

Guide to the Toni Sulkowski papers, 1970s-2003

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2023-100
Title:	Toni Sulkowski papers
Inclusive Dates:	1970s-2003
Author:	Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Toni Sulkowski
Extent:	5 boxes, 1 oversize folder
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	Records consist of documents, photographs, ephemera and clothing acquired by Toni Sulkowski while working as a teacher and, later, a principal in the Peters Township School District between 1975 and 2003.

Biography/History

Toni J. Sulkowski was born on February 26, 1953. She attended elementary school in Peters Township and graduated from Peters Township High School in 1971. Toni attended Grove City College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Education and Spanish.

In 1975, Toni began teaching at Peters Township School District's (PTSD) McMurray Elementary school which was located on the current site of the PTSD administration building. She taught 4th and 5th grades at McMurray, and earned her Master's in Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Denver in 1978.

Toni taught 3rd grade at Pleasant Valley Elementary School from 1980 until 1989, and at Venetia Elementary School during the 1989-1990 school year. She earned her Master's degree in Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University in 1988.

In 1990, Toni became principal of both Elm Grove Elementary and Venetia Elementary schools. She drove back and forth between the two schools until 1993 when the Venetia school was closed and the new McMurray Elementary School opened.

Toni oversaw the opening of the new McMurray School, serving as its principal from 1990-1993. She then oversaw the opening of the new Bower Hill Elementary School, serving as its first principal from 1999-2003. In 2003, Toni became the Director of Technology for PTSD, a position she held until her retirement in 2010.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Records consist of documents, photographs, ephemera and clothing accumulated by Toni Sulkowski while working as a teacher and, later, a principal with the Peters Township School District (PTSD) between 1975 and 2003.

Records document activities at the Venetia, Elm Grove, McMurray and Bower Hill elementary schools, including the groundbreaking, opening and dedication of the new McMurray Elementary School in 1993, and the new Bower Hill Elementary School in 1999.

See the series descriptions and contest lists for more detailed information.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in 6 series:

- Series I. Venetia Elementary School papers, 1905-1935, 1991-1992
- Series II. Elm Grove Elementary School papers, 1991-1993
- Series III. PTSD new elementary school building project papers, 1980s-1992
- Series IV. McMurray Elementary School papers, 1992-1999
- Series V. Bower Hill Elementary School papers, 1998-2003
- Series VI. Miscellaneous items, 1970s-2003

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

None.

Acquisition Information:

Gifts of Toni Sulkowski in 2023 and 2024.

Custodial History:

Toni acquired the three spelling books and one library book from Venetia Elementary School when it closed in June of 1993.

Accruals note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2023-100 Toni Sulkowski papers

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Margaret Dietzer in 2023 and described by Nancy Martin in June 2025.

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Contents List

Series I. Venetia Elementary School papers, 1905-1935, 1991-1992

Series Extent: 2 folders, 4 books, 1 spanking paddle

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of material accumulated by Toni Sulkowski during her time as Venetia Elementary School's last principal from 1990 until the school's closure in 1993.

Series includes a copy of an undated pen & ink drawing of Venetia Graded School, and photographs of the school's staff and students from 1991-1992 that were removed from a scrapbook. Series also includes three spelling books from 1905 and 1929, and the Venetia School library book *Solve Suntrap: A Boy of Norway* from 1935 that includes the book's checkout record at the back of the book. (Toni removed all four books from Venetia School at the time of its closing in June 1993.) Also included in the series is a wooden spanking paddle that Toni Sulkowski found in the principal's office at Venetia School when she became principal there in 1990 and removed from the building.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 1	Copy of pen & ink drawing of Venetia Graded School	undated
Folder 2	Venetia Elementary School scrapbook photographs	1991-1992
Box 3		
	<i>Bower's Graded Speller, Part II</i>	1905
	<i>Correct Spelling for Graded Schools, Third Year</i>	1929
	<i>Correct Spelling for Graded Schools, Seventh Year</i>	1929
	<i>Solve Suntrap: A Boy of Norway</i>	1935
Drawer 11		
	Wooden spanking paddle	undated

Series II. Elm Grove Elementary School papers, 1991-1993

Series Extent: 1 folder, 1 pennant, 1 pin, 1 clock frame

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of material accumulated by Toni Sulkowski during her time as Elm Grove Elementary School’s last principal from 1990 until the school’s closure in 1993.

