

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2024 BOARD MEETINGS

Special recognition was given to Caleb Gratner for being awarded a Carson Scholar Award for 2024.

Special recognition was given to Anisten Jackson who was chosen to be one of Schools That Can Interns.

Special recognition was given to the following Future Chef winners:

Clover White (Gold) - Avalon - Clover's Delicious Chicken Flautas
Hudson Brown (Silver) - Bellevue - Mexican Street Corn
Sofia Sanchez (Bronze) - Bellevue - Mexican Tostadas
Bella Weiser (Bronze) - Avalon - Tomatillo Breakfast Tacos

Student Council Report: Caleb Gratner, Student Council Representative, provided a Student Council Report. He spoke about the recent regional conference held at South Fayette School District, mentioning that some of the topics covered included student advocacy, mental health and time management. He mentioned there will be a Powder Puff football game May 23, and they are making plans for teacher appreciation week. Caleb also mentioned that the Student Council will be holding their elections soon.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Hines reported that Gov. Josh Shapiro and other state officials were at Northgate Middle/High School this past Thursday for a news conference announcing changes to state assessments. The governor and other guests each spoke highly of Northgate, not just about our work to implement digital testing, but also about the student-centric model in which we operate. It was an exciting day for our community and it was great to see Northgate be a model for other schools across the Commonwealth.

The governor wasn't the only one visiting the Middle/High School on Thursday. A number of local officials and other educational leaders were at the high school earlier that morning to learn more about our College in High School program. That event included a tour of some of our classrooms that was led by a few of our students.

Our 8th grade students had the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., earlier this month during the annual field trip. The trip included stops at a number of the historic landmarks, including the Capitol Building, Library of Congress, Supreme Court and White House, as well as the iconic monuments within the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Mr. RJ Long also joked that students had a life lesson in how to seek shelter during inclement weather due to a few rain storms during the trip this year.

Dr. Hines congratulated all the students and staff who helped with the production of the spring musical this year. High school musical productions require a tremendous amount of work, and the performances this year really made the effort worthwhile.

Just a reminder, Avalon Elementary will be hosting a kindergarten registration event on May 9 for families of students entering kindergarten next school year. This is an event for families in both Avalon and Bellevue. Kindergarten registration packets are available in both school offices. Additionally, the last day of school for our current kindergarten students is June 6.

Looking ahead, the 2nd annual Student Showcase of Excellence will be from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. May 22 at Northgate Middle/High School. The event will include a multitude of student exhibits that highlight the amazing things going on in the district.

The Board approved the following items at their April 22, 2024 Board meeting:

- Accepted the supplemental contract resignation of Shane Adams as 1st Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach.
- Approved a supplemental contract for the fall season of the 2024-25 school year for Kandice Kyle as Varsity Cheerleading Sponsor in the amount of \$2,000.
- Accepted the supplemental contract resignation of Jeff Smith as 1st Assistant Baseball Coach effective April 5, 2024.
- Approved a supplemental contract for the remainder of the spring season of the 2023-24 school year for Frank Camello, Sr. as 1st Assistant Baseball Coach in the prorated amount of \$2,500.
- Approved in accordance with the uniform rotation schedule, the purchase of high school boys' basketball uniforms for home and away games from BSN at a cost not to exceed \$5,900 to be purchased in the 2024-25 budget year.
- Approved Nicole Mangel as a volunteer BandFront sponsor.
- Approved a change in the supplemental stipend for the Entrepreneurship Club sponsorship from the amount of \$3,500, which was approved in February, to \$7,000 for the 2023-24 school year, to be paid from the District's Startable Grant.

- Having followed a 30-day public review, the Board approved the adoption of the following textbooks for a 5-year period beginning with the 2024-25 school year at an approximate cost of \$27,000:

United States History, McGraw Hill
 United States Government and Civics, McGraw Hill
 Into Literature 9th and 10th grade, HMH

- Approved the purchase of Edinsight for data management and analytics system for the 2024-25 school year for a cost of \$6,530.90.
- Approved for Dr. Caroline Johns and two other faculty members to attend the Project Zero Summer Institute Conference at Harvard University in Massachusetts, June 23 to 28, 2024, with travel costs not to exceed \$7,575. Scholarship/grant funds will cover their registration fees. The Board also approved Dr. Jeff Evancho to attend the conference at no cost to the District.
- Approved the March Treasurer's Report, ratified the March 2024 Bill List and approved the Tax Refunds.
- Approved the Activities & Athletic Accounts report for the quarter ending March 31, 2024.
- Approved renewal of the District's agreement with CSIU for the use of its web-based financial information system applications. The estimated cost is \$16,328 for 2024-25, broken down by application as follows:

Assets Inventory: \$1,800
 Fund Accounting: \$5,520
 Human Resources: \$3,022
 Payroll: \$5,986

- Approved American Fidelity as a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) provider for the District at no cost to the District and no penalty for cancellation at any time. The effective launch date is expected to be July 1, 2024. Employee participation is on a voluntary basis.
- Approved issuing three Grand Master Keys to the Avalon Police Department as part of the emergency operation plan and associated with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Police.
- Approved a request from Center Stage Dance Academy to use Avalon Elementary auditorium for rehearsal and performance on Sunday, April 28, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Approved the implementation of the PowerSchool add-ons PowerPack, Ecollect Forms, and Student Analytics from May 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. This would come at an immediate cost to the district of \$33,882.50, and a yearly ongoing cost of approximately \$18,713.75 for hosting and licensing fees to be billed separately.
- Ratified a request from Teacher #5 (23-24) for two unpaid days of absence on March 15 and March 21, 2024.
- Approved full-day release time for Abigail Anderson to attend a PSEA meeting on May 17, 2024 with reimbursement from PSEA for a substitute teacher to cover for that day.
- Approved the request of teacher # 1 (24-25) for a Sabbatical Leave for professional development for the 2024-25 school year at one-half the teacher's regular salary.
- Approved a three-year custodial (AFSCME) agreement (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027).
- Authorized the Administration to establish the salaries for the Central Office (Confidential Secretary) and Business Office (Payroll and Accounts Payable) to reflect an annual increase of 3% effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.
- Approved to extend an agreement with Michelle King to continue to provide consulting services for the 2024-25 school year at an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to be billed to ARP ESSER funding.
- Approved adding a special education teacher position beginning the 2024-25 school year. Cost anticipated to be paid for by ACCESS funds.
- Approved to renew an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for continued PR/Communication services from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 at a base cost in year 1 of \$48,500, year 2 of \$55,000, and year 3 of \$56,000 with supplemental services available, when requested by the District, at hourly rates specified in the agreement.
- Approved the hiring of Amy Noble and Valerie Cupps as part-time teacher assistants. Start dates to be determined.
- Accepted the resignation of Adam Strotz as a special education teacher at Bellevue Elementary effective May 3, 2024.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Head Start and Pre-K Counts Programs, in participation with the Trying Together and United Way, to support best practices in transition to

kindergarten. This MOU fulfills the Hi5! requirements for kindergarten transition for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.