

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2025 BOARD MEETING

Special recognition was given to the following Bellevue Elementary and Avalon Elementary students for their work on the elementary musical:

Bellevue - 6th Grade

Ciara DeFlorimonte
Benjamin Gratner
Addison Lott
Annalise Mehlo
Kinley Rush
Lennon Russell
Violet Watson

Bellevue - 4th Grade

Kendyl Burka
Asuntina Gottron
Janelle Herzog
Dominic McAfee
Lauren Reese
Jalaya Schink
Polly Secich
Dylan Wickline

Bellevue - 5th Grade

Alaia Brooks
Arhea Collins
Abby Epton
Maggie Epton
Lilliana Figley
Donovan Gannon
Mera Garso
Annalise Johnston
Arloe Libstaff
Naomi McKivigan
Maeve Murray-Marcum
Eliza Piccirilli
Emerson Rothman
Olivia Wallace

Avalon - 6th Grade

Braden Brooks
Gianna Easler
Jonah Mosley

Avalon - 5th Grade

Armani Barnes
Nicole Cupps
Josephine Skinner

Student Council Report: Student Council Representative provided a Student Council report, including that this week is Spirit Week, and they are involved with outdoor projects with Arts Greenhouse.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Johns provided a Superintendent's Report. Congratulations to our outstanding A.W. Beattie students on their achievements at the Pennsylvania SkillsUSA and FCCLA competitions. Cassidy Auth earned a gold medal in the Promotional Bulletin Board category and will advance to the national SkillsUSA competition this June in Atlanta, Georgia. She is also a recipient of the

Rex Wright Memorial Scholarship. Anisten Jackson received a silver medal in Extemporaneous Speaking.

FCCLA students had a strong showing as well, earning six state championships. Congratulations to all participants, including Northgate's Julianna Shane, who earned first place in Baking and Pastry and Cayla Galbreath, Northgate's Voting Delegate. We are proud of all our students for their hard work, dedication and success at the state level.

Children's Entrepreneur Market: Join the Bellevue Elementary Kindness Club at Sparkfest. This Friday, May 2, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., student groups will showcase and sell a variety of handmade creations with all proceeds supporting the Kindness Club. In addition to the market, the Kindness Club will be collecting gently used children's books to benefit Genesis House. We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your support.

On April 8th, students from Bellevue and Avalon Elementaries had the opportunity to attend the Children's Choice Awards at Commonwealth Charter Academy. This was an unforgettable experience for all students involved. They had the exciting opportunity to compete in a fun book competition against students from other schools, showing off their reading knowledge and teamwork skills. A highlight of the day was an inspiring talk by the renowned author Matthew Holm, who shared insights from his writing journey and offered valuable advice to the young readers.

Congratulations to the 5th grade team from Bellevue Elementary, which was the only team from Northgate Odyssey to advance from the regional tournament to the Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind (OM) State Finals, which took place at Pocono Mountain East High School on April 5th. We are proud to announce that the team earned 4th place in their problem and division. They are especially excited to have set a new team record for the weight their balsa wood structure could hold.

Camp-Read-A-Lot: The Avalon and Bellevue Reading Specialists held an open house-style event last week at our Suburban space. Families were invited to enjoy pizza and s'mores and have reading and writing fun in tents. They also participated in activities including building words, retelling story cubes, and reading in tents with flashlights. We are so thankful to have such a wonderful partnership with our families.

A huge congratulations to the entire Northgate Musical Program for their amazing performance of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The show was a great success. Congratulations to Avalon and Bellevue Elementary Schools for their spectacular performance of the beloved musical *Annie*. Our incredibly talented 5th and 6th grade students lit up the stage, delivering a fantastic performance.

The Northgate School Board approved a two-hour delay start for high school students on May 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd due to Keystone testing. Students who need to take a Keystone Exam will arrive at the regular time on the

days of their Keystone Exams. This delay will only affect high school students who are not scheduled to test on those days. A.W. Beattie and the Middle School will operate on their regular schedules during these dates. Please make sure to adjust your schedule accordingly. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the school.

Join us on Saturday, May 24, 2025, for Northgate School District's Kennywood Picnic. For those attending the School Picnic on May 24th, the Early Bird Offer is available for tickets purchased by May 10th at \$31.99 + Fees. After May 10th, the price will be \$35.99 + Fees. If you choose to visit on another date before July 13th, you can still purchase a ticket for \$37.00 + Fees, but be sure to buy by June 30th. More information can be found on our website.