Series includes a list of Elm Grove Elementary School’s 1991-1992 Gateways Team, and photographs of the school’s staff and students from 1992, an Elm Grove pennant with the school’s mascot Elmer the squirrel on it, an “Elm Grove Pride” pin, and a plastic clock frame commemorating the school’s existence from 1959-1993.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 3	Elm Grove Gateways Team list, staff & student photographs, and “Elm Grove Pride” pin	1991-1992
Drawer 11		
Folder 1	Elm Grove pennant	undated
Box 3		
	Commemorative plastic clock frame for Elm Grove School	1993

Series III. PTSD new elementary school building project papers, 1980s-1992

Series Extent: 4 folders

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of feasibility studies of the Peters Township School District’s elementary school needs, and files relating to the construction of a new elementary school (McMurray Elementary School) in the township.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 4	PTSD feasibility study of elementary facilities needs	1980s
Folder 5	PTSD elementary schools: A feasibility study	January 1990
Folder 6	PTSD new elementary school building study committee file	1990
Folder 7	PTSD new elementary school building file	1991-1992

Series IV. McMurray Elementary School papers, 1992-1999

Series Extent: 18 folders, ephemera, audio cassette tape, 1 t-shirt, 1 baseball hat

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of material accumulated by Toni Sulkowski during her time as McMurray Elementary School's first principal from 1993 until 1999.

Series includes records documenting the groundbreaking, opening, dedication and operations of McMurray Elementary School where Toni Sulkowski served as principal from 1993-1999. The school's theme, "McMurray Magic: Make It Happen" appears frequently in the series.

Box 1	Folder title	Dates
Folder 8	McMurray Elementary groundbreaking ceremony	April 11, 1992
Folder 9	McMurray Elementary opening day and dedication photographs	1993
Folder 10	"The Road to McMurray Elementary School" brochure	Oct. 16, 1993
Folder 11	McMurray Elementary construction problems report form	1993
Folder 12	McMurray Elementary PTA	1993
Folder 13	McMurray Elementary Liaison Committee	1993-1994
Folder 14	McMurray Elementary miscellaneous papers	1993-1994
Folder 15	Closing calendar for Pleasant Valley & McMurray Elementary	1993-1995
Folder 16	McMurray Elementary playground committee	1994
Folder 17	McMurray Elementary class photographs	1994-1995
Folder 18	A photo essay of McMurray Elementary School by Ms. Oberschelp's class, Room 317	circa 1995
Folder 19	McMurray Elementary principal's correspondence	1995-1997
Folder 20	McMurray Elementary class photographs	1997-1998
Folder 21	McMurray Elementary second grade memories, Room 209, Mrs. Hrehocik	1998-1999
Folder 22	McMurray Elementary miscellaneous photographs & vanity plate	1990s
Folder 23	McMurray Elementary newspaper clippings	1993-1999
Folder 24	McMurray Elementary newspaper clippings	undated

Box 2		
Folder 1	Audio cassette tape of the song “Do you believe in “Magic”?”	undated
Folder 2	McMurray Elementary ephemera: McMurray Magic, Visitor & LAMPE team pins, a red woven bracelet, mini Frisbee commemorating McMurray Day 1996	1993-1996
Box 3		
	McMurray Elementary ephemera: red yo-yo commemorating McMurray Day 1999, “McMurray Magic” stamp, “McMurray Elementary” stamp	1993-1999
Box 4		
	McMurray School t-shirt (red) with McMurray Magic star logo	undated
Box 5		
	McMurray School baseball hat (red & white) with McMurray Magic star logo	undated
Drawer 11		
Folder 1	Photograph (oversize) of groundbreaking ceremony for McMurray Elementary School with students from Venetia, Elm Grove, and Pleasant Valley schools	April 11, 1992
Folder 1	“Reach for the Stars! McMurray Magic: Make It Happen!” poster & bumper sticker	undated

Series V. Bower Hill Elementary School papers, 1998-2003

Series Extent: 10 folders, 1 shirt, ephemera

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of material accumulated by Toni Sulkowski during her time as Bower Hill Elementary School’s first principal from 1999 until 2003.

