



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

2019

“Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2019

Annual Public Notices Edition

Federal Law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires that all school districts report the professional teaching qualification of teachers to the public. The Ferndale Area School District’s professional personnel are all highly qualified teachers (100%). This means that every teacher has a college degree in the courses they teach and are certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education with a teaching license. Additionally, all paraprofessionals (teacher aides) in the Ferndale Area School District are highly qualified (100%). This means that every teacher aide has a college degree and/or is certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education with a Paraprofessional Credential of Competency certificate. All of our teachers and teacher aides receive professional development annually in their areas of study to continually update their knowledge and skills.

All instructional materials, including teachers’ manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents or students in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Parents and students (age 18 and over) have a right to access information about the curriculum, including expected student learning outcomes, instructional materials and assessment techniques. For more information and/or to see the full board policy on review of instructional materials, please refer to Policy No. 105.1 Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students under the Board Policies tab on the district’s website www.fasdk12.org.

Attendance The Board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in district schools during the days and hours that school is in session. For more information and/or to see the full board policy on attendance, please refer to Policy No. 204 Attendance under the Board Policies tab on the district’s website www.fasdk12.org.

Enrollment of Students The Board shall enroll school age students eligible to attend district schools, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations. School age shall be defined as the period from the earliest admission age for the district’s

kindergarten program until graduation from high school or the end of the school term in which a student reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years, whichever occurs first. District of residence shall be defined as the school district in which a student’s parents/guardians reside. For more information and/or to see the full board policy on enrollment of students, please refer to Policy No. 200 Enrollment of Students under the Board Policies tab on the district’s website www.fasdk12.org.

Homeless Each year, more than 800,000 school age children in the United States experience homelessness. The Ferndale Area School District is required to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children, including preschool age homeless children and youths, enabling them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school or preschool programs. The law states that, pending resolution of a dispute about school placement, a school district must immediately enroll a homeless student in the student’s school of origin or other school selected on the basis of the child’s best interest. Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions: sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters; abandoned in hospitals; awaiting foster care placement; using public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings, as a primary nighttime residence; living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings; living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples; living as run-away children, abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers, or separated from parents/guardians for any other reason; and living as school age parents/guardians in houses for school age parents/guardians if they have no other living accommodations.

If you know of a child/student who may be homeless, please call any of the school offices and notify staff there who will follow up on your concern. For more information on homeless education and/or to see the full board policy on homeless students, please refer to the district’s website www.fasdk12.org, Homeless Education and Policy No. 251 Homeless Students under the Board Policies tab.

Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President

Mrs. Sandra Chobany - Dale

Vice-President

Mrs. Susan Boyle - Dale

Secretary

Mrs. Melissa Garman - Ferndale

Treasurer

Mr. Jason Moschgat - Middle Taylor

Board Members

Mr. Joshua Hyland - Middle Taylor

Dr. James McKendree - Middle Taylor

Mr. Richard Pavic - Ferndale

Mr. Stephen Thompson - Ferndale

Mrs. Patricia Wilson - Dale

Administration

Ferndale Area School District

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-1507

Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Carole M. Kakabar

Business Manager

Mr. David Gates

Director of Education

Dr. William Brotz

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

Principal

Mr. Travis Robison

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Molly O'Neil

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-6724

Principal

Mrs. Rachelle Hrabosky



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School Board Meetings

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the District Office Board Room at 6:00 p.m. except for the months of May, June, November and December, and when otherwise advertised. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July.

The Open Records Law, effective January 1, 2009, allows increased access to public records. Information can be requested from the Ferndale Area School District by mail, fax, email or in person. The District has five business days to respond. If the District doesn't respond or denies your request, an appeal can be filed with the Office of Open Records. Copying fees, up to 25 cents per page, may be charged. The Ferndale Area School District has appointed Mr. David Gates, Business Manager, as their Right-to-Know Officer, given the responsibility of answering information requests from the public. You may contact Mr. Gates at Ferndale Area Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507. The form for requested information can be obtained on our website at www.fasdk12.org, District, under the Right-to-Know tab.

