



STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Memorial Books

The School Board acknowledged the passing of **William Russell Wade**, uncle of Jodi Geyer, academic literacy coach; **Kathleen Griffin**, mother-in-law of Jennifer Ambrozic, 4th grade Barrett teacher; **Jane B. Kendrick**, grandmother of Mariann Reilly, high school English Language Arts teacher; **Melissa L. "Missie" Weir**, niece of Dave Colasante, Board member; **Philomena G. Hoehn**, grandmother of Jamie Fleck, credit recovery teacher; **Cathy Serbic**, stepmother of Sue Large, middle school guidance counselor; **Mary C. Dietrich**, aunt of Erin Dawso, high school special education teacher; and **Mary B. Kosko**, wife of former Board member Robert Kosko. It was moved by **Mr. Olson** and seconded by **Mrs. Yuhas** to place a selection of appropriate books into the school libraries in their memory.

Board President's Report

Mr. Bulger announced that we are honoring one of our teachers tonight. He added that there are good things happening in the school district. The School Board is looking forward and looking at what it can do to improve the school district.

Student Representatives' Reports

Miss Isabella Furrick, senior representative to the School Board, announced that doctoral students from the **University of Pittsburgh** spoke with high school students about college and career choices. The College in High School Rhetoric and Debate class held its final formal debates in the auditorium March 7-14. The students argued whether or not American high schools effectively empower students to take control of their futures. Senior project presentations began on March 15 and continued throughout the month.

On March 12, several students traveled to the **Painting with a Purpose** studio and created a beautiful portrait of the African Savanna. Members of the senior class spent the day at **Splash Lagoon** water park. The trip was a lot of fun and the students really enjoyed themselves. Ninety students attended a field trip to the **Carnegie Science Center** organized by Science Teacher **Mr. Deabner**. The students learned a lot while having fun.

The **High School Student Council** sponsored its third and final blood drive on March 19. Enough blood was collected to support the lives of nearly 90 patients. Many of the high school students took advantage of an opportunity to sell hoagies in order to pay for their prom ticket. A total of 1,749 hoagies were sold and 73 students earned a free ticket.

On March 22, the high school held a dress-down day benefiting the **Randy Zirkle Scholarship Fund**. The **PNC Job Collaborative** held a meeting on March 27.

Ms. Furrick reported on the middle school activities. On March 1, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade gifted students competed in a chess competition at Plum Middle School. **Mrs. MacDonald's** homeroom donated the most birthday supplies for Beverly's Birthdays, and they were rewarded with a doughnut breakfast. Middle school students were also rewarded with a dress-down day for their fantastic participation donating birthday supplies.

The **Pittsburgh CLO** performed “Beyond the Moon” for the eighth grade classes on March 4. About 100 students attended the PTO-sponsored St. Patrick’s Day Dance on March 14. The **Middle School Student Government** members attended the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Conference at Chartiers Valley School District with **Mrs. Noblet** on March 18. The Student Government held a hoagie sale from March 11 – 27, and the hoagies were delivered April 3.

Gifted students participated in an Art competition at Gateway Middle School on March 21. Sixth grader **Darwin Burns** received the first place individual award, and the team took first place overall for their Cubism art projects. Congratulations to everyone on the team: **Darwin Burns, Michayla Rager, Dominique Ruiz, Briona McKenith** and **Maddie Wedig**.

Stand Together students started their own Breaking Barriers March Madness Basketball competition at the middle school. Congratulations to **Mr. Owston’s** sixth grade homeroom for defeating **Mrs. Olson’s** eighth grade homeroom in the final student/teacher basketball game. Stand Together also collected \$1.00 from each of the students for a dress-down day. All donations will benefit a local mental illness rehabilitation facility.

Career Day for middle school students was held during school on March 28. The day consisted of Steel Valley Alumni from varied professions sharing information about their careers.

Junior School Board Representative **Channing Griffin** reported that first graders from Park Elementary School had a great time at the Carnegie Science Center rock climbing, maneuvering through a ropes course, and flying down a zip line! They also learned about our rivers and the animals that live in Pennsylvania. The third perfect attendance assembly was held on April 3. All of the students have been working hard, and the third and fourth graders are going to do a great job on the PSSA's in a few weeks!

The **Dr. Seuss Activity Day** for all first grade students at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools went very well.

The **911 Van** came to Barrett, and Allegheny County personnel shared valuable safety information with all of the students. Barrett students will be rewarded for their good behavior participating in a Bounce House activity in the gym on April 28.

Barrett staff will be participating in the Preschool and Kindergarten Family Night activity held at the **Carnegie Library of Homestead** on March 28. The Cash Bash was a success, and the Barrett PTO did a great job of putting the event together.

Solicitor’s Report

The Board declared that land designated as Block and Lot 181-B-00044, known locally as the Franklin Street realty, is to be unused and unnecessary land of the School District and shall be Sold by Public Auction with no reserve.

The Board approved the realty designated as Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall be partially subdivided and joined with Block and Lot 181-E-00190 and Block and Lot 181-K-00025. The subdivision of Block and Lot 181-E-00275 shall preserve a sufficient amount of land as is deemed necessary by the Steel Valley School District’s Administration after consultation with the Board of School Directors for the use of the Franklin Administration Building and the Steel Valley Senior High School complex.

