

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 BOARD MEETING

The Board recognized Spanish Heritage Month

Student Council Report: The Student Council Representatives provided a Student Council Report, including that they had a retreat over the summer. They worked on their goals and discussed what they wanted to accomplish this year. They established their Executive Board. They mentioned Homecoming and Spirit week and the upcoming Halloween parade.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Johns provided a summary of a draft for International Travel Vision.

Dr. Johns also mentioned that Northgate students took part last week in the Eradicate Hate Student Summit in downtown Pittsburgh, as part of the Eradicate Hate Global Summit. Our students took part in valuable conversations, took part in student panels, and even spoke with the media about their work. We're so proud of our students who are involved in the No Place for Hate initiative, as they form connections and help eradicate hate in our community and beyond.

Walk and Roll to School Day for Avalon and Bellevue will take place on Wednesday, October 1. The meeting location will be off of Lincoln Avenue on North Sprague Avenue, in the empty lot near the old post office. Breakfast packs will be provided by the Avalon and Bellevue PTO's from 7:30 to 7:45 a.m., and the walk to school will begin promptly at 7:50 a.m. We hope to see you there.

It's Homecoming week at Northgate. We have lots of fun things planned for the week including daily dress up themes and a Meet the Flames pep rally for students at 2:30 p.m. Our annual homecoming parade will start off at 6:00 Friday night followed by our football game against Laurel at 7:00 p.m. Our homecoming ceremony will take place at half-time. Come out and show your support.

Join the Be the Kind Kid Movement at Avalon and Bellevue Elementaries. The Kindness Clubs at Avalon and Bellevue are hosting a t-shirt sale to promote kindness and support their ongoing efforts. The sale ends September 24 and a portion of the proceeds benefits both clubs. A link to buy a shirt can be found on our social media.

At the Red, White & Blue invite, Northgate had 3 Flames snag top-25 finisher shirts. Hope Stiteler placed 4th and Emma Gratner, 24th in the girls' 1A race, and Zachary Fleckenstein finished 20th in the boys' 1A race.

At the PIAA Foundation invite in Hershey this weekend, Hope Stiteler led the way with an 18th place finish in a very loaded 1A field of runners from across the state, earning a coveted Foundation invite medal. Emma Gratner and Lindsey Persson also laid down outstanding efforts on one of the toughest courses in the state. For the boys, Zachary Fleckenstein was the first Northgate runner across the finish line and continues to impress, overtaking 30 boys in the final 2 miles. Evan Carson, Sebastian Stallard, Lance Mahfoud and Nathan Gratner all had strong times.

Northgate School District is considering offering a Parent Training Series this fall, and we'd love your input. Possible training may include behavioral disorders and strategies, special education regulations and procedures, trauma-informed practices, social emotional learning and more. We'd love to get your feedback. Visit our Facebook page to complete a short interest survey.

As of September 9th, we've begun our Arts Greenhouse program, Stories of Us. Every Tuesday from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Northgate students in grades 5- 8 participate in activities such as graphic novels, sculpting, drawing, painting and team games. It's a great way to get students involved outside of school hours.

This year's 5th and 6th grade musical production will be The Addams Family. Rehearsals are currently underway and show dates are November 19 & 20, 2025. We hope you'll come out and support our talented students.

Northgate will be holding Instant Decision Day on Thursday, November 13. Instant Decision Day is when admissions representatives from universities come to a high school and meet with interested 12th grade students to determine their admission status to their universities. All universities have agreed to waive the application fees so this is a free opportunity to apply to college and find out your admission status instantly.

We will be holding a FAFSA Registration Night at Northgate Middle/High School on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We ask that you register for this event by notifying Mr. Burns that you plan to attend. If you do not register you are still able to attend, but you may not have access to the full application at the time of our event. Parents of seniors should have received this information via email.