Gifted Education The Ferndale Area School District offers gifted support services in both of its buildings. This program focuses on enrichment and acceleration activities that supplement the regular education program. Instructional services are provided through direct instruction, teacher and student consultation, and classroom enrichment. The District conducts a screening process based upon review of all educational records and parent/teacher input to identify students who might qualify for gifted support services. When the data supports the need for a full evaluation, the District will seek parental consent. The evaluation includes observations from school personnel, performance on standardized assessments, review of the student's academic records, as well as family and teacher input. If the results of the gifted evaluation indicate that the student meets the Chapter 16 criteria as an individual who is in need of gifted support services, the gifted support team meets and develops a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP). Parents who believe that their child might be in need of gifted support services should send a written request for evaluation to the building principal.

Copies of parent rights and confidentiality issues are routinely provided to parents with the permission to evaluate and are also available to parents upon request. Parents who need more information about gifted educational programs and services or parental due process rights are encouraged to contact Michelle Jacobs, Ferndale Area School Psychologist, at 814-539-6168. For more information on gifted education and/or to see the full board policy, please refer to the district's website www.fasdk12.org, Gifted Education and Policy No. 114 Gifted Education under the Board Policies tab.

Food Services The Board recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. The food service program shall be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The district shall ensure that, in the operation of the food service program, no student, staff member, or other individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. For more information on food services and/or to see the full board policy, please refer to the district's website www.fasdk12.org, Food Services and Policy No. 808 Food Services under the Board Policies tab.

School Wellness Ferndale Area School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement. For more information on the school wellness policy; the most recent triennial assessment; how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the School Wellness policy; and how to contact Wellness Committee leadership, please refer to district's website www.fasdk12.org, School Wellness and Policy No. 246 School Wellness under the Board Policies tab.

Tobacco/Nicotine The Board recognizes that tobacco, nicotine and nicotine delivery products present a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for both users and nonusers and the safety and environment of the schools. The Board prohibits possession, use or sale of tobacco, nicotine, nicotine delivery products, and vaping products by students at any time in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district. The Board also prohibits possession, use or sale of tobacco, nicotine, nicotine delivery products, and vaping products by students at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property (day or night). The Board prohibits tobacco possession, use or sale of tobacco, nicotine, nicotine delivery products, and vaping products by students when they represent the school (i.e. work study program, seminars, school visits, field trips, or any similar event). Ferndale Area School District is a Smoke-Free District. It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District that all buildings, property (including sidewalks and parking areas), outdoor fixed seating areas, vehicles owned or contracted and other designated areas of the Ferndale Area School District are designated to be tobacco free environments. For more information and/or to see the full board policies on tobacco/nicotine, please refer to Policies No. 222 and No. 323 Tobacco/Nicotine under the Board Policies tab on the district's website www.fasdk12.org.

Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability. The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, athletics and extracurricular activities. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations. For more information and/or to see the full board policy on nondiscrimination/discriminatory harassment - school and classroom practices, please refer to Policy No. 103 Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices under the Board Policies tab on the district's website www.fasdk12.org.

Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to ensure that all district programs and practices are free from discrimination against all qualified students with disabilities. The district shall provide to each qualified student with a disability enrolled in the district, without cost to the student or parent/guardian, a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). For more information and/or to see the full board policy on nondiscrimination/discriminatory harassment - school and classroom practices, please refer to Policy No. 103.1 Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities under the Board Policies tab on the district's website www.fasdk12.org.

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, Annual Public Notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding Child Find responsibilities. School Districts, Intermediate Units, and Charter Schools are required to conduct Child Find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 Services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled "Implementation of Chapter 15." Also, school districts are required to conduct Child Find activities for children who may be eligible for Gifted Services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding Gifted Services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This Notice shall inform parents throughout the School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this Public Notice, each School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Children of ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the appropriate staff members identified at the end of this public notice.

Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need special education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas; (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help. For additional information, parents may contact Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8.

Evaluation Process

Each School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this Notice. Parents of preschool-age children, age three through five, and who do not reside in Altoona School District or Tyrone Area School District may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Appalachia Intermediate Unit staff. Residents of Altoona School District should address their requests directly to Altoona School District. Likewise, residents of Tyrone Area School District should address their requests directly to Tyrone Area School District.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website, at www.Pattan.net After written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can then request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. School district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a Notice of Recommended Education Placement (NOREP)/prior written notice. Parental written consent is required before initial services can be provided. Parents have the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The School Districts, Intermediate Units, and Charter Schools maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Parental consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable

information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

For additional information related to student records, parents may refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Retention/Destruction of Student Records - Special Education

In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this notice is hereby given that in accordance with 24CFR 300.573, the School Districts, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools listed below may destroy the special education records of students who exited from any special education program.

Special education records, which have been collected by the School Districts, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools listed below related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of the Special Education in the district, IU or charter school must be maintained under state and federal law for a period of seven (7) years after Special Education services have ended for the student. Special education services end when the student no longer is eligible for services, graduates, completes his or her educational program at age 21, or moves from the School District, Intermediate Unit, or Charter School.

After seven (7) years, the records are no longer useful to the School District, Intermediate Unit or Charter School and will be destroyed in accordance with state and federal law unless the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student contacts the responsible district that the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student wishes to maintain the information as a personal record. These records may be useful to the parent/guardian or former student when applying for post-secondary education/training, benefits or social services.

Records including student's name, address, grades, attendance, dates attended, grade level completed and year completed may be destroyed after seven (7) years have passed from the student's 21st birthday.

If you wish to request records or need additional information you may contact the responsible school entity.

Destruction will proceed where parents/guardians or eligible (adult) students have not requested records in

accordance with the responsible school district's, Intermediate Unit's or Charter School's Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records.

Retention/Destruction of Student Records - PA State Assessments

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the *responsible school entity listed below*. For preschool age children information, screenings, and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTACTS

Ferndale Area School District
Mrs. Jessica Maxwell
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905
Phone: 814-539-6168

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8
Mrs. Amy Woomer
4500 Sixth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602
Phone: 1-800-228-7900

The Intermediate Unit, School Entity, or Charter School will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status, or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary, or secondary school pupil enrolled in a School District, Intermediate Unit, or Charter School program shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status, or financial hardship.

Visiting Your Child's School

The Board welcomes and encourages interest in district educational programs and other school-related activities. The Board recognizes that such interest may result in visits to school by parents/guardians, adult residents, educators and other officials. To ensure order in the schools and to protect students and employees, it is necessary for the Board to establish policy governing school visits.

Persons wishing to visit a school should make arrangements in advance with the school office in that building. Upon arrival at the school, visitors must register at the office where they will sign in and sign out, receive a pass, and receive instructions. Visitors to Ferndale Area Elementary School must use the LobbyGuard system to sign in.

Only one (1) entrance shall be used by visitors to the school. All staff members shall be responsible for requiring

a visitor demonstrate that she/he has a visitor's pass for the safety of all students in the building.

Parents/Guardians may request to visit their child's classroom, but the request must be made prior to the visit. The building principal or program supervisor must grant prior approval for the visit, and shall notify the classroom teacher prior to the visit.

Parental participation in classroom activities or programs such as room parents, back-to-school events, and chaperones for field trips shall not constitute a classroom visit for purposes of this policy.

See Policy No. 907 School Visitors under the Board Policies tab on the district's website www.fasdk12.org for the complete policy on school visits.

How to Communicate a Question or Concern with the Ferndale Area School District

Whenever a parent or resident has a question, concern, complaint, suggestion, or request and is uncertain what procedure to follow in contacting the school district, it is requested that they refer to the Process Flow Chart below.

