

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 2025 BOARD MEETING

The Board recognized Mental Health Awareness month and Asian-American & Pacific Islander community month.

Special recognition was given to the following Odyssey of the Mind students from Bellevue Elementary for advancing to the State Finals:

Isabella Benner
Oscar Bergmann

Abby Epton
Maggie Epton

Axel Sloane

Special recognition was given to Caleb Gratner as Student Council Representative to the Board for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

Special recognition was given to the following students for their participation in the Middle/High School Musical - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*:

Taylor Baldauff
Malia Benny
Alyx Bohn
Emmalee Borland
Caleb Brandt
Stella Brandt
Colette DeHart
Addison Dixon
Hannah Epton
Josie Fahrenhold
Zachary Fleckenstein
Cayla Galbreath
Morgan Gannon
Caitlyn Garvin
Harper Geibel
Ayriana George
Zaiden George
Emma Gratner
Liayla Groetzing

Eliot Harold
Kaylee Hunt
Ian Jackson
Deven Kapoor
Annabelle Kemerer
Madeline Kemerer
Asher Lardo
Braden Largent
Kylie Michalski
Reagan Michalski
Sophia Nash
Connor Patterson
Kaitlyn Patterson
Arelyn Perksin
Adam Porterfield
William Porterfield
Olivia Rajakovic
Grayson Rectenwald
Nathaniel Rectenwald

Mackenzie Reed
Victoria Rice
Janelle Rickman
Morrison Rudy
Evan Russell
Zoe Russell
Liam Schubert
Quinn Schubert
Lenora Secich
Jeanelle Stiteler
Ryleigh Stone
Abby Straub
Brody Straub
Tessa Uccellini
Abigail Wanat
Calvin Watson
Lily White
Carrie Wynn

Student Council Report: Student Council Representative provided a Student Council report, including the work that they are doing on the hillside at the Middle/High School and the renovation to the old faculty lounge. It was also mentioned that the election of Student Council President and Vice-President will take place next year.

Superintendent's Report: AIU representatives provided a summary of their Technology Services.

Dr. Johns provided a Superintendent's Report. The Northgate School District is thrilled to welcome Ms. Qualisha Zyhier as the new principal of Bellevue Elementary! Principal Zyhier joins us from Pittsburgh Public Schools, where she currently serves as principal of Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5. She comes with nearly 20 years of experience in education.

Our Avalon Kindness Club Entrepreneur Night was a huge success. From hand sanitizer, pet rocks, school spirit earrings, handmade candy scented pillows and slime, these kids blew us away with their creativity and business savvy skills. Thank you to all the families, community members and staff who came out to support them. It was a great event.

A special shout out to the Northgate Middle/Senior High School Choir and Band for their outstanding performances at the Spring concerts. Both groups sounded incredible and delivered memorable shows. We're always proud of our arts program and the amazing talent our students continue to showcase.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kelly Winovich for being named a quarterfinalist for the 2026 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. This award recognizes current educators who have made a significant contribution to the field of music education. Mrs. Winovich is one of 21 music teachers from Pennsylvania and one of 200 music educators from across America selected as a quarterfinalist. This is her 14th time being recognized by the GRAMMY Foundation.

Northgate 5th graders had an exciting opportunity to participate in Junior Achievement's BizTown field trip. Students from Avalon and Bellevue stepped into the workforce for the day, running a simulated town and gaining hands-on experience in business and civic leadership.

The Northgate School District partnered with Project Zero at Harvard Graduate School of Education to host a one-day conference at Nova Place, in collaboration with the Children's Museum. Educators gathered for the "Learning and Thinking That Make a Difference" conference, which featured multiple workshop sessions led by experienced practitioners who use Project Zero ideas in their teaching and learning contexts.

Congratulations to Savian Baptiste, Will Smith, Tyler Harold and Zion Ward on qualifying for the PIAA Track & Field State Championship. The team traveled to Shippensburg University to compete in the Class 3A 4x400m relay preliminaries. While

they didn't advance to the finals, we are incredibly proud of their hard work and achievements this season.

Our annual Student Showcase of Excellence was a success! Our students' creativity and talent was on full display as we celebrated their amazing work. Our elementary bands put on a wonderful performance as well. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students!