The Board approved the following items at their September 22, 2025 Board meeting:

- Approved, in accordance with the uniform rotation schedule, the purchase of girls' varsity and junior varsity uniforms from BSN at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.
- Approved an increase in the game worker stipends effective the 2025-26 school year as follows:

Game Supervisor - from \$40 per game to \$100 per game

PA Announcer - from \$50 per game to \$75 per game

Score Board & Clock (Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball & Softball) - from \$40 per game to \$50 per game

Score Board & Clock (Swimming) - \$75 per game

Ticket Booth & Ticket Takers - from \$40 per game to \$50 per game

Sticks (Football only) - from \$40 per game to \$50 per game

- Approved partnering with Danny Devine Studio and the students at the middle/high school with the Mural Arts Club at no cost to the District. This partnership is made possible through funding from the LIGHT Initiative.
- Approved a supplemental for Sue Emery as Bellevue Elementary Yearbook Advisor in the amount of \$1,736. This will be one of the six elementary supplemental positions available.
- Approved the following to split the two elementary Kindness Club supplementals at \$1,736 each as follows: Sharon Trimber, Theo Papazekos, Eileen Maiette, Barb Gusew, Katie Blaney, Amanda Graff, Kristy Slate, Katie Caldwell & Tricia Schink in the amount of \$385.78 for each advisor. These will be two of the six elementary supplemental positions available.
- Approved a supplemental for Francesca Lindelow as Best Buddies Advisor in the amount of \$1,736. This will be one of the six elementary supplemental positions available.
- Approved an MOU with BotsIQ outlining the partnership and new program offerings for the District.
- Approved a supplemental contract with Jessica Haberman as Musical Director for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$3,360.

- Approved to renew an Agreement with Innovation Works, Inc. for the Northgate School District to participate in the Startable Program.
- Approved an MOU with The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh for a mentoring partnership at no cost to the district.
- Approved an Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) to provide Title I services to our students residing in the Northgate School District attending nonpublic schools effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
- Approved Gretchen Monahan to attend the Cultures of Thinking Summit in San Diego, CA on January 30, 2026 through February 2, 2026. Cost not to exceed \$2,100 which will be covered by the Grable EdLeader grant.
- Approved Sue Emery as a Science Leader at Bellevue Elementary in the amount of \$3,000.
- Approved the August Treasurer's Report and ratified the August 2025 Bill List.
- Approved the purchase of 50 Apple iPads at an approximate total cost of \$17,450.
- Approved the purchase of a one-year renewal of Google Workspace for Education Plus for the coverage term of October 25, 2025 through October 24, 2026 at a cost of \$5,379.
- Ratified the Superintendent's attendance at the NODE Conference in Princeton, NJ, September 18-20, 2025 at no cost to the District.
- Approved an unpaid day of absence for Teacher #4 (25-26) for one unpaid day in November 2025.
- Approved the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement with the Bellevue Police Department and Borough of Bellevue for August 2025 through June 2026 with the School District covering 100 percent of the School Resource Officer's salary during his time at the District.
- Approved the hiring of Aloira Kincaid as a part-time Teacher Assistant.
- Approved Dr. Chris Caton to attend The Power of Immersion Learning: A Workshop for Leaders, hosted by PASA & EF Educational Tours on November 4, 2025 in Harrisburg, PA. Cost will cover hotel, mileage and food not to exceed \$650.

- Accepted the retirement resignation of Laureen Dowd, as Superintendent's Secretary and Board Secretary effective January 9, 2026.
- Approved a request for 1 day unpaid absence for Teacher Assistant #3 (25-26) during the week of October 14-19, 2025.
- Approved to elect Officers for the following PSBA positions as follows:

Holly Arnold, as "President-Elect" (one-year term Jan. 1, 2026 - Dec. 31, 2026)

and

Matt Vannoy, as "Vice President" (one-year term Jan. 1, 2026 - Dec. 31, 2026)

- Approved to elect a Western Zone Representative as follows: Erik Meredith (East Allegheny S.D.)
- Approved to elect candidates for PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees as follows:

Kathy K. Swope and Roberta M. Marcus

The Board approved the following at their September 8, 2025 General Meeting:

- Approved Rachel Poorman as a volunteer Cheerleading Coach.
- Approved an athletic supplemental contract for Deanna Caldwell as middle school Girls' Basketball Coach for the fall of the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$3,920.
- Approved transferring David Ferree from a part-time to a full-time custodian position.
- Approved the purchase of a one year renewal of GoGuardian Admin, Teacher, and Beacon at a total cost of \$16,275.
- Approved the hiring of Angelina Spencer as a part-time Teacher Assistant, and approved Tiana Morgan as a part-time Teacher Assistant.