

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2024 BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Rajakovic recognized Pride Month and Juneteenth

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Johns mentioned that the Northgate School District was invited to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tree of Life campus in Squirrel Hill on Sunday, June 23rd. Students in our High School Choir performed and other members of our No Place for Hate initiative were in attendance. Dr. Johns noted as a reminder, that our students built a connection with survivors of the 2018 shooting at the synagogue this past school year following their trip to the Eradicate Hate Global Summit. Those students organized two viewings of the film "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life" for their peers and the community. On June 23rd, they were able to meet the director of the film, Patrice O'Neill.

Earlier this month the district concluded another wonderful school year. The rain held off long enough for the Northgate High School Class of 2024 commencement ceremony held on June 6th. Everyone in the district was proud of the work and accomplishments of the graduating class, and we're all looking forward to their futures. That same day we also celebrated the graduations of our kindergarten and sixth grade classes at Avalon and Bellevue elementary schools. Those are also both important milestones in their academic careers.

Our students are staying active this summer through a number of different learning opportunities. Assemble Pittsburgh's summer camp in Northgate's Innovation Space at AHN Suburban began today. The camp is for students in kindergarten through seventh grade and includes lessons about science, technology, engineering, art and math.

The Chill Project's Summer Greenhouse Groups will begin meeting next month to provide educational horticulture programming, while Arts Greenhouse also has Arts and Creative Writing workshops beginning later this summer. Dr. Johns thanked Dr. Evancho for his work in coordinating these summer programs.

The Board interviewed candidates for the vacant Board positions: (Melissa Bilski and Chelsea MacDonald).

The Board approved the following items at their June 24, 2024 Board meeting:

- Approved the Cooperative Sports Agreement with Avonworth School District for two years for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

- Ratified a Cooperative Agreement with Sewickley Academy to participate in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) for the 2023-24 school year at a cost of \$2,000.
- Approved a Cooperative Agreement with Sewickley Academy to participate in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) for two years at no cost to the district for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.
- Approved the purchase of a package from Agile Sports Technologies/Hudl for all Northgate athletic teams for cameras at the football Alumni field and Middle/High School gym for two years from 9/29/2024 to 9/28/2026 for a cost not to exceed \$8,560 for the first year, and \$10,700 for the second year.
- Approved supplemental contracts for the fall season of the 2024-25 school year for the following:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cheerleading JV	Tamecca Minor-Kyle	\$1,500
Cheerleading M.S.	Dalaya Ethridge	\$1,500

- Approved Monique Barron as a volunteer cheerleading sponsor.
- Ratified payment of \$836.60 to North Allegheny to fulfill an arrangement made to recondition 12 helmets that were loaned to Northgate football players from North Allegheny during a past season.
- Accepted the Sports Matter Program grant through the Dicks Sporting Goods store in the amount of \$15,000 for the cross country program.
- Approved an MOU with HealthCorps, Inc., in coordination with the University of Pittsburgh for a Teens Make Health Happen Clubs in collaboration with our Advisory Program for the 2024-25 school year at no cost to the district.
- Approved the following non-athletic supplemental contracts for the 2024-25 school year as stated below:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Play/Musical Director	Jessica Haberman	\$1,500
(This is a shared position)	Kaitlyn Lorey	\$1,500

- Approved a non-athletic supplemental contract for Quinten Harkness as 1st Assistant Band Director in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the standard annual partnership agreement with Waterfront Learning. This establishes costs and procedures for the year. This comes at no cost unless the district contracts services.

- Approved an MOU with Robert Morris University (RMU) to offer college in high school enrollment courses for the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved continuing to use Jostens as our yearbook provider with a two-year agreement (2024-25 and 2025-26 school years), with an option for a third year.
- Approved continuing to use Jostens for our graduation needs for three years (2024-25; 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years).
- Approved the May 2024 Treasurer's Report, ratified the May 2024 Bill List and approved the Tax Refunds.
- Approved the Final General Fund Budget for the 2024-2025 school year with expenditures in the amount of \$30,217,310 at a tax rate of 28.71 mils.
- Approved the Real Estate Duplicates, which are the county's certified assessments for the 2024-25 fiscal year for all properties within the boroughs on which the tax collectors will base the annual real estate tax bills. The amounts charged to the Avalon and Bellevue Tax Collectors will be as follows:

	<u>AVALON</u>	<u>BELLEVUE</u>
Total Assessed Value	\$192,951,930	\$326,446,413
Amount Charged	\$5,539,650	\$9,372,277

- Approved the purchase of the following insurance policies for the 2024-25 fiscal year at the costs shown below, from CM Regent Insurance Company, except for cyber insurance, for which the cost and carrier have not yet been finalized:
 - a. Property insurance: \$49,481
 - b. Equipment breakdown coverage/Boiler: \$5,419
 - c. General liability with law & violent incident coverage: \$13,300
 - d. Commercial crime policy: \$563
 - e. Commercial auto policy: \$2,610
 - f. Educators' legal liability coverage: \$18,588
 - g. Excess liability coverage: \$5,873
 - h. Cyber insurance: \$19,693

Total: \$115,527

- Approved the purchase of a Workers' Compensation Insurance policy with UPMC Work Partners at a cost of \$60,600.
- Approved the Activities & Athletic Accounts report for the quarter ending 6/30/24.