With summer right around the corner, we want to make sure families in our community know where to find free meals for kids during the break. Summer Youth Cafe sites will be opening up across the area once school is out, providing nutritious meals to children at no cost. You can find more information on our website and Facebook page.

We're excited to share that Northgate has been paired with Englewood Public School District through the inaugural Learning Neighbor matches. This initiative connects Western Pennsylvania school districts with peers from the League of Innovative Schools to foster cross-state collaboration. Each district has been awarded \$10,143 to co-design a project focused on real-world learning, student engagement, or community building. These innovative partnerships will be showcased at the League of Innovative Schools Spring 2026 Convening, where each team will share what they've created and learned together.

The 2024-2025 school year is coming to an end. The last day of school for seniors is Thursday, June 5th. The last day for all other students is Friday, June 6th.

Graduation is also on June 5th. Avalon and Bellevue's Kindergarten graduations are at 9:00 a.m., Avalon's 6th grade graduation is at 10:30 a.m., Bellevue's 6th grade graduation is at 11:00 a.m. and our Commencement Ceremony for our graduating seniors will be 7:00 p.m. Again, these are all taking place on Thursday, June 5th. You can find all of this information on our website under the calendar tab.

The Board approved the following items at their May 27, 2025 Board meeting:

- Accepted the following supplemental resignations:
Brandon Hogle as Head Baseball Coach
Rob Abramowicz as Head Softball Coach
Maddie Abramowicz as 1st Assistant Softball Coach
- Approved a supplemental contract for Jessica Haberman as Band Director for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$5,500. Also, the Board approved a supplemental contract for Ashley McPaul as Bandfront Sponsor for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$2,500. (Amounts will be adjusted when the new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.)
- Approved a supplemental contract for Quinten Harkness as 1st Assistant Band Director in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2025-26 school year. (Amount will be adjusted when the new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.)

- 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 the Addendum to Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Comprehensive Services Agreement - 2025-26 for the AIU to provide support and assistance to the District in seeking reimbursement under Pennsylvania's School-Based ACCESS Program at an annual fee of \$5,000.
- Approved the April Treasurer's Report and ratified the April 2025 Bill List.
- Section 621 of the Pennsylvania School Code requires, during the month of May, the Board of School Directors designate depositories for the forthcoming school year. The Board of School Directors designated the following multiple depositories for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. [Citizens Bank; Huntington Bank; PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT); PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF); PNC Bank].
- Approved renewal of the following bonds: School Board Secretary's Bond, 7/1/25 to 6/30/26 - \$100; Treasurer's Bond, 4/21/25 to 4/21/26, \$100; Activities Account Coordinator's Bond, 8/16/25 to 8/15/26, \$100.
- Approved United States Fire Insurance Company, an AIG insurance company, Plan AAA, to provide coverage to students while participating in interscholastic athletic programs, band, cheerleading, and/or school-sponsored activities at an estimated cost of \$9,950 for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approved United States Fire Insurance Company to provide voluntary student insurance for 2025-26 at no additional cost.
- Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code requires that the Board elect a Treasurer for the period of one (1) year. The Board elected Mr. Mike Rajakovic to serve as Treasurer for the 2025-26 school year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). Arrangements for securing the necessary bond for the Treasurer will be made by the Administration.
- Approved the Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$30,826,011 and place the budget on public display. The millage rate, for Proposed Final Budget purposes only, is set tentatively at 29.8584 mils. The Board will continue to review the Budget Plan in preparation for the final adoption of the budget scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Northgate Administrative Center Boardroom. Members of the public will be able to access the budget beginning Friday, May 30, 2025, by going to the District website (www.northgatesd.net), selecting "Budget", and then selecting "Budget Information". It will also be available for public inspection in the Administrative Center and each of the school building offices from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM Monday through Friday beginning Friday, May 30, 2025.

