



Board Notes

A Monthly Summary of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board Meetings

November 2021

Board Members

Jennifer Wilson, President	Tara Conner-Hallston	Susan E. Hunsinger-Hoff
David P. Brown, Vice President	Eric E. Coombs	Denise J. Schultz
Marian McCouch, Treasurer	James Greenhalgh	Scott Eveslage, Superintendent
Theresa E. Brown		

OVERVIEW

In light of the recent events that occurred at Hatboro-Horsham High School, Superintendent Dr. Scott T. Eveslage addressed what steps have already been taken to ensure safety for students, staff, and visitors.

Also, the Board adopted the District's Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2024, and approved a Second Reading and Final Adoption of Policy No. 832, Educational Equity and Policy No. 920, Civility.

View the full Board meeting [here](#).

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Eveslage offered his condolences, thoughts, and prayers on behalf of the District to the family of Mark Voelcker, a dedicated HHSD employee since 2012. Mr. Voelcker passed away on November 14, 2021. He served at several schools within HHSD, primarily at Hallowell Elementary, as a full-time evening custodial supervisor.

Additionally, Dr. Eveslage acknowledged that students, parents, and members of the school community have concerns about the recent fighting and threats that occurred over the past week at the high school. Dr. Eveslage stated that every student, staff member, and visitor deserves the right to feel safe when at school, and that the District holds itself to this expectation. The situations this past week have been taken seriously and are being addressed, while those who violated the student code of conduct are being dealt with in accordance with the policies of HHSD.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Eveslage reported:

In health and safety, incidence rates and case counts are rising in Montgomery County. The District continues to monitor active cases and statistics are available on the dashboard on the District website.

Regarding the Acting Secretary of Health's masking order, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania struck down the order. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) advised that the order remains in effect. Governor Tom Wolf has indicated that he expects the masking order to be lifted on January 17, 2022.

The fall sports season was also highlighted, including the boys and girls soccer teams, which

each advanced to the District 1 quarterfinals.

Boys and girls golf finished with winning records, and both cross country teams finished the regular season with a 4-1 record. Several cross country runners achieved incredible postseason success, including some medalists at the PIAA championships. Dr. Eveslage also congratulated the marching band for a tremendously successful outdoor season, including a second-place finish at a recent competition in Hershey, PA.

The Board approved the District's comprehensive plan for 2021-2024, which had been presented publicly and on public display for 28 days. The plan will be submitted to PDE for approval.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of School Board Members

Dr. Eveslage recognized Marian McCouch, Eric Coombs, and James Greenhalgh for their service to the community as members of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board. He expressed his appreciation for the responsibilities, commitments, and sacrifices of each Board member whose decisions and actions reflect the best interest of every student.

2022-2023 Budget Development Timeline

Mr. Bill Stone, Director of Business Affairs, presented the District's budget development timeline for 2022-2023, a process that is regulated by Act 1 for school districts in Pennsylvania. Mr. Stone recommended the Board opt for the standard timeline, which requires the Board to prepare a preliminary budget for approval in February. This allows the District to increase the real estate property tax over the Act 1 index.

Pennypack Elementary School Property Update

Mr. Stone reported that the Pennypack Elementary School was officially closed as of July 1, 2021, and students have not been in the building for the past year. Currently, the building is being used for District storage and is being temporarily rented to Hatboro Borough while the Borough Hall is undergoing renovations. The lease expires when the renovations are completed.

Possible options for the property include to keep it, sell it, or donate it. Because there is no further educational need for the building, and in order to gather as much information as possible about the property before making a final decision, Mr. Stone recommended that the District obtain an appraisal for the property and to list the property for sale on a short-term basis. The Administration sought approval to do so as part of Business Office Action Items on this agenda. Although these actions were recommended and approved by the Board, it does not obligate the Board to sell the property. That action must be approved at a future public meeting.

ACTIONS

Business Office Actions

In Business Office actions, the Board approved:

- Two new bank accounts
- An agreement with Indian Valley Appraisal Company for real estate appraisal services for Pennypack Elementary School
- A six-month agreement with Prime Realty Group, Inc. to serve as the listing agent for Pennypack Elementary School
- An agreement with Rhoads Energy for the purchase of liquefied propane gas for the school bus fleet
- A one-time operating transfer of \$1,438,730.93 from the General Fund to the Medical Fund
- Credit change orders to close certain 2021 summer capital projects that were

completed under budget

- An increase to the HHHS Turf Field capital project
- The Designation of Agent Resolution for the purposes of coordinating public assistance from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for damages the district sustained during Tropical Depression Ida

Personnel Actions

The District is pleased to welcome Alyssa Garrison as a special education teacher at Keith Valley Middle School. Additionally, the District congratulates Barbara Eberly, administrative assistant to the assistant principal, and Dean Simpson, plumber, on their retirements after 21 and five years of service to the District, respectively.

Reports

Curriculum Committee

Ms. Susan Hunsinger-Hoff reported that the Curriculum Committee met on November 9 to review student academic performance and success indicators. Dr. David Weber, Director of Curriculum, provided an overview on how the District is assessing student learning.

Policy Committee

Ms. DJ Schultz reported that the Policy Committee met on November 3 and discussed a list of policies that need to be reviewed. These policies include technology, resource materials, class sizes, and eligibility of non-residents.

The Board approved the Second Reading of two new policies, including Policy No. 832, Educational Equity and Policy No. 920, Civility. Ms. Sara Johnson Rothman, Solicitor, noted that approval of the Equity Policy culminates over a year's efforts to ensure that every student has what they need to be a successful learner.

Easter Center Arts & Technology

Ms. Conner-Hallston congratulated Marcos Garcia on being named Student of the Month at Easter Center for Arts and Technology. She also reported that the Eastern Center is working on adding new programs, which will be available soon.

Federal Programs

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Monica Taylor shared that November 15 was HHSD's Title 1 Family Night at Crooked Billet Elementary, featuring presentations to introduce families to key components of the District's new mathematics program. The presentations included models of the programs, activities used with students in school, and resources available to help parents at home.

Pennsylvania School Board Association

Ms. Theresa Brown attended the virtual PSBA Delegate Assembly and School Leadership Conference on October 23. The conference was informative and emphasized the importance of establishing trust, maintaining clear communication, and understanding how each Board member fulfills their roles.

Public Comment

More than two dozen community members expressed concerns and offered suggestions to improve the situation regarding the recent events at Hatboro-Horsham High School.

Next Board Meeting

The Reorganization and Legislative Voting Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2021.

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