



Board Notes

A Monthly Summary of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board Meetings

August 21, 2023

Board Members

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| David P. Brown, President | Maggie A. Kistner |
| Jennifer Wilson, Vice President | Denise J. Schultz |
| Theresa E. Brown, Treasurer | Erin B. Stroup |
| Tara Conner-Hallston | Erin K. Whalen |
| Susan E. Hunsinger-Hoff | Scott Eveslage, Superintendent |



OVERVIEW

On August 21, the Board approved the last of the District's new teachers who will join HHSD for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

Facilities Committee

Jennifer Wilson presented the following Facilities Committee action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- Credit change order for the Simmons Elementary School stairwell/window replacement project due to unused materials, saving the District a total of \$44,800.
- Agreement between HHSD and Rhoads Energy to deliver liquefied propane gas for the school buses for the 2023-24 school year.
- A revised proposal from Hirschberg Mechanical for the sanitary pipe project at the Hatboro-Horsham High School.

Finance Committee

Theresa Brown presented the following Finance Committee action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- Agreement with Vista Underwriting for stop-loss insurance for the District's healthcare plan.
- An action to repurpose certain technology equipment at the High

School that was purchased with federal ESSER funds.

- A resolution granting new Business Office officials access to Berkheimer Earned Income Tax Portal.

Ms. Brown reminded Horsham Township residents that Keystone Collections Group is the appointed tax collector for the District, offering free and convenient payment options by mail or online at www.KeystoneCollects.com/pay.

Human Resources Committee

The District is pleased to welcome several new teachers to the District, including Christopher Hoffner (special education teacher, Crooked Billet), Casey Fitzsimmons (special education teacher, Hallowell), Rachel Shapiro (elementary teacher, Hallowell), Kimberly Sulahian (instrumental music teacher, KVMS), and Brittany Grimm (elementary teacher, Blair Mill).

Dr. Eveslage recognized Samantha Waters who was appointed Interim Director of Childcare. He thanked Ms. Waters, who previously served as Assistant Director of

COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS (CONT'D)

Childcare, for providing leadership since the former director's resignation in July.

Federal Programs

The Board unanimously approved a Targeted School Improvement Plan for ELD students at Keith Valley Middle School.

Dr. Andre' McLaurin, Director of Educational Programming, explained the purpose of the plan and some of action steps that will be taken to help this small subgroup achieve greater academic growth in the coming year.

Liaison Reports

Student Board Representatives

Harper Sirine, Class of 2024, responded to a public comment from the previous Board meeting regarding cell phone usage in class among high school students. Harper acknowledged high school students between the ages of 14-18 must learn to manage their screen time and practice responsibility. Harper said students will learn that increased cell phone usage in class will result in lower grades, adding that students must be held accountable for their actions.

Eastern Center Arts & Technology

Tara Conner-Hallston reported that Eastern Center recently competed in the SkillsUSA national competition, with three students from the Career Pathways of Allied Health winning second place in their competition. She also noted that ECAT has over 40 students on the

waitlist for programs. ECAT is moving forward with re-evaluating each of their programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of local businesses and industries with the education they provide.

Federal Programs

Dr. Andre' McLaurin, reported that they have been working closely with Crooked Billet, Blair Mill, and Hallowell as they transition to school-wide Title I schools.

Pennsylvania School Board Association

Theresa Brown discussed the slate of PSBA candidates for 2024 positions, and informed Board members that voting begins on September 11 and ends October 27. Discussion and voting on candidates will be added to the Board's next agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Scott Eveslage said the District looks forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday, September 5, expressing optimism for the new year. Initial communications to families were sent during the week of August 21 and the PowerSchool portal has been opened to access student information.

Dr. Eveslage also provided an update on summer capital projects. While most projects are progressing well, there has been a significant delay with the renovation of the main High School gym. The new bleachers are not scheduled to arrive until November or December, although they were supposed to arrive before the start of the school year. While temporary bleachers will be provided by the contractor, Dr. Eveslage said the District is extremely disappointed about the late notice they received regarding the delay. This delay will impact school activities, fall sports, and fundraising events due to reduced seating capacity. The District is actively working with the contractor to accelerate the production and delivery of



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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D.)

the bleachers while protecting the financial interests of the District. Dr. Eveslage apologized for the delay and said the District is committed to keeping the community updated on the project's progress.

Following public comment, Dr. Eveslage emphasized that his leadership approach has always focused on student improvement and continues to be proud of the District's efforts. He said he is pleased with the overall positive trends in student achievement, attendance, and belongingness. Dr. Eveslage noted the importance of transparency and honesty in sharing both successes and areas for improvement with the community.

Next Board Meeting

The next Legislative/Action Meeting is Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7 p.m.

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