Minutes
Northgate School Board
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

The Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of the Northgate Board of School Directors was held Tuesday, October 13, 2026. The meeting was opened at 5:33 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; Dr. William Bergmann; Mrs. Abigail Lindsey; Mrs. Beth Mosley. Absent: Dr. Melissa Bilski; Mrs. Amber Lehman; Ms. Laura Pollanen.

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 Dr. Bergmann, that the Board approve items A1 through A8 as a consent agenda as follows:

1. Drivers/Roenigk - Approved

Approve the attached list of drivers for W.L. Roenigk, Inc. for transporting students as verified by W.L. Roenigk, Inc. as having proper clearances, physicals and licenses to transport Northgate students and contingent upon final review of clearances by the District. Continued utilization of drivers is at the discretion of the School District. (See Addendum III.)

2. PAPBS MTSS Implementers' Forum - Approved

Approve Qualisha Zyhier, Emily Parker, and Brittney DeFazio to attend the 2026 PAPBS MTSS Implementers' Forum, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, November 4-6, 2026, at PaTTAN Central in Harrisburg, PA. The total estimated cost is $1,879.34, including registration, lodging, mileage reimbursement for one vehicle, and meal per diem.

Dr. Zyhier shared that Bellevue will be acknowledged at the Forum for its Tier 3 fidelity, and that attendees will bring back information to enhance PBIS at Bellevue.

3. Resignation - Approved

Accept the resignation of Rhen Basil as Teacher's Assistant, effective September 29, 2026.

4. Retirement - Approved

Accept the retirement of Dawn Egger as Secondary English Teacher, effective July 1, 2027.

5. Supplemental Adjustment - Approved

Adjust the Runners of Steel supplemental position to include two stipends for the 2026-27 school year at a rate of $1,736 per stipend, for a total of $3,472. This will be evenly divided between Joshua McFall, Rebekah Rommes, Megan Spanos, and Elesa DiBello at $868 per sponsor.

6. Yearbook Supplemental - Approved

Approve Kristine Spitznagel as Bellevue Yearbook Sponsor at a rate of $1,736.

7. Rescind Supplemental - Approved

Rescind the offer of Yearbook Supplemental Sponsor from Sue Emery, effective immediately.

8. Divided Supplemental - Approved

Approve Kristine Spitznagel, Ava Cook, and Gianna Albanese as Girls on the Run Sponsors at a rate of $1,736, to be divided as $579 per sponsor.

Motion to approve items A1 through A8 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the general meeting be adjourned. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The general meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Finance: Mr. Ursu, Director of Finance and Operations, discussed the Act 1 timeline and the electricity supply agreement with Chrislynn Energy. The Bill List & Tax Refunds and the Activities Report were offered as proposed agenda items for the November meeting. The executive session listed on the agenda was moved to the October 26, 2026 Board meeting. No action was taken.

Recognition: The Board recognized the following Parents as Allies volunteers for their generous service to the District: Barb Gusew, Fara Linn, Kristine Spitznagel, Cynthia Sloan, Wendi Lee, Mary Carroll, and Satyam Thakur. The Board thanked them for assisting with BotsIQ, the Student Showcase, and after-hours volunteering. A student shared his experience in the Design and Build Club, where students built a working car while learning engineering and coding, and in the Inventor Club, where students learned about the history of inventions and created and presented new inventions solving real-world problems in a Shark Tank-inspired event. Parents also shared how they contributed as Shark Tank judges.

Technology: Mr. King, Technology Director, presented the Classlink/OneSync contract renewal as a proposed agenda item. No action was taken.

Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Metz, Facilities Director, presented two proposed agenda items and two discussion items regarding the Allegheny County lease agreement for an air quality monitor at Avalon Elementary School and the Pennsylvania Resources Council Hard to Recycle event. No action was taken.

Athletics and Student Activities: Mr. Wagstaff, Athletic Director, and Dr. Bowman, Secondary Instructional Principal, presented on student activities, including the Flag Football Co-Op with Propel Montour and the Dress Code Survey. No action was taken.

Education: Dr. Caton, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, shared the 2025-2026 Data Presentation and the proposed agenda items for the Foster Grandparents program MOU, iReady for Kindergarten and 1st grade, and SAS Institute attendance. No action was taken.

Administration: Dr. Johns, Superintendent, presented the proposed agenda items for the Activities Report and the Global Wordsmiths translation services contract. No action was taken.

Old & New Business: There was no old or new business.

The Committee of the Whole meeting concluded at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Carter

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Board Secretary, Northgate School District