

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 2024 BOARD MEETING

The Board recognized Native American Heritage Month.

Special recognition was given to the following Avalon Elementary School students:

Eve Cantlay - Accelerated Reader Leader
Olivia Miller - Accelerated Reader Leader
Ivan Kirk - Leads the School Accelerated Reader Points
Tamera Beeman - Extra Effort
Nijole Rutherford - Extra Effort
Gracie Cannon - Kindness
Marshall Arana-Morris - Kindness
Julian Walker - Kindness
Maddox Walker - Kindness
Scarlett Albrecht - Leadership
Wyatt Cummings - Leadership
Alexis Heagerty - Leadership
Carter Revis - Leadership
Serenity Stevenson - Leadership
Meadow White - Leadership

Special recognition was also given to the following student athletes for their accomplishments in cross country:

Emma Gratner - placing at WPIAL & qualifying for PIAA State
Hope Stiteler - earning a WPIAL medal & qualifying for PIAA State

Special recognition was also given to the following student athletes for their accomplishments in football:

1st team All Section:
Darius Fields - Running Back / Defensive Back
Nicholas Balzer - Offensive Line
2nd team All Section:
Sonteon Layne - Quarterback / Defensive Line
Johrdon Hairston - Receiver
Kaden Stiger - Defensive Line
Honorable Mention:
Jacob Lenoski - Defensive Line
Anthony Hopkins - Receiver

Special recognition was also given to the following student athlete for accomplishments in volleyball:

Johna Abramowicz - 3rd Team All Section

Student Council Representatives, Asher Lardo, provided a student council report, including a summary of their attendance at the PASC conference. She spoke about their goals for their various committees and provided information on upcoming events.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Johns mentioned Northgate Middle School students had the opportunity to learn about different careers this month during the school's 3rd annual Experiential Career Fair. Professionals across Allegheny County met with students to discuss their respective career fields and lead activities.

The Northgate Marching Band participated in the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Parade, one of the largest and longest running Veterans Day Parades in the Country. The band looked and sounded great. Also, Bellevue Elementary and Avalon Elementary each hosted successful Veterans Day Assemblies. Students performed patriotic songs, created class projects and learned about the importance of the holiday.

The Stop the Judgement Project hosted a successful candid and interactive discussion on mental health and substance use disorders. Students and parents at Northgate Middle and High School learned about mental health and substance use disorders.

Northgate hosted Instant Decision Day this month. Instant Decision Day is when admissions representatives from universities come to the high school and meet with interested 12th grade students to determine their admission status to their universities. It was a successful day for the seniors.

The Bellevue and Avalon Elementary Kindness Clubs celebrated World Kindness Day on November 13th. Students at Bellevue wrote inspirational quotes on sticky notes and put them on each locker, planted tulips and daffodils and made placements for the Seniors at Lutheran Service for MLK Day. Avalon Kindness Club members created pumpkins at their last club meeting. They were sold to students and proceeds benefit the KDKA Turkey Fund and the Avalon Kindness Club.

Dr. Johns also mentioned that Caleb with student council is unable to attend the reorganization on December 3rd, but relayed that he and Asher are looking forward to a great year in partnership between the Student Council and the School Board and hopes the reorganization goes well. If he could attend, he would thank School Board Members for being servant leaders in the community and for being involved in the future of Northgate.

We have a few upcoming events during the month of December. Both elementary schools will hold their annual band concerts. The Avalon performance will be held on Monday, December 16, at 1:45 p.m. The Bellevue performance will be held on Tuesday, December 17, at 1:45 p.m. The Middle/High School Choir and Band Concert is December 12th at 7:00 p.m. The Elementary Band Concert at the high school is December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

The Board approved the following items at their November 25, 2024 Board meeting:

- Approved an athletic supplemental contract for the winter season of the 2024-25 school year for Chase Brooks as M.S. Boys' Basketball Coach in the amount of \$3,500.
- Approved a non-athletic supplemental contract for the 2024-25 school year for Kelly Winovich as M.S. Choral Sponsor in the amount of \$1,650.
- Approved a non-athletic supplemental contract for the 2024-25 school year for Rachelle Russo for elementary band in the amount of \$1,650.
- Approved an agreement with Arbiter Sports for a subscription for the purpose of paying athletic officials in the annual amount of \$995 and a one-time implementation and training fee of \$295.
- Approved Kathryn Robinson to participate in the Classrooms Without Borders Study Seminar Poland Personally. Cost to the District is \$1,600 and \$500 by the teacher. Dates of the trip are June 22-30, 2025.
- Approved an agreement with McGuire for their service as an Approved Private School.
- Approved to renew an agreement with Global Wordsmiths to provide Language Translation Services and Language Interpretation Services for January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.
- Approved the October Treasurer's Report, ratified the October 2024 Bill List and approved the Tax Refunds.
- Adopted an opt-out resolution stating that the District will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its Adjusted Act 1 Index of 5.1%.
- Approved a resolution authorizing participation in the AIU Joint Purchasing Program for the 2025-2026 school year and appointing representatives to the program. Chris Ursu will serve as the primary representative, with Judy Zimmerman as the alternate representative.

- Approved an amendment to the current transportation contract with W.L. Roenigk to establish charter service pricing. Section 20 of the existing contract allows for such an amendment, which will include a flat base rate with additional charges based on time and mileage thresholds.

The revised charter rate structure is as follows:

- Base Rate: \$215.84
- Mileage Charge: \$2.00 per mile after 75 miles
- Hourly Charge: \$27.50 per hour after 5 hours

Additionally, rates will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the remainder of the contract term.

- Adopted a resolution declaring the District's intent to receive and use available funds from the 2024-2025 Ready to Learn Block Grant Tax Equity Supplement pursuant to Act 55 of 2024 and Section 2599.6 of the Pennsylvania School Code. Northgate will receive \$55,446.16 and will use the funds to mitigate or prevent an increase in the real estate tax millage rate levied by the School District, which is an enumerated purpose of the Act.
- Approved Connor Patterson as a substitute custodian at a rate of \$15 per hour.
- Approved the first reading of the following policies:
 - 805 (rev) - Emergency Preparedness & Response
 - 805.1 (rev) - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
 - 805.2 (rev) - School Security Personnel
 - 806 (rev) - Child Abuse
 - 904 (rev) - Public Attendance at School Events
 - 909 (rev) - Municipal Government Relations
- Approved the Superintendent's October 2024- September 2025 Evaluation Criteria and Annual Goals.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Northgate Education Support Professionals Association (PSEA-NEA) regarding flexible days/hours for an extra-curricular teacher assistant.
- Approved the attendance of Dr. Caroline Johns and Dr. Chris Caton to the ASU-GSV Summit April 7 - 9, 2025 in San Diego, CA at a total cost of \$2,550 to the District. Other costs to be covered by the Grable grant.
- Approved two unpaid days for teacher assistant #2 (24-25) during the first week of December 2024.

- Approved Kim Mavilla as a teacher assistant for extra-curricular activities - Bocce Ball.
- Approved the hiring of Kirby Crabbe as a full-time Speech/Language Teacher at Avalon Elementary and the Middle/High School.
- Approved Dr. Jeffrey Evancho's attendance at the South by South West (SXSW) conference in Austin, Texas in March 2025 at no cost to the District. Cost to be covered by Remake Learning.
- Approved a contract with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for Civil Rights Data Collection Reporting Services at a cost of \$2,400.
- Approved the hiring of Melinda Mangino as a part-time elementary lunchroom monitor at Bellevue Elementary.
- Appointed Dr. Johnny Joseph, Pediatric Dentistry Asleep, as the school dentist at a fee of \$7.00 for each student dental exam.

The Board approved the following at their November 11, 2024 General Meeting:

- Accepted the resignation of Abby Manni as elementary Life Skills teacher at Avalon Elementary.
- Accepted the resignation of Erika Scherling as Speech/Language teacher at Avalon Elementary.
- Accepted the resignation of Marissa Timko as Special Education teacher at Bellevue Elementary.
- Approved the hiring of Rhakya Hipps as a part-time teacher assistant.
- Approved the Superintendent's attendance at the AASA Networking Conference February 12-14, 2025 in Miami, FL at no cost to the District.