Many questions are easily and completely answered by communicating directly with the individual in charge of the class or program. Each concern should first be addressed at the level the initial action was taken in a calm and professional manner with appeals moving on to the next level on the chain of command. Contact information for staff members is available on the district's website www.fasdk12.org

Occasionally a parent or resident will call school board directors in an attempt to obtain an answer to their questions or concerns. Most often, these concerns are related to athletics, academics, or school discipline. Upon receiving such a call, the board director calls the district superintendent. The superintendent must then call the athletic director and/or building principal to inform him or her of the problem or concern. The athletic director and/or principal will then research the concern and communicate with the parent. Therefore, it is wise to call the first level contact individual so that he or she can respond without any undue delay.

AREA OF CERTIFICATION	FIRST LEVEL	SECOND LEVEL	THIRD LEVEL
<i>Athletic Programs</i>	Coach	Athletic Director	Principal
<i>Athletic Facilities</i>	Athletic Director	Principal	Business Manager
<i>Curriculum/Instruction</i>	Teacher	Principal	Superintendent
<i>Discipline</i>	Teacher	Assistant Principal	Principal
<i>School Facilities</i>	Building Custodian	Principal	Business Manager
<i>Guidance</i>	Counselor	Principal	Superintendent
<i>Special Education</i>	Teacher	Principal/Coordinator of Special Education	Superintendent
<i>Student Concern</i>	Teacher	Counselor	Principal
<i>Technology</i>	Teacher	Principal	Director of Education
<i>Transportation</i>	Transportation Provider	Principal	Director of Education

Public Participation in Board Meetings

In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board shall provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for residents and taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board.

The Board shall require that public comments be made only as indicated on the order of business as established in Board policy.

If the Board determines there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.

The Board requires that public participants be residents or taxpayers of this district.

All persons wishing to participate in a public Board meeting shall register their intent in writing with the Board Secretary or Superintendent at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting and include the name and address of the participant, group affiliation, if applicable, and topic to be addressed. Advanced notification for inclusion on the agenda will provide an opportunity for

the Board to take official action on the topic, if deemed necessary.

Participants without advanced notification may be permitted to address the Board during the public comment period; however, no official action will be taken at the meeting.

Participants speaking at a meeting must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation if applicable. Multiple participants regarding the same topic must elect one spokesperson to present on their behalf.

Statements made by a participant shall be limited to no longer than ten (10) minutes duration. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually.

For more information and/or to see the full board policy on public participation, please refer to Policy No. 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings under the Board Policies tab on the district's website www.fasdk12.org.

The Ferndale Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Ferndale Area School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities should contact Mr. David Gates, Business Manager, Ferndale Area Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507.

MORNING DELAYS, SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The Ferndale Area School District will announce any changes in the schedule on the following stations:

WJHT (92.1 FM)	WJAC CH. 6
WFGI (95.5 FM)	WWCP CH. 8
WKYE (96.5 FM)	WTAJ CH. 10
WRKW (99.1 FM)	
WCCL (101.7 FM)	
WNTI (990 AM)	
WNTJ (1490 AM)	

**ONE CALL NOW system: The district also utilizes an automated phone call system as well that will notify parents by phone, if parents have signed up for this service. For more information, contact the Elementary or Junior/Senior High School Office.*

We will notify the stations as early as possible when a change in the schedule is necessary.

Ferndale Area School District
100 Dartmouth Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 814-535-1507
Fax: 814-535-8527



Check out our **NEW** web-
site!
www.fasdk12.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ferndale Area School District is: “**Big Enough To Challenge**” all students, but “**Small Enough to Care**” about each student. To accomplish this mission, the Ferndale Area School District will strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for excellent teaching and learning experiences where students prepare for a life of continual learning, and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to solve problems, communicate effectively and be a responsible citizen.
