



# Board Notes

*A Monthly Summary of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board Meeting*

**September 2021**

## Board Members

Jennifer Wilson, President  
David P. Brown, Vice President  
Marian McCouch, Treasurer  
Theresa E. Brown  
Tara Conner-Hallston

Eric E. Coombs  
James Greenhalgh  
Susan E. Hunsinger-Hoff  
Denise J. Schultz  
Scott Eveslage, Superintendent

## OVERVIEW

*The Board gave the green light to proceed to the design development phase of the Keith Valley Middle School project, and also approved preliminary work for an electrical project at Blair Mill Elementary and a bid for an upgraded sound system at Hallowell Elementary School.*

*Additionally, Superintendent Dr. Scott T. Eveslage commended the efforts of first responders, local and state officials, and the Hatboro-Horsham community for their response to the devastating storms that occurred the week before the school year began. Also, Dr. Eveslage provided a brief health and safety update regarding COVID-19.*

## Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eveslage expressed his thoughts and support for community members who were affected by the devastating storms on September 1, 2021. He thanked first responders for their amazing effort to assist those in need. The subsequent response from the community — through donations and cleanup, as well as kindness and compassion — has been amazing.

Further, Dr. Eveslage reported that the storms caused damage to each school in the District, including network and power outages that required a lot of cleanup. He noted that support from local and state officials, in addition to emergency response personnel, helped to restore the District community. Also, Dr. Eveslage encouraged families who are still in need to reach out to the District for assistance to ensure that their children are fully able to engage in their educational experience at school.

On September 9, 2021, Hatboro-Horsham successfully began the 2021-22 school year thanks to the families, staff, teachers, and administrators who helped to welcome students back into the classrooms. Dr. Eveslage said it is wonderful to see students return to the schools.

In a brief health and safety update, Dr. Eveslage reminded the community of the District's COVID-19 resource page on its website, which includes a case and quarantine tracker, in addition to local public health metrics.



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Through the first week of school until Friday, September 17, there were zero in-school cases reported. Since then, there were four positive cases across the District — two at the middle school and two at the high school — as of Monday, September 20. None were a result of in-school transmission. Lastly, Dr. Eveslage thanked the school community's attention to the Health and Safety Plan and encouraged everyone's continued vigilance in following health and safety protocols.

## **Business Office Action**

The District took another step in the process of replacing the aging Keith Valley Middle School with a brand-new, enhanced facility. The Board approved for Schradergroup Architects and D'Huy Engineering to proceed to the design development phase of the project.

Additionally, the Board approved pursuing a capital project for Blair Mill Elementary School to replace electrical switchgear at a total amount of \$1.5 million. A bid was awarded to Sage Technology Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of new AV equipment for the Hallowell Elementary School LGI and cafeteria in the amount of \$22,871.

The Board granted authority to purchase two additional propane buses with the Driving PA Forward grant at a net cost of \$144,264. Lastly, the Board approved an agreement with Hatboro Borough for the use of Pennypack Elementary School as temporary office space during the renovations to Hatboro Borough Hall.

## **Personnel Action**

The District is pleased to welcome two new teacher hires: Kara Bowers, a special education teacher at Hallowell Elementary School, and Ryan Lovett, special education teacher at the high school.

*"Reports" on next page*

## **Next Board Meeting**

**The next Work Session & Committee Meeting is Monday, October 4.**

**The next Legislative/Action Meeting is Monday, October 18.**

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*This communication from Hatboro-Horsham School District and its Board of School Directors is meant to be a summary of actions taken at the most recent Board meeting, and is not intended to serve as minutes of the meeting. Materials presented at all meetings are available on BoardDocs and video recordings are also available. For more information on School Board meetings, please visit [www.hatboro-horsham.org/domain/175](http://www.hatboro-horsham.org/domain/175).*



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## Reports

### Curriculum

Susan Hunsinger-Hoff announced that the Curriculum Committee met on Tuesday, September 14, with Dr. David Weber, Director of Curriculum, providing several updates. Dr. Weber explained the curriculum office reorganization, in addition to the responsibilities of Curriculum Supervisors Dr. Brea D'Angelo and Dr. Ryan Thomas. The reorganization aims to facilitate communication and alignment of the K-12 curriculum. Dr. Weber reviewed work on K-5 professional development regarding the new math curriculum materials, the middle school math acceleration scheme, new high school elective courses, and the rewriting of the K-5 STEM program that involves coding, robotics, digital media and digital citizenship. Also, he reported that the Jarrett Nature Center is open once again to K-7 graders following the storms thanks to the help of the community.

### Facilities

Bill Stone reported that the Facilities Committee met on Monday, September 13. The two capital projects approved by the Board were discussed. The committee also listened to a presentation from the District's design team about the KVMS project, as it concluded the schematic design phase. The next meeting is scheduled for October 4.

### Policy Committee

Denise J. Schultz reported that the policy committee meeting scheduled for September 1 was canceled due to the storms. On October

6, the committee will discuss policies about homework, bullying, civility and equity. She advised to look out for information about a public forum on the equity policy following the committee's next meeting.

### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Jennifer Wilson announced that the MCIU welcomed two new board members for the 2021-22 school year at its last meeting. Additionally, the MCIU approved the purchase of property in West Point, Pa., as the MCIU is looking to expand its services to other parts of Montgomery County. Also, the MCIU approved an expansion of its Head Start program, with 20 new seats being added.

### Pennsylvania School Board Association

Theresa E. Brown recommended the following officer candidates to the PSBA, which the Board unanimously approved: David Schaap — president-elect; Jennifer Davidson, Bethanne Ziegler, and Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky — school board secretaries' forum steering committee.

### Public Comment

There were three community members who participated in public comment. A community member expressed concern about the environmental impact of the KVMS replacement project. Another community member expressed their views on the effectiveness of masks, while another requested assistance with transporting their child to school.