



Steel Valley School District Board Brief

**Board Meeting
December 7, 2010**

The Board acknowledged the passing of Norman McMillan, uncle of Ben Lander, high school teacher; Vincent Milano, uncle of Steve Large, middle school teacher; Patricia Bevan, grandmother of Deirdre Kamauf, kindergarten teacher; Irene Hess, aunt of Mary Ellen Totin, elementary school nurse; Dr. Nick J. Staresinic, retired superintendent of Highlands School District; Betty Johnson, aunt of Joyce Kornacki, part-time high school secretary; Dolores Sutton, mother of Toni Besh, high school teacher; and Regis N. Urban, father-in-law of Darla Urban, substitute secretary. It was moved by Mrs. Kubancsek and seconded by Mr. Ducar to place an appropriate selection of books into the Steel Valley School District Libraries in their memory.

Re-organization

Meeting Congratulations to Mrs. Cannon who was elected President and Mrs. Kubancsek who was elected Vice President of the Board of School Directors for the second consecutive year.

President's Report

Mrs. Cannon announced that the school district staff, board members and community members are supporting Mrs. Maria Heddleston, Park School teacher, by wearing _Team Maria_ pink t-shirts. Mrs. Heddleston was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. To follow Maria_s journey, you can go to the Lotsa Helping Hands website:
<https://ncfa.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/634255/>.

She also announced that high school students and volunteers would be participating in the Steel Valley Extreme Home Makeover project to improve homes in the Steel Valley Community. To apply for a home makeover, applications are available on the Steel Valley website: www.svsd.k12.pa.us or from Teacher Ryan Dunmire at the high school. Applications are due January 7, 2011.

Student Representative's Report

Senior Kaitlyn Baran announced that Park School held a schoolwide book fair in November. Parent/teacher conferences were well attended during the afternoon and evening of November 9. The annual Veterans Day program was held November 12 uniting the school and community and providing an opportunity for the staff and students to express gratitude to these distinguished service men and women.

At the middle school, a Title I Family Night was held that provided reading, games and tips to help parents work with their children at home. Both boys and girls groups are underway helping students with decision-making, organization, anger management and cyber bullying. *Safe School Route* street signs will be installed on proper paths to and from school. The school has invested in purchasing copies of the Black Chronicle created by Arthur Bloom. The articles will be used with the African American studies in Social Studies and Language Arts classes.

An outstanding high school Veterans Day program was held on November 11. A blood drive was held on November 24 for students and residents sixteen and older. A Festival of Trees coordinated by the Student Government can be viewed in the high school lobby. Members of various high school clubs decorated the trees.

The Future is Mine Club is accepting donations and contributions toward Santa Paws. Donations will be given to Fallen Timber Animal Shelter. The choral and band concert is scheduled for December 15 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The annual Financial Aid Seminar will be conducted on December 16 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. to inform students and parents about financial aid. The anticipated holiday break begins with an early dismissal on December 22.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kinavey introduced Principal Bryan Macuga who presented information on Park Elementary School's Bullying Prevention Program. He shared some statistics on bullying from an article entitled, "School Bullying Statistics--The ABCs of Harassment." Over 75% of school aged students are subjected to verbal or physical harassment. In a survey conducted in 2009 over 100,000 children carried guns to school as a result of being bullied. On a daily average 160,000 children miss school because they fear they will be bullied if they attend classes. Every 7 minutes a child is bullied on a school playground with over 85% of those instances occurring without any intervention. Finally, the top 5 states in regard to reported incidents of bullying are California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Washington. Bullying is a major epidemic!

Mr. Macuga stated that Park Elementary School has become proactive by instituting the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. All school staff has been trained and can intervene when bullying occurs. A group of students in grades 1-5 performed to their school's bullying message "Be a Buddy not a Bully." The students also distributed bookmarks and "bully bands" with the same message.