The Board authorized the Solicitor and the Administration of the Steel Valley School District to take all necessary steps to effectuate the sale of the unused and unnecessary realty identified as Block and Lot 180-B-00044, and the subdivision of Block and Lot 181-E-00275 and the joiner of said Block and Lot 181-E-00275 to Block and Lot 181-E-00190 and Block and Lot 181-K-00025.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wehrer recognized Middle School Teacher **Steve Large** for his selection as an All-Star Teacher by the **Pittsburgh Pirates, The Grable Foundation** and **Chevron**. Mr. Large is a fifth grade math and science teacher at the middle school. He has also played a large part in the achievement of Middle School Apple Distinguished School status, and he is one of the coordinators of the STREAM activities. Mr. Large was surprised to learn that he was nominated as an All-Star Teacher by **Mrs. Meghan Fitzgerald** and her daughter **Abby**, a current sixth grade student. Abby read excerpts from her nomination letter. "Mr. Large is constantly thinking outside the box for ways to make learning interactive and fun. He uses his knowledge and love for STEM to create opportunities for students to learn how to apply the information they are learning to real-life situations. Along with a few other teachers, Mr. Large has brought science and math to life for his students with events such as building roller coasters ... and designing escape rooms and then watching as they try to escape using math, science and critical thinking. Mr. Large makes learning fun from assigning the students assignments, such as, building Leprechaun traps when learning about pulley systems. Mr. Large has sparked a fire for math and science in me, and has helped me come out of my very shy shell."

He thanked the Fitzgeralds for their nomination. He also discussed the STREAM program, which goes above and beyond the curriculum and recognized **Steve Vinay, Heather Clark, Ed Tozzi** and **Mike Hofbauer** in these endeavors. He thanked **Mrs. MacDonald** for keeping him on track and acknowledged **Bryan Macuga** for his support. Mr. Large stated that he is lucky and grateful that he gets to do what he loves every day.

Mr. Wehrer stated that the **Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner** will be held Monday, April 29, in the Steel Valley High School Cafeteria beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services' Report

Mrs. Borges announced that the Preschool and Kindergarten Family Night is being held tonight at the Carnegie Library of Homestead.

There will be no school for students on March 29 since it is a teacher clerical day. On April 3 report cards will be distributed. April 18 is scheduled for teacher and staff inservice, and there will be no school for students. April 19 is a holiday and there will be no school.

Director of Academics, Information & Technology's Report

Mr. Colebank announced that the district has applied for the AP Biology course to be a College in High School (CHS) course this coming school year.

He added that STEM activities can be important hands on learning for students. He has ordered 20 drones for hands-on learning and problem solving with the Apple Swift program.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- February 25, 2019 worksession
- February 28, 2019 regular meeting

Financial Management

The Board approved the following financial items:

- General Fund invoices for March 2019 in the amount of \$643,010.78
- General Fund hand checks for February 2019 in the amount of \$600,018.80
- General Fund Revenue Report for February 2019
- General Fund Expenditure Report for February 2019
- General Fund Balance Sheet for February 2019
- Food Service invoices for February 2019 in the amount of \$34,883.96
- Food Service Revenue Report for February 2019
- Food Service Expenditure Report for February 2019
- Food Service Balance Sheet for February 2019
- Payroll Funding Transfers for February 2019
- External Groups Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
- High School Student Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
- Middle School Activities Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
- Athletics Fund Balance Sheet and Disbursement Report for February 2019
- Capital Projects Balance Sheet for February 2019
- Capital Projects Revenue for February 2019
- June 30, 2018 Financial Statements and Management Report as submitted by **Maher Duessel CPAs**
- Placed out for bid the general school supplies and athletic supplies
- Agreement with **UGI Energy Services, LLC**, at a cost of NYMEX less .039 per Dth for the period September 2019 through February 2021 as presented
- Exonerated the Boroughs of Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead real estate tax collectors for the 2018 real estate taxes

Operations

The Board approved the following items:

- Facility rental requests as presented
- List of bus/van drivers or monitors for **PA Coach** for this school year as presented

Co-Curricular Leadership

The Board approved the fundraising requests as presented.

Special Assignments

The Board held second readings and adopted the revisions to Policies 004, 006, 007, 011, 103, 103.1, 104, 105, 108, 113.3, 115, 116, 127, 137, 138 and 246.

Educational Leadership

The School Board approved the following items:

- Adopted the 2019-2020 Academic Handbook for the Senior High School
- Elementary Summer Program beginning in June and ending in July for three (3) weeks
- Accepted the grant of \$1,000 from the **Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon, Inc.**, for a Middle School Running Club
- 2019-2020 **Allegheny Intermediate Unit** Program of Services Budget totaling \$2,144,656

Mr. Bulger thanked Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon for its donation to continue a middle school running program. He also thanked **Nicole States** for her help in acquiring this grant.

Mr. Zenone noted that a budget presentation was held prior to the Board meeting.

Personnel Management

The Board approved the following items:

- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of **LeeAnn Doyle**, Barrett Paraprofessional, effective the last day of the 2018-2019 school year
- Appointed **Jennifer Perhac** as a Districtwide Paraprofessional at a rate of \$10.10 per hour plus \$1.50 per hour for highly qualified status, contingent upon passing the District's mandated screening for controlled substances and receipt of updated clearances, which must be completed within 30 days, effective on a mutually agreed upon date
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Valley School District and the Steel Valley **Secretarial/Aide Education Support Professionals**
- **Karen Barnett** as a substitute paraprofessional effective immediately at the approved rate
- Created athletic programs for Middle School Cross Country, Middle School Track and Middle School Football
- Created supplementals and stipends for one (1) Middle School Cross Country Coach at a stipend of \$1,453.49, two (2) Middle School Track Coaches at a stipend of \$2,470.26, and three (3) Middle School Football Coaches at a stipend of \$2,761.61 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of **Ryan Dunmire-Kuftic** from the supplemental positions of High School Creating Value Co-Advisor, The Future is Mine Co-Advisor, Middle School Stand Together Advisor, and Girl Talk Liaison effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year
- **Brian Savolskis** to the supplemental position of Baseball Assistant Coach for the 2018-2019 school year
- Football volunteers as presented, contingent upon receipt of updated clearances