Several exciting events are coming up in May. On May 6th, the Middle and High School Choral Concert will take place, followed by Kindergarten Registration Night on May 8. The Middle and High School Band Concert is scheduled for May 14, and Prom will be held on May 16. On May 22, students will have the opportunity to shine during the Student Showcase of Excellence.

The Board approved the following items at their April 28, 2025 Board meeting:

- Approved Laurel McMahon as a volunteer swimming coach.
- Approved an MOU with Nazareth Prep for a two-year (2025-26 & 2026-27) co-op agreement for girls' basketball.
- Accepted the resignation of Deon Daniels as boys' basketball coach.
- Approved the renewal of an MOU with Robert Morris University (RMU) to offer college in high school enrollment courses for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approved Kane Williams, a 12th-grade Northgate student, to intern with Ms. Ash Emmrich of Arts Greenhouse as a paid Horticulture Intern to be paid retroactively with a start date of April 22, 2025, at a rate of \$10 an hour and not to exceed a total of 220 credit hours. This will be paid through our Moonshot Grant. There is no cost to the District.
- Approved Magic School AI for an annual cost of \$6,000.
- Approved the March Treasurer's Report and the March 2025 Bill List.
- Approved Mr. Michael Bichko, in his role as Student Activities and Athletics Account Coordinator, as an authorized signer for activities and athletics checks. Additionally, the Board approved Dr. Nancy Bowman as a second authorized signer. Both signatures will be required on all checks.

- Approved the Activities & Athletic Accounts report for the quarter ending March 31, 2025.
- Approved renewal of the District's agreement with CSIU for the use of its web-based financial information system applications. The estimated cost is \$16,954.05 for 2025-26, broken down by application as follows:

Assets Inventory: \$1,900.00
Fund Accounting: \$5,729.00
Human Resources: \$3,134.25
Payroll: \$6,190.80

- Approved the continuation of the District's Residential and Commercial Property Appeals Program for the 2026 tax year. This approval will authorize Andrews & Price to file appeals of 2026 tax assessments before October 1, 2025. 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 the request from JP Gallery for Performing Arts to use Avalon Elementary auditorium for a performance on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Approved the hiring of Nolan Duncan as a full-time custodian.
- Approved the request for custodian #1 (24-25) for six unpaid days for the following dates: April 30, May 3, 10, 16, 17, and June 6, 2025.
- Approved a contract with Full Service network for a 200 megabit per second load balancing internet connection and a block of five static ip addresses at an initial cost of \$74 for setup and an ongoing cost of \$88 per month.
- Approved the first reading of the following policies:
 - 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
 - 807 - Opening Exercises / Moment of Silence / Flag Displays
- Approved to renew an agreement with Christopher Ursu, Director of Finance & Operations, to be effective July 1, 2025 for 5 years (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030).
- Approved Susan Passaro as an Extended School Year (ESY) Teacher Assistant for the summer of 2025.
- Approved Valerie Cupps as Extended School Year Teacher Assistant during the summer of 2025 for Camp AIM ESY.

- Accepted the retirement resignation of Lisa Auth as elementary teacher at Avalon Elementary School effective June 13, 2025.
- Approved the Sponsor to Sponsor Agreement with Sodexo which allows for the District's food service management to provide meals to the AIU for Head Start and Pre-K.
- Approved to renew an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) to provide district technology services effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Cost includes an annual increase of 3%.

Year 1: \$108,665

Year 2: \$111,925

Year 3: \$115,283

- Approved an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for its coordination of all Federal Programs, including Title I, II, III, IV and multiple ESSER grants, at a cost \$90 per hour with an estimate being 85.5 hours per academic year. Service will commence July 1, 2025 and expire June 30, 2028.
- Accepted the resignation of Rhakya Hipps as part-time Teacher Assistant.

The Board approved the following at their April 7, 2025 General Meeting:

- Approved the high school Euro Challenge team to attend the semi-final round in New York City on April 27-29, 2025. The trip will be chaperoned by Mr. Mike Bichko. The estimated cost is not to exceed \$1,000 which covers travel to and from the airport and meals not covered by the event.
- Approved a two-hour delay start for Keystone testing on May 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd, 2025. This will only affect the high school students who are not scheduled to test on those days. A.W. Beattie and Middle School will run on their regular schedules.