Mr. Colebank recognized the Steel Center Vocational-Technical School's Extra Effort Award winners for the first grading period:

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| Iyauna Maloy | Health Assistance |
| Lakijai Bynum | Cosmetology |
| Stephanie Keane | Cosmetology |
| Danielle Peoples | Computer Information Systems |
| Jessica Coddington | Advertising and Design |
| Stephen Spence | Collision Repair and Refinishing |

Athletic/Activities Director Shawn McCallister recognized all the fall sports teams, coaches and outstanding student athletes for the 2010 season. Certificates of Recognition were presented to representative members of the girls volleyball team, varsity boys soccer team, varsity girls soccer team, varsity football team, golf team, boys and girls cross country teams, marching band and varsity cheerleaders.

Boys soccer team players Craig Hixon and Cory Joyce made All Section and Jared Ruffing achieved All Section Honorable Mention. Junior Bre Gardner was named to the All Section Girls Volleyball Team for the 3rd consecutive year. Varsity Football Team players James Caldwell, Delrece Williams, Gilbert Carswell, Nolan McGuire, Brett Gilliam and Terrell Hart were named to All Section and Kevin Early received Honorable Mention.

Mr. McCallister also recognized Senior Delrece Williams for setting a new Steel Valley football rushing record and breaking the WPIAL record for most yards rushing in a regular season.

Dr. Kinavey congratulated Lori Kenavey, Elementary Literacy Coach; Jodi Geyer, High School Language Arts teacher and Steve Singer, Middle School Language Arts teacher for earning National Board Certification. National Board certified teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. The school district has nine teachers with National Board Certification.

Mr. William Carnahan, Vice President External Affairs of Verizon-Pennsylvania, presented the district with an investment of \$15,000 to promote child Internet safety. Partners in this project will be the school district and the Munhall Police Department. Certificates of Recognition were presented to Jill Fleming-Salopek, Chief Pat Campbell and Officer Dan Boehme.

Dr. Kinavey announced that several grants have recently been awarded to the Music Department. Bradley Thompson, Sharon Ellis, Rebecca Russell and Ed Wehrer were recognized for their efforts in receiving a Great Idea Grant from The Consortium for Public Education for Music Technology for the 3rd Millennium in the amount of \$5,000. Other grants received included a School Demonstration Grant for \$15,000, McDonald's MAC Grant for \$500 and another grant for \$15,000 is pending approval. Mr. Thompson stated that these funds would be used to create an interactive music learning center.

Also recognized was a team of middle school teachers who were awarded a Great Idea Grant from The Consortium for Public Education in the amount of \$2,500 for Greenhouse Effect with a Side of Salsa to continue the pond area beautification project. Dr. Kinavey congratulated Beth McCallister, Math Department Chair and Secondary Math Coach and 6th grade math teachers Sara Sullivan, Mike Hofbauer, and Steve Large and presented them with Certificates of Recognition.

Dr. Kinavey thanked Beth McCallister for promoting our students and accompanying a group of juniors and seniors to the Arnold Ross lecture for gifted math students at the Carnegie Science Center. One of the students was a contestant in the *Who Wants to be a Mathematician* game show and took 2nd place in the competition.

Director of Pupil Personnel, Special Services & Elementary Education Report

Mrs. Borges announced that the Queen of Hearts would be reading to kindergarten students on Wednesday, October 13. Mrs. Shelley Hiegel, Coordinator of School and Community Services for ACI, presented information about the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) program. This is a form of therapy for children ages 2 to 7 to promote effective behavior management and discipline techniques as well as enhance a positive relationship between parent and child. Live coaching helps parents learn what they are doing well and provides support with skills they need to master. A classroom will be created at Barrett Elementary School to institute the 12-20 week program.

She also announced that for the 4th year, Steel Valley has been awarded the Special Education School Wide Positive Behavior Grant in the amount of \$41,775.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology Report

Mrs. Borges announced the schedule of elementary holiday concerts and plays as follows:

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| December 17 | Park Elementary School | 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. |
| December 20 | Barrett Elementary School | 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. |
| December 21 | Franklin Primary Center | 12:45 p.m. |
| | <i>The Littlest Christmas Tree</i> | HS Auditorium |

An early dismissal for students will be held on Wednesday, December 22, as follows:

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| Franklin Primary Center | 12 Noon |
| Barrett and Park Elementary Schools | 12:30 p.m. |

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the meeting minutes of:

- October 12, October 19 worksession, October 19 special meeting and October 26, 2009 board meetings.