- Approved the continuation of Clayton Berwick to assist the Facility Manager on an as-needed basis outside of the normal teacher work day at the current teacher contract coverage rate for the 2025-26 school year. Hours and work to be assigned by the Facility Manager.
- Approved a one-year agreement for pest management services at Avalon Elementary for \$1,082.88, Bellevue Elementary for \$1,082.88, Northgate High School for \$1,186.56.
- Approved Sylvan Patalano as student summer custodial help at \$10 per hour.
- Approved AnnaJean Patalano as summer custodial help at \$10 per hour
- Approved a proposal from Clark Contractors, Inc., as per KPN JOC Cooperative Contract, for specified high school stairwell painting projects in the amount of \$91,739.03.
- Approved a proposal from Gunning, Inc. under PA CoStars Cooperative Contract No. 008-E23-1151 for the replacement of Uni-Vents and Condensing Units in the Avalon Cafeteria, for \$70,600.00 to be paid from the 2025-26 capital projects budget.
- Approved Nathan Gratner as student summer technology help at \$10 per hour.
- Approved to renew its agreement with Sodexo Management, Inc. for one year starting July 1, 2025. The agreement may be renewed by mutual agreement of both parties for up to four additional one-year periods beyond the initial year of the agreement, which was the 2023-24 school year.
- Approved the proposed A.W. Beattie Career Center 2025-26 Budget, as approved by A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Operating Committee on April 24, 2025, in the amount of \$12,007,075.
- Approved the second and final reading of the following policies:
 - 249 (rev) - Bullying/Cyberbullying
 - 807 (rev) - Opening Exercises / Moment of Silence / Flag Displays
- Approved the first reading of the following policies:
 - 113.1 (rev) - Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 - 113.2 (rev) - Behavior Support
 - 202 (rev) - Eligibility of Nonresident Students
 - 236.1 (rev) - Threat Assessment
 - 254 (rev) - Educational Opportunity for Military Children

- Approved an Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) to provide special education services to students assigned by the District for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between and among the Avalon Police Department, the Bellevue Police Department and the Northgate School District that supports district-police collaboration and includes a general outline of roles and responsibilities.
- Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code requires that the School Directors shall elect a secretary every four (4) years for a four (4)-year term. The election is to be held in May with the term beginning the first day of July. The Board elected to continue the services of Laureen Dowd as Secretary for the Board of School Directors for a term commencing July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2029. Appropriate arrangements for bond will be made.
- Approved the hiring of Amanda Cheatham as part-time Teacher Assistant.
- Approved Jacob O'Keefe, Max Mazzotta, Amanda Cheatham, and James Harris as Extended School Year (ESY) Teacher Assistants for the summer of 2025.
- Approved the hiring of Molly Lipovsky Rossetti as an Elementary Teacher at Avalon Elementary beginning the 2025-26 school year at Step 7.
- Approved to renew an agreement with Allegheny Children's Initiative to be the Student Assistance Program (SAP) provider for the District for the 2025-26 school year at no cost to the District.
- Approved an MOU with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) for Title III ESL services.
- Approved the purchase of Vector Solutions to access online training modules at a cost of \$9,717.80 for the first year effective July 1, 2025.
- 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. Effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.
- Approved a one-year renewal contract with Precision HR Solutions, Inc. to provide substitute nurses and substitute custodians to the Northgate School District effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, with an option to extend 2 additional years, at an hourly cost to the district of \$34 for substitute nurses and \$25 for substitute custodians.

- Appointed Mrs. Wendi Lee and Mrs. Cheryl Patalano as Northgate's two voting delegates to the Tuesday, October 21, 2025, PSBA Delegate Assembly.
- Approved the attendance of any interested Board Member at the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference in the Poconos, PA, October 19-21, 2025.

The Board approved the following at their May 12, 2025 General Meeting:

- Accepted the resignation of Adam Burns as AV Coordinator with his supplemental being adjusted from \$1,300 to \$650.
- Approved a non-athletic supplemental contract effective March 24, 2025 in the prorated amount of \$650 for Scott Stiteler as AV Coordinator.
- Approved a proposal from Clark Contractors, Inc. under Gordian JOC Cooperative Contract No 2021JOCC-21 for the replacement of exterior garage doors, for \$53,203.17 to be paid out of the capital projects budget
- Approved the purchase of 250 chromebooks for the 2025-26 school year from Dell at a total cost of \$68,250.50.
- Approved the purchase of 90 Dell Pro 16 PC16250 laptops from Dell at a total cost of \$65,790.
- Approved the hiring of Qualisha Zyhier as Bellevue Elementary Principal effective the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$113,000. Also, the Board approved issuing Qualisha Zyhier a Bellevue master key.
- Approved an agreement with Student "A" as prepared by the Solicitor and submitted.