

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2026

Northgate District Administration Boardroom

The Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of the Northgate Board of School Directors was held Monday, August 10, 2026. The meeting was opened at 5:32 p.m. by Mrs. Cheryl Patalano, President.

Roll call showed the following Board Members present: Mrs. Cheryl Patalano, President; Mrs. Wendi Lee, Vice President; Mr. Michael Rajacovich, Treasurer; Mrs. Chelsea MacDonald (via Zoom); Ms. Laura Pollanen; Mrs. Abigail Lindsey; Dr. Melissa Bilski; Mrs. Amber Lehman (arrived at 5:42 p.m.); Dr. William Bergmann.

Staff present: Dr. Caroline Johns, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Ursu, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Carter, Board Secretary; Dr. Christina Garczewski, Director of Special Services; Mr. Rob King, Technology Director; Dr. Christopher Caton, Director of Curriculum and Assessment; Mr. Bob Metz, Facilities Director; Mr. Michael Wagstaff, Assistant Secondary Principal and Athletic Director; Dr. Qualisha Zyhier, Bellevue Principal; Dr. Joseph Peacock, Avalon Principal; Dr. Nancy Bowman, Secondary Instructional Principal; and Dr. Michael Amick, Secondary Student Services Principal.

General Meeting

Visitors' Commentary: There was no visitors' commentary.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A1 as follows:

1. Retroactive Elementary Supplemental

Approve Mark Majeric and Emily Parker as Advisors for the Kids of Steel Club for the 2025-26 school year, with compensation of \$1,736 split into \$868 each.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A2 as follows:

2. Teacher Assignment

Approve the transfer of Jane Majerac from Secondary ELA to Secondary Social Studies Teacher, effective immediately.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A3 as follows:

3. Resignation

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Accept the resignation of Patrick Mohrbacher as Secondary Social Studies Teacher, effective immediately.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A4 as follows:

4. Resignation

Accept the resignation of Kirby Crabbe as Speech Language Pathologist, effective on date September 18, 2026.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A5 as follows:

5. Rescind Offer

Rescind offer of employment to Mark Schuler as Volleyball Head Coach, effective immediately.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A6 as follows:

6. ELA Teacher

Approve the hiring of Jessica Cable as a full-time English Language Arts teacher, effective August 17, 2026, as recommended by the Superintendent, at Step 1.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A7 as follows:

7. Speech Language Pathologist (Teacher)

Approve the hire of Brianne Miller as full-time Speech Language Pathologist, salary as per the teacher contract Step 1, with a start date to be determined, as recommended by the Superintendent and contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A8 as follows:

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8. Nurse Assistant

Approve the hire of Richelle Wimer as Assistant Nurse, with a rate as per the support staff contract, effective August 11, 2026, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A9 as follows:

9. Main Office Secretary (12 Month Position)

Approve the hire of Erika McAfee as Main Office Secretary (12 month position), pay as per the support staff contract, with a start date of August 11, 2026.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, to add item A10 as follows:

10. Add Motion

Add motions A11 through A13 to the August 10, 2026 General meeting.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A11 as follows:

11. Rescind Offer (12 Month Position)

Rescind the hire of Erika McAfee as Main Office Secretary (12 month position), pay as per the support staff contract, with a start date of August 11, 2026.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A12 as follows:

12. Main Office Secretary (10 Month Position)

Approve the hire of Erika McAfee as Main Office Secretary (10 month position), pay as per the support staff contract, with a start date of August 11, 2026.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A13 as follows:

13. Secretary Transfer (12 Month Position)

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Approve Moniqueeka Barron to transfer to the 12-month athletic secretary position at the Middle/High School effective September 1, 2026.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A14 as follows:

14. Rescind Offer

Rescind the partial stipend to James Trainor as Boy's Basketball 1st Assistant Coach, effective immediately.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A15 as follows:

15. Supplemental Approval

Approve Dawson Urbansky and Hart Coleman as Boy's Basketball 1st Assistant Coach for the winter season at a rate of \$4,480 to be split as \$2,240 per coach, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A16 as follows:

16. Retirement

Accept the retirement of Jeffrey Evancho as Director of Partnerships and Equity, effective on January 1, 2027.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A17 as follows:

17. Key

Approve issuing a High School Master Key to Erika McAfee, Main Office Secretary at the Middle/High School.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A18 as follows:

18. Supplemental Positions

Approve the following supplemental contracts for the spring and winter seasons of the 2026-27 school year, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances: Corey Stanford, Boy's Basketball Head Coach, \$6,720; Betty Howard, Girl's Basketball Head Coach, \$6,720; Stefon Adams, Girl's Basketball 1st Asst. Coach, \$4,480; Sylvan Rotuna, Girl's Basketball 7th Coach, \$3,920; Tiara Scott, Volleyball 1st Asst. Coach, \$2,800.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A19 as follows:

19. Game Manager Supplemental

Approve three new supplemental positions for Game Manager and associated job description as recommended by the Superintendent: Fall Season at a rate of \$3,000 per season; Winter Season at a rate of \$3,500 per season; Spring Season at a rate of \$1,500 per season.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A20 as follows:

20. Divided Stipend

Approve Erin Beddall and Stephanie Muczyk as Play/Musical Director for the 2026-27 school year at a rate of \$3,360, to be divided as \$1,680 per director.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A21 as follows:

21. Supplemental Positions

Approve the following Play/Musical supplemental positions for the 2026-27 school year: Kaitlin Muczyk, Art Director, \$1,680; Erin Beddall, Stage Manager, \$1,680; Stephanie Muczyk, Vocal, \$1,680; Jessican Haberman, Music, \$1,680; Betty Jo Largent, Costumes, \$1,680; Scott Stiteler, Sound/Light, \$1,680; Jack Gusew, Stage Design, \$1,680; Kaitlin Muczyk, Choreographer, \$1,680.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A22 as follows:

22. AIU Title I Agreement

Approve an Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) to provide Title I services to students residing in the Northgate School District attending nonpublic schools, effective July 1, 2026 to June 31, 2027.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the Board approve item A23 as follows:

23. Title I Affirmation

Approve the 2026-2027 Title I Board Affirmation Statement, affirming the Board's approval of the district's Title I, Part A plan and budget in accordance with ESEA/ESSA requirements.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lehman, that the general meeting be adjourned. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The general meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Finance: Mr. Rajacovich, Treasurer, and Mr. Ursu, Director of Finance, discussed the Financial Report, the 2025-26 Projected Year-End Results, the 2026-27 Budget, and a Cash Update. No action was taken.

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Metz, Facilities Director, discussed the Powerworx Units energy savings, Use of Facilities Requests from the community, and the Use of Facilities Agreement with Pittsburgh Spirit. No action was taken.

Technology: Mr. King, Technology Director, discussed the School Readiness Update. No action was taken.

Athletics: Mr. Wagstaff, Athletics Director, discussed an update on new coaches and the New Coaches Handbook. No action was taken.

Education: Dr. Caton, Director of Curriculum and Assessment; Dr. Amick, Secondary Student Services Principal; Dr. Garczewski, Director of Special Services; and Dr. Peacock, Avalon Principal, discussed the Just Discipline Grant update, a presentation by Mr. Bichko and Mr. Hogle on the spring 2028 Peru trip, the Specials and Technical Subjects Curriculum Review Year, the Deer Lakes Partial Hospitalization Program, start of school events, the Title I Affirmation, the ATSI Plan, student smart watches, Tree Pittsburgh, the Grove City College MOU, and the Deer Lakes Agreement. No action was taken.

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Administration: Dr. Johns, Superintendent, discussed the Michelle King Agreement. No action was taken.

Old & New Business: Emily Carter, Board Secretary, gave a reminder to the Board to update clearances set to expire within the year.

The Committee of the Whole meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Carter

Emily Carter

Board Secretary, Northgate School District