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for November 2010 in the amount of \$700,627.80
- General Fund hand checks for October 2010 in the amount of \$354,225.68
- Payroll Funding Transfers for October 2010
- Treasurer_s Reports for September and October 2010
- Food Service invoices for October 2010 in the amount of \$68,162.66
- Capital Projects 2005 Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2010
- Foundation for Education Technology Account Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2010
- Foundation for Education Barrett Project Statement of Income and Expense for the month ending October 31, 2010
- Custodial hand checks in the amount of \$36,749.02
- Athletic hand checks in the amount of \$5,092.94
- Middle School hand checks in the amount of \$17,491.79
- Band Trip hand checks in the amount of \$193.00

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- Awarded the bid for the purchase of a 2011 4 x 4 dump truck to New Holland Auto Group at the bid price of \$46,123.02 to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Fundraising requests as presented
- The Future is Mine students and chaperones to participate in the Annual Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center on April 14-15, 2011, at a cost of \$400 for substitute teachers
- Steel Valley Varsity Marching Band to attend Apple Blossom Festival Parade in Winchester, Virginia, on April 27 _ May 1, 2011, at no cost to the district

Educational Leadership

The Board approved the following items:

- Special Education Performance Grant/School Based Behavioral Health Grant Contract for Services and authorized the appropriate officials to execute said agreement
- Accepted a grant from the National Education Association (NEA) to Steel Valley Middle School in the amount of \$5,000 to implement educational strategies in the middle school classrooms
- Accepted a \$15,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation
- 2011 School Board meeting dates and authorized the advertising of meetings for the upcoming year
- Purchase of the Harcourt Social Studies textbooks for grades 4 and 5 at a cost of \$7,700.99 to be paid from the Capital Projects 2005 fund

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Intermittent family medical leave of absence for Mary Ellen Totin retroactive to November 10, 2010, not to exceed 60 days in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Rebecca Kristen commencing January 3, 2011, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Jennifer Pecora commencing January 20, 2011, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Family medical leave of absence for Emilee Garcia commencing February 13, 2011, not to exceed 12 weeks in duration
- Two (2) additional paid bereavement days for Tracy McGrew on October 14 and 20, 2010
- Temporary assignment of floater substitute at Barrett Elementary School for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year at the day-to-day substitute rate plus \$25 per day
- Ryan Brown as a day-to-day substitute teacher for the 2010-2011 school year at the rate of \$75 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day beginning with the 31st day
- Diana Borges to attend the Department of Education Conference January 12-14, 2011, at no cost to the district
- Supplemental appointments of Jeffrey Pingor to 7th & 8th grade assistant boys basketball coach and Jena Bence to middle school cheerleading coach for the 2010-2011 school year
- Denied Grievance #10-205 from the Steel Valley Education Association
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Suellen Swinkle from her position as security aide at Barrett Elementary School effective December 22, 2010, and in accordance with all benefits per the collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Kinavey and the School Board thanked Mrs. Swinkle for her dedication to the students.
- Unpaid leave of absence for Dorothy Miller retroactive to November 30, 2010, to January 3, 2011
- Motion to approve the revised part-time school secretary job description as presented
- Charles M. Kinavey as a substitute custodian at the hourly rate of \$8.75 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- Angela Hafen as a substitute instructional aide and substitute secretary at the hourly rate of \$7.25 per hour and no benefits, contingent upon passing a general physical examination and the district's mandated screening for controlled substances, which must be completed within 30 days
- School volunteers as presented for the 2010-2011 school year
- Activities volunteers as presented for the 2010-2011 school year contingent upon receipt of Act 34 and 151 clearances
- Preparation of a proclamation in honor of Mark Hornak to be presented in January 2011

