in-law of Vince Natale, former School Board member 2007-2014; and **Dr. James B. Schmunk**, former Acting Superintendent in the Steel Valley School District and Interim Principal at Park Elementary School and Franklin Primary Center. It was moved by **Ms. Adams** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhás** to place appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Board President's Report

Mr. Bulger reported that the Dr. Griffin Senior Awards Ceremony would be held May 5 in the High School Auditorium. He stated that the Board would consider the Preliminary Budget for the 2021-2022 school year at tonight's meeting. He added that 90% of the District's expenses are set by the state, collective bargaining agreements and PSERS obligations.

Student Representative's Report

Ben Novotny, Junior Student Representative to the School Board, reported that spring is here, and Park School's 1st graders got their hands (a little) dirty as they worked to figure out what plants need to grow. Do they need water? Soil? Sunlight? Plants actually only need two of those, and if you're not sure which two, ask a first grader! Students recorded what they learned in their science journals and then planted everything outside.

Mrs. Callahan's 3rd grade students have grown tremendously as writers this year. They have written descriptive Christmas sweater papers, personal narratives, opinion writing, and last month they had the opportunity to write Limericks. They worked hard following EVERY step of the writing process!

Everyone at Park School was feeling lucky on St. Patrick's Day as the school was covered in a sea of green. Students participated in a variety of St. Patrick's Day activities in their classes, which were a lot of fun. Definitely the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activity, where some of the kids constructed leprechaun traps, was the best!

The **Queen of Hearts** talked with her loyal subjects this month about how important it is to be kind everyday. The Park Elementary School Kingdom is definitely a better place because of the Queen, and the students are all working hard to be kind everyday so she will be proud of them when she returns!

Everyone knows the boys and girls from Munhall, West Homestead, and Homestead are made of tougher stuff, and **Mason Keesecker** and **Shay Krynski** proved it when they pinned their opponents in the Pennsylvania Southwest Wrestling Finals. Great job boys!

Finally, April is **Autism Awareness Month**, and it's a great time to remind ourselves that Park Elementary School is a better place because everyone here is unique!

On April 7, Barrett School recognized **National Take a Walk Day** and encouraged students and parents to get out and get some exercise. They are also recognizing **Career Day** on April 15, and students will be dressed in appropriate attire for their chosen careers. **Earth Day** will be recognized on April 22. A **Family Night** in-person and outdoors at different times for each

grade level will be held, and families will be doing a tie-dye activity.

PSSA exams at Barrett School have been moved to the second half of May. The attendance for the students who have returned to school is approximately 90% and monthly rewards are given to students with perfect attendance.

Middle School reports that the PSSA testing schedule will be May 17-19 ELA; May 24-25 Math; and May 25-26 Science for 8th graders only. A detailed testing schedule will be provided to families in early May. Parents are encouraged to check their student's Sapphire account to monitor their progress in academic courses.

High School reports that Keystone exams and final exams are scheduled for May 17-19. A detailed testing schedule will also be available in early May.

The **High School Student Government** hosted a Blood Drive on April 15, which was a huge success. **Mrs. McCallister** would like to thank all the students, staff and community members who donated blood.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer announced that the **National Honor Society Induction Ceremony** would be held in our High School Auditorium on May 5 prior to the **Dr. Griffin Senior Honors Awards** program.

The **Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation** in partnership with the **Allegheny Intermediate Unit** and the **Grable Foundation** are honoring principals in Allegheny County schools. The Penguin's "Most Valuable Principal" (MVP) program highlights the amazing work done over the past year, recognizing principals who demonstrate innovative approaches to learning, continuously striving for excellence and a passion for their schools and students. This pilot program recognizes the difficult and unprecedented times that our local school systems have had to endure during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Penguins named these MVPs and presented a monetary donation to them courtesy of the **Grable Foundation**, which is to be used for a school project of the principal's choosing. They will also receive a prize package consisting of Penguin goodies including a personalized Penguin jersey. There were 15 winners of this MVP award; one of those winners is one of our own, **Kevin Walsh**, Barrett Elementary Principal. Mr. Wehrer congratulated him and added that Mr. Walsh goes above and beyond at Barrett. Whether he is going to students' homes or continually working to make the educational experience for both staff and students at Barrett to be the best it can be, Kevin Walsh is a tireless advocate for excellence and learning at Steel Valley. Congratulations Mr. Walsh!