- Approved Resolution 06-24-01 authorizing the District to reduce Homestead property taxes by an amount of \$1,057,186.46 to be received from the Commonwealth from gaming funds under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayers Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006). (See Addendum VI.) If subsequent to the adoption of this Resolution the Pennsylvania Department of Education notifies the School District that for the 2024-25 fiscal year it will receive a different Property Tax Reduction Allocation pursuant to the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) and/or any amendments thereto, then the maximum real estate assessed value reduction for the homestead and farmstead exclusions will be based upon the subsequently issued aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2024, utilizing the above calculations.
- Approved the continuation of the District's Residential and Commercial Property Appeals Program for the 2025 tax year. This approval will authorize Andrews & Price to file appeals of 2025 tax assessments before October 1, 2024. This action is necessitated by a new Allegheny County ordinance that has changed the appeals deadline to October 1 in the prior year, rather than March 31 of the appeal year.
- Approved a settlement with Northwest Bank regarding the property assessments for three properties located in Bellevue Borough for tax years 2022, 2023, and 2024. The assessments will be established as follows:

\$571,500 for tax year 2022

\$572,400 for tax year 2023

\$528,650 for tax year 2024

This settlement will result in reduced taxes of \$4,552 in 2022, \$4,618 in 2023, and \$5,838 in 2024.

- Approved the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU3) Lease Agreements for two classrooms (Head Start and Pre-K) at Bellevue Elementary per the agreements provided.
- Ratified the request for custodian #1 (23-24) for 5 1/2 unpaid days for the following dates: May 8 (1/2); May 9, May 23, June 4, 6 and 7, 2024.
- Approved the hiring of Dave Trischler as a part-time custodian.
- Approved the purchase of 250 Dell Chromebook 31100 devices at a cost of \$60,385 for the 2024-25 school year as part of our student device refresh cycle. This purchase will be made with funds budgeted out of the general fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

- Approved to renew an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU3) to provide district technology services effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Approved submission of application, and acceptance of grants, if awarded, for the following grants:

Title I
Title IIA
Title III
Title IV
Ready to Learn Grant
IDEA
Select Teacher & Administrator Grants
Pre-K Counts
Safe Schools

- Approved the Sponsor-to-Sponsor Agreement with Sodexo which allows for the District's food service management to provide meals to the AIU3 for Head Start and Pre-K.
- Approved the request of teacher # 2 (24-25) for a Sabbatical Leave for professional development for the first semester of the 2024-25 school year at one-half the teacher's regular salary.
- Appointed Dr. Edward Snell as a school doctor for the mandated school physicals at \$100 per hour.
- Approved Todd Goble as part-time Athletic Director for the 2024-25 school year in the amount of \$3,500. The Board further approved Mr. Goble as full-time Athletic Director at the time of his retirement from a full-time teaching position effective January 17, 2025, at which time the amount will change to \$20,000 in the pro-rated amount of \$10,000.
- Approved the job description for Secondary Student Services Principal, which will be filled by Dr. Nicole Smith effective July 1, 2024.
- Approved the job description for Secondary Instructional Principal position. The Board approved the hiring of Dr. Nancy Bowman as a Secondary Instructional Principal in the amount of \$124,000 and to participate in the Act 93 agreement, effective date to be determined. The Board also approved issuing Dr. Bowman a high school master key.
- Approved to create a two-year Secondary Assistant Principal position for the Middle/High School for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

- Approved a change in the 2024-25 school calendar with the following changes: moving elementary early dismissal from Sept. 20 to the 13 and middle/high school evening parent/teacher conferences & senior projects from April 8 to April 30 and elementary evening parent/teacher conferences from April 8 and 9 to March 11 and 12.
- Approved the request of teacher #3 (24-25) for a medical/health restoration Sabbatical Leave for half-year for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year at one-half the teacher's regular salary.
- Approved to renew an agreement with Watson Institute for training and consultation service agreement for the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved to create an additional elementary teacher position at Bellevue Elementary, beginning the 2024-25 school year. This position will be used for an additional 2nd grade classroom.
- Approved the hiring of Theodore Papazekos as a full-time Elementary teacher, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the District's continued participation in the AASA Learning 2025 Network - Western PA Alliance for the 2024-25 school year in the amount of \$6,234 with \$4,676 to be covered by the Grable grant.
- Approved the hiring of Colleen Kelly, Joel Lennen, Jayci Ross, and Dylan Jacobs as part-time teacher assistants.
- Appointed Mrs. Abigail Lindsey and Mr. Michael Rajakovic as Northgate's two voting delegates to the Saturday, November 2, 2024, PSBA Delegate Assembly. (This will be a hybrid event with delegates being able to choose attending via zoom or in-person in Mechanicsburg, PA for the 1st 120 delegates to choose the in-person option.)
- Approved the attendance of any interested Board Member at the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference in the Poconos, PA October 6-8, 2024.
- Appointed Melissa Bilski as a Board Member to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Mehlo until December 2025.
- Appointed Chelsea MacDonald as a Board Member to fill the unexpired term of Katrina Eames effective July 1, 2024 until December 2025.

The Board approved the following at their June 10, 2024 General Meeting:

Special recognition is given to the following retirees: Nancy Camello, Sandra Durkin, Edward Marcellus, Michael McKay, and Michael Pipak.

- Approved Arafa Wilson as an Extended School Year (ESY) Teacher Assistant during the summer of 2024.
- Approved the hiring of Emily Angle as a full-time Elementary teacher, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the hiring of Kristine Spitznagel as a full-time Elementary teacher, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the hiring of Allison Hoff as a full-time Elementary teacher, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the hiring of Francesca Lindelow as a full-time Special Education, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Position will continue to be funded through ACCESS as long as ACCESS funds are available.
- Approved the hiring of Marissa Timko as a full-time Special Education teacher, effective the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the purchase of 40 Dell Latitude 3550 laptops at a total price of \$30,320. This replaces the previously approved purchase from May 28th and is a \$1,366 increase from the previous amount.