

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Slippery Rock Schools Gain New Education Foundation**

Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania – January 20, 2017

The Slippery Rock Area School District now has a new resource for assisting teachers with programs or initiatives for its students. The Slippery Rock Area School District Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed with the idea that more could be done through community, business, and alumni support to promote innovative educational projects.

With the passage of bylaws and school board action recognizing the potential significance of such an organization, the District's foundation has already begun the task of raising funds to help students. This past fall, the organization began receiving donations and effecting fundraising efforts. Foundation president and school district resident, Patrick Boylan, recognizes the impact that the newly formed education foundation can have in the schools. "I believe the Foundation will fulfill a vital role for students and education in our community," he said. "Similar to schools across the nation, our District is faced with the increasing challenge of funding public education. Our goal is to serve as a resource to help offset escalating costs and demands in order to maintain and expand the excellent educational programs for every student in our District."

The foundation has been meeting every other month, with members taking on different tasks to promote the organization and move the goals of the group forward. For example, Boylan, himself, has met with existing educational foundations from other school districts to gain insight into best practices. He has also introduced himself to the staff and leads each of the group's meetings. Other members of the foundation's board have taken on roles to assist with web site development, seeking opportunities through state grant possibilities, offering business and organizational leadership expertise, advertising help, and communications.

"Our school district is fortunate to have such a great number of talented community members who are willing to give their time to an educational foundation. The members of the foundation are all parents of students in the district who genuinely care about the promotion and direction of the school district," said school district superintendent, Dr. Alfonso Angelucci. "The school board's approval and recognition of this effort is not to be discounted," Angelucci continued. "It's great that a member of the school board sits on the foundation's board, which shows the level of the school board's commitment."

Funds raised by the foundation will be made available to teachers through a mini-grant process in which staff can apply for funds as the need arises. The foundation board will review all mini-grant applications once the building principal signs off on the application. "Basically, if the applications are within our means, financially, and align with the school district's instructional and curricular goals, the mini-grants have a solid chance of being approved," explained Boylan.

Although the group initially plans to assist in the push to further science, technology, engineering, arts,

and math (STEAM)-related projects throughout the district, the foundation does not plan to limit its aid to this singular focus.

In addition to both Boylan and Angelucci, other members of the foundation board include: Craig Caldwell (vice-president), Paul Cessar (district business manager), Travis Croll, Cindy Grabb, Tracy McDermott, Heather Scott, Sandy Whitmer, and Lara Wozniak.

Those interested in donating to the Slippery Rock Area School District Education Foundation may do so by sending donations to: SRASD Education Foundation, 201 Kiester Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Potential donors with questions can e-mail: [sr\\_foundation@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us](mailto:sr_foundation@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us)

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