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank began his report with a very serious message to students and parents. The devices issued to students are for student use only. Do not utilize personal files or messaging on these devices. The reason is because other students and/or staff can view the information when the devices are brought back to school. These devices are issued to the students; they are not family devices. He also stressed that no one should falsify their name or use someone else's name and log into any messaging system or Zoom. These devices are tracked to the household IP address.

He also reported that Sapphire will be used more next year within the classrooms. Students will need to know how to log into their Sapphire account. Contact the Technology Department

for assistance to change passwords in Sapphire. Moving forward, the Principals' Messages will be relayed through Sapphire. They are trying to limit the phone calls going out.

Finally, Mr. Colebank stated that smart televisions are being placed in more of our classrooms and cafeterias, and a new sound system will be installed in the High School Library.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of:

- March 22, 2021 worksession
- March 25, 2021 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following items:

- General Fund invoices for April 2021 in the amount of \$300,200.17
- General Fund hand checks for March 2021 in the amount of \$2,836,951.59
- Food Service invoices for March 2021 in the amount of \$28,547.28
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2021
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2021
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2021
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for March 2021
- Refunded **Waterfront Owners Association**, Wilkow, M&J, Lot & Block 130-E-201, in the amount of \$589.88 for year 2020
- Adopted the **Proposed Final General Fund Budget** for the 2021-2022 school year with a millage rate of 26.1082, an increase of 1.0282 mills. The General Fund Revenues are projected at \$37,599,107 and the Expenditures are projected to be \$40,488,886. The Deficit of \$2,889,779 will be partially absorbed by the General Fund's Fund Balance.

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility usage requests as presented
- Authorized district officials to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the school district and the **Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead Police Departments** to be in compliance with the Safe Schools Act effective for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years
- Accepted the quote from **AB Specialties, Inc.**, to supply and install three double exterior doors and two single exterior doors to the Middle School Campbell gym in the amount of \$30,400.00 as presented

Special Assignments

Mrs. Ligeros congratulated **Marianly Maria-Antigua** for receiving an Extra Effort Award in Cosmetology for the third grading period at **Steel Center for Career & Technical Education**.

Since the beginning of February, in-person learning has been increased to four days each week at Steel Center. Adjustments have been made for cleaning and sanitizing the building. As of March 29, 138 students were enrolled in full remote learning and 563 students chose the hybrid model. Currently 26 students and staff members have received COVID-19 vaccinations. That is about 55% of the staff, and they are working to make it available to the remaining 21 employees.

The 2021-2022 Steel Center student recruitment and scheduling plan has arranged activities for 9th and 10th grade students and their families. March 31 was the deadline for the first round of 2021-2022 student applications, and a total of 327 students have applied to enroll in Steel Center next year. Applications may continue to be accepted until September 30 although program availability may be limited.

Steel Center hosted its third blood drive on March 30, and it was a huge success. They are advertising for teachers for the Exercise/Science Rehabilitation Services and Veterinarian Assistant Programs. Steel Center's Senior Recognition ceremony will be held on June 2 at Baldwin Stadium with a rain date of June 3.

Mon Valley also received a donation of a violin for its music department from #theeducationpartnership and #farinafoundation. The school does not have many instruments for its students.

Mrs. Ligeros reported that Mon Valley's art teacher assisted the students to create a virtual art show. The art show can be viewed at:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSVcWlqaLSUjx6ed2wSHyn8QhbpRkoUuVFsFz9dN1-tVoJPwHUC9pXu4ahMNt437c427Upu9DZy3QMi/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=2000&slide=id.g7fecff51ba_0_27

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Adopted the 2021-2022 Official School Calendar as presented
- Accepted the donation of a \$50 gift card from **Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds** for the purchase of vegetable seeds

Personnel

The Board approved **Abigail Slezak** as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year at the approved daily rate of \$120 per day, contingent upon receipt of current clearances, compliance with Act 168 and passing mandated employment screenings, which must be completed within 30 days