NORTHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Students First and Foremost
591 Union Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15202
northgatesd.net 412-732-3300, ext. 2110

Minutes
Northgate School Board
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2026
Northgate District Administration Boardroom

The Committee of the Whole and General meetings of the Northgate Board of School Directors were held Monday, November 9, 2026. The meeting was opened at 6:41 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; Dr. Melissa Bilski; Mrs. Amber Lehman; Mrs. Abigail Lindsey (left at 8:00 p.m.); Mrs. Beth Mosley. Absent: Ms. Laura Pollanen.

Staff present: Dr. Caroline Johns, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Ursu, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Carter, Board Secretary; Mr. Rob King, Technology Director; Dr. Christopher Caton, Director of Curriculum and Assessment; Mr. Bob Metz, Facilities Director; Dr. Qualisha Zyhier, Bellevue Principal; Dr. Joseph Peacock, Avalon Principal; Dr. Nancy Bowman, Secondary Instructional Principal; Dr. Michael Amick, Secondary Student Services Principal; Dr. Jeffrey Evancho, Director of Partnerships and Equity; and Mr. Zachary Burns, School Counselor.

Guests: Regis; Laura P.; Ian Tyson; Bri Erskine; Alex Popichak; Justin Turpin; Navaeah Barron; Michelle King; Eliot Harold; Zaiden George; Ayriana George; Chelsea Hassel; Greg and Corrie Harun; Emma Gratner; Nathan Gratner; Debbie Devine; Sean Devine; Erin Beddall; Janice Mosley; and Guy Palmer.

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session from 5:30 p.m. to 6:34 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Recognition: The Board recognized the Cross Country Team for their outstanding display of skill and sportsmanship: Evan Carson, Ayriana George, Zaiden George, Emma Gratner, Nathan Gratner, Eliot Harold, Sophia Nash, Samantha Stallard, and Hope Stiteler.

The Board recognized the following Volleyball students for their displays of skill and sportsmanship: Graciela Auth, Aubree Bey, Michaela DeFlorimonte, Brooke Dickey, Patience George, Precious George, Selena Goetz, Madison Hutchison, Nevaeh Ivy-Morris, Shaniya Reeves, Madelyn Sierra, and Shaelyn Umphrey.

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The Board recognized the following Football students for their displays of skill and sportsmanship: Noel Aranda, Savian Baptiste, Romaro Clark, Azion Dixson, Anthony Dozier, Vance Drewery, Gunner Falk, Ryan Gannon, Caleb Gorsuch, Johrdon Hairston, Mahamad Hamadi, Jah'Sye Helms, Billy Hurley, Samir King, Josh Kraus, Jayden McCoy, Kavion McDonald, Jackson Monheim, Braylon Mosley, Declan Murphy, Aiden Osselborn, Guy Palmer, Sylvan Patalano, Aidan Perkins, Grayson Rectenwald, Zecheriah Ross, Devontae Smith, Quran Stephens, Sam Stiteler, Christian Tamburri, Jayden Turner, and Carter Wiand.

Finance: Mr. Ian Tyson of PFM shared a summary of the services PFM provides in assisting Northgate with its long-term budget goals. The AMCA Systems, LLC tax software and the School Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Annual Cost Reconciliation were shared as informational items, and the Financial Report was discussed. The Bill List & Tax Refunds and the AMCA Systems, LLC tax software for the 2026 tax year, at a cost to be determined, were presented as proposed agenda items for the November 23, 2026 meeting. The PFM engagement letter was acted upon at this meeting as item B5.

Technology: The FCC E-rate approval letter was shared as an informational item. No action was taken.

Athletics: The Board recognized the Cross Country, Volleyball, and Football teams as noted above. No action was taken.

Social Equity: Mrs. Erin Beddall, Mr. Zachary Burns, and Ms. Navaeah Barron gave the VOICES student group presentation. They shared the group's recent engagement with the Northgate School District and with other districts, both within Pittsburgh and beyond, to improve social equity in school districts, including the Eradicate the Hate Conference, CMU Meaningful Play, and a new game developed by VOICES. No action was taken.

Student Activities & Wellness: School Wellness Policy 246 and the 3 Year Wellness Assessment were shared as informational items, and the Dress Code Survey was discussed. The PASS Survey Data Presentation was delayed to March. No action was taken.

Education: The Board reviewed informational and discussion items, including a review of Remote Instructional Days, the "Why Northgate" Parent Coffees, the Together We Grow Parent Workshop, and the Title I Family Engagement Dinner. No action was taken.

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

General Meeting

Visitors' Commentary: There was no visitors' commentary.

Motion was made by Mr. Rajacovich, seconded by Mrs. Lehman, that the Board approve item A1 as follows:

1. Policy - Approved

Approve the following readings:

1. Policy 204 Attendance, Second & Final Reading
2. Policy 246 School Wellness, First & Final Reading
3. Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness & Response, Second & Final Reading
4. Policy 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement, Second & Final Reading
5. Policy 218.1 Weapons, Second & Final Reading

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lehman, that the Board approve items B1 through B7 as a consent agenda as follows:

1. Supplemental Coaches - Approved

Approve the following supplemental positions: Theresa Benson, MS Swim Coach (S), $3,920; Connor Hulslander, Baseball Head Coach, $3,360; Joe Sciulli, Baseball 1st Assistant, $3,360; Tom Laraia, Baseball 2nd Assistant (new position), $3,360; Kelly Winovich, Choir (HS), $2,800; Kelly Winovich, Choir (MS), $1,848; Scott Stiteler, Game Manager (S), $1,500.

2. Volunteer Coach - Approved

Approve Gregory Buzzard as a Volunteer Swim Coach for the winter 2026-27 season, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances.

3. Assistant Principal/Athletic Director - Approved

Approve the hire of Justin Turpin as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at a salary of $100,000, contingent on receipt of acceptable clearances, with a start date to be determined.

4. Substitute Custodian - Approved

Approve an increase in the hourly rate for substitute custodian Connor Patterson from $15.00 to $17.00 per hour effective 11/16/2026.

5. PFM Engagement - Approved

Approve the engagement letter with PFM services, not to exceed $15,000, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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6. Resignation - Approved

Accept the resignation of David Ferree as a Custodian, effective Thursday, November 5, 2026.

7. Use of Space Approval - Approved

Approve Verve Futsal to utilize the Avalon gymnasium according to availability and upon payment of associated fees, contingent on approval of Certificate of Insurance.

Motion to approve items B1 through B7 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 9:21 p.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Patalano, seconded by Mrs. Lehman, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Carter

Emily Carter
Board Secretary, Northgate School District