Minutes
Northgate School Board
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2026

The Regular meeting of the Northgate Board of School Directors was held Monday, October 26, 2026, in the Northgate District Administration Boardroom. The meeting was opened at 5:34 p.m. by Mrs. Wendi Lee, Vice President.

Roll call showed the following Board Members present: Mrs. Cheryl Patalano, President (arrived 5:42 p.m.); Mrs. Wendi Lee, Vice President; Mr. Mike Rajakovich; Dr. William Bergmann; Dr. Melissa Bilski (arrived 6:13 p.m.); Mrs. Amber Lehman; Mrs. Abigail Lindsey (via Zoom); Ms. Beth Mosley; Ms. Laura Pollanen.

Staff Present: Dr. Caroline Johns, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Ursu, Director of Finance and Operations; Ms. Emily Carter, Board Secretary.

Visitors: Alexander Popichak; Joe Lamenza; Katelyn Toth, Superintendent Intern; Kamaya Cobb-Hewlett, Student Council Representative; Lydia Schink, Student Council Representative; Regis, Visitor, no surname given; Mike Dowling; and those who did not sign in.

Motion was made by Mrs. Lee, seconded by Ms. Pollanen, that the Board approve the minutes from the September 14, 2026 and September 28, 2026 Committee meetings and General meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Visitor's Commentary: There was no visitor's commentary.

Motion was made by Mr. Rajakovich, seconded by Dr. Bergmann, that the Board approve the September 2026 Treasurer's Report. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

District Operations Committee

Motion was made by Mr. Rajakovich, seconded by Ms. Pollanen, to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: A1 - A6. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

1. **Bill List & Tax Refunds - Approved**

   Ratify the September 2026 Bill List and approve the Tax Refunds found in Addendum I.

2. **Activities Report - Approved**

   Accept the Northgate Middle/High School Activities and Athletic Accounts for the period ending September 30, 2026, found in Addendum II.

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3. Chrislynn Energy - Approved

Approve the Master Electricity Supply Agreement with Freepoint Energy Solutions LLC, as reviewed by the District Solicitor, and authorize the Superintendent or Director of Finance & Operations to execute a subsequent Electricity Supply Confirmation upon the recommendation of Chrislynn Energy Services when favorable electricity pricing becomes available.

4. Allegheny County Lease Agreement - Approved

Approve the agreement with Allegheny County for operation of a county-owned air quality monitor located on the roof of Avalon Elementary School through December 31, 2029, pending review of agreement by solicitor.

5. Pennsylvania Resources Council - Approved

Approve Pennsylvania Resources Council to utilize the high school parking lots on Saturday, July 24, 2027, to host a Hard to Recycle event.

6. Classlink/OneSync Contract - Approved

Approve the renewal of Classlink/OneSync for the 2027 calendar year at a cost of $4,954.10.

Student Affairs

Motion was made by Dr. Bergmann, seconded by Mrs. Lee, to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: B1 - B3. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

1. Grandparents Program - Approved

Approve the MOU for the Foster Grandparents program for Bellevue and Avalon Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year.

2. iReady for K-1st - Approved

Approve iReady as a replacement for eSpark as an assessment and personalized learning tool for Kindergarten and 1st grade at a cost of $3,487.50.

3. SAS Institute - Approved

Approve the attendance of Chris Caton to the SAS Institute in Hershey, PA from December 6th-9th, at a cost not to exceed $1,200.

Policy

Motion was made by Mr. Rajakovich, seconded by Mrs. Lehman, to approve the following readings. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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1. **Policy 204 - Attendance -** First Reading
2. **Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness & Response-** First Reading
3. **Policy 805.1 - Relations with Law Enforcement -** First Reading
4. **Policy 218.1 - Weapons -** First Reading
5. **Policy 816 - Social Media -** Second/Final Reading

Administration

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, to approve the following items by Consent Agenda: D1 - D9. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

1. **Global Wordsmiths - Approved**

   Approve a contract with Global Wordsmiths from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028 to provide language translation services to students and families of the district at a rate of $65 to $70 per hour, or $0.93 to $1.80 per minute, dependent on the service.

2. **Teacher's Assistant - Approved**

   Approve the hire of Robin Paisley as Teacher's Assistant, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances.

3. **Dawn Egger Retirement - Approved**

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

4. **MOU - Approved**

   Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Big Brothers Big Sisters for the 2026-27 school year.

5. **Resignation - Approved**

   Accept the resignation of Jacob O'Keefe as middle school baseball coach, effective immediately.

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6. Supplemental Coaching Positions - Approved

Approve the following as coaches for the Winter and Spring season sports, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances:

Name	Position	Amount
Mark Marusic	Softball Head Coach (S)	$5,040
Jacob O'Keefe	7th Grade Boys' Basketball (W)	$3,920
Sylvan Rotuna	8th Grade Boys' Basketball (W)	$3,920
Francesca Lindelow	MS Volleyball (S)	$2,240
Jacob O'Keefe	MS Volleyball Asst. Coach (S)	$2,240
Tracey Lanier	Cheerleading Head Coach (W)	$2,240
Tameca Minor	Cheerleading JV (W)	$1,736
Dalaya Ethridge	Cheerleading MS (W)	$1,736

**Note: "Mike Marusic" was mistakenly written as "Mark Marusic." Mike Marusic was the intended approved head coach for the spring softball season.*

7. Volunteer Coaches - Approved

Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2026-27 winter and spring semesters, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances:

Alex Poskey	Swimming Coach	Winter
Jack Blaser	Swimming Coach	Winter
Ray Coleman	Swimming Coach	Winter
Clarita Evans	Basketball Coach	Winter
Scott Stiteler	Baseball Coach	Spring

8. Startable MOU - Approved

Approve to renew an Agreement with Innovation Works, Inc. for the Northgate School District to participate in the Startable Program.

9. Special Olympics - Approved

Approve the use of facility request for Special Olympics to use the Avalon gym on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. from December 1, 2026 to June 1, 2027, contingent on availability and proof of proper insurance coverage.

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Old and New Business

Mr. Rajakovich shared the Legislative Report. PSBA is offering virtual training sessions, and links can be provided upon request. The PSBA Delegate Assembly will be held November 7, 2026. The School Bus Safety, Child Abuse Reporting Law Update, and Bell to Bell Cellphone Ban legislation were each signed into law.

Mr. Rajakovich shared about the PSBA-PASA conference recently attended by members of the Board.

Dr. Johns shared that there is ongoing discussion regarding the division of stipends for the baseball coaches. The motion to approve spring baseball coaches was moved to November.

The Board discussed moving all action items for November to the November 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting, changing the November 23, 2026 Regular meeting to tentative, and voting to keep or dismiss the November Regular meeting depending on need.

Visitor's Commentary: There was no visitor's commentary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lee, to adjourn the meeting. The October 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting concluded at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Carter

Emily Carter
Secretary, Northgate School Board