Series includes documents and photographs relating to the groundbreaking, dedication and operations of Bower Hill Elementary School between its 1999 opening and 2003. Series also includes information about the school’s staff and students, Bower Hill School ephemera, and a “Bower Hill Staff” golf shirt (red) featuring the Bower Hill bee.

Box 2	Folder title	Dates
Folder 3	Scrapbook of McMurray Elementary School's afternoon kindergarteners' suggestions for amenities the new Bower Hill School should include (incomplete due to food damage)	1998
Folder 4	Copy of scrapbook of McMurray Elementary School's afternoon kindergarteners' suggestions for amenities the new Bower Hill School should include (complete)	1998
Folder 5	Bower Hill Elementary groundbreaking ceremony photographs	June 3, 1998
Folder 6	Bower Hill Elementary groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies papers	1998-1999
Folder 7	Bower Hill Elementary dedication ceremony photographs	October 5, 1999
Folder 8	Bower Hill Elementary miscellaneous photographs	1999-2003
Folder 9	Bower Hill Elementary miscellaneous papers	1999-2003
Folder 10	Bower Hill Elementary principal's correspondence	2000-2002
Folder 11	Bower Hill Elementary newspaper clippings, dated	1998-2003
Folder 12	Bower Hill Elementary newspaper clippings, undated	1998-2003
Box 3		
	Bower Hill Elementary ephemera: "Bower Hill: A Great Beginning" pin, name tag for "Ms. Toni Sulkowski, Principal", a stained glass bee ornament (red & white), an ornament in the shape of a blackboard commemorating the groundbreaking ceremony for Bower Hill Elementary on June 3, 1998, plastic clock frame commemorating Bower Hill Elementary School's dedication ceremony on October 5, 1999,	1998-2003
Box 4		
	"Bower Hill Staff" golf shirt (red) with bee logo	undated
Drawer 11		
Folder 1	7 oversize photographs of Bower Hill Elementary staff and the students in its "neighborhoods" of Bebout, Justabout, Springdale, and Turkeyfoot	1999-2002

Series VI. Miscellaneous items, 1970s-2003

Series Extent: 1 folder, 2 shirts, name plate

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of 3 miscellaneous photographs and a newspaper article about Venetia Elementary School accumulated by Toni Sulkowski while teaching at Pleasant Valley Elementary School during the 1980s, a “McMurray School Beavers” t-shirt (white with red lettering) that Toni wore while she was a teacher at the McMurray School (1975-1980), a Pleasant Valley Elementary t-shirt (white with red lettering) featuring the PV panda that Toni wore while she was a teacher at Pleasant Valley (1980-1989), and a “Peters Township Softball Section 9 Champs 1985” t-shirt (red with white lettering) that Toni wore as the assistant coach of the Peters Township High School girls’ section-winning softball team in 1985, and a “Ms. Sulkowski” nameplate that Toni used at Peters Township school board meetings.

Box 2	Folder title/Item	Dates
Folder 13	Miscellaneous photographs: 2 photographs of the old PT High School prior to its demolition in the 1980s, and one photograph of Toni while teaching at Pleasant Valley Elementary in 1986, and a 1986 newspaper article about Venetia School	1980s
Box 3		
	“Ms. Sulkowski” nameplate	undated
Box 4		
	3 t-shirts: “McMurray School Beavers”, “Pleasant Valley Elementary”, “Peters Township Softball Section Champs 1985”	1970s-1989