



# Board Notes

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

**October 23, 2023**

## Board Members

David P. Brown, President  
Jennifer Wilson, Vice President  
Theresa E. Brown, Treasurer  
Tara Conner-Hallston  
Susan E. Hunsinger-Hoff

Maggie A. Kistner  
Denise J. Schultz  
Erin B. Stroup  
Erin K. Whalen  
Scott Eveslage, Superintendent



## OVERVIEW

*At the Oct. 2 work session meeting, the Board heard presentations on the KVMS construction project and the transition from 5th to 6th grade at KVMS. At the Oct. 23 Legislative/Action Meeting, the Board heard a presentation about restorative practices.*

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

## PRESENTATIONS

### Keith Valley Middle School Transition

Jon Kircher, Principal of KVMS, and JoEllen Paldino, Assistant Principal, along with several 7th grade students, presented on the transition from 5th to 6th grade at KVMS. They highlighted the importance of building a sense of community, bridging the gap between current and future students and their families, and increasing student voice. The student presenters discussed opportunities to share their learning experiences and expand choices in extracurricular activities for 6th grade students.

### Keith Valley Middle School Construction Project Update

James Lynch, Construction Manager from D'Huy Engineering, provided an update on the new KVMS construction project. The initial phase involved laying the foundations for the new building to prepare the construction site. The school building began to take shape in August, with all four classroom pods and the new administration wing erected. Lynch emphasized the importance of stormwater management in the project and their goal to complete this work promptly to minimize school disruptions. Furthermore, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are being installed. The classroom wing roofs will be installed before winter to allow interior work to commence. Construction remains on schedule, with the new building set to open in the fall of 2025. After this date, the former building will be demolished, and the new athletic fields will be constructed.

### Restorative Practices

Dr. Andre' McLaurin, the Director of Educational Programming, and Erika Schwanbeck, the Restorative Practices Coach for the District, provided an overview of restorative practices. These practices aim to promote better student behavior by building healthy school culture and communities through supportive relationships and a positive approach. They shared a video showcasing the positive impact of restorative practices at KVMS. The initiative starts at the elementary level and future goals include expanding this approach to the high school level and providing professional development training to employees.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

### Curriculum Committee

Susan Hunsinger-Hoff reported that Dr. David Weber, Director of Curriculum, provided an overview of the annual processes and curriculum review cycle. This year focuses on curriculum writing, assessment design, and resource identification for specific subjects, including Art K-12, Music K-12, World Languages 6-12, and Social Studies K-12. Dr. Weber and Christine Jenkins, Supervisor of Curriculum, also discussed the ongoing efforts to refresh the elementary progress report.

### Facilities Committee

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

- Change order for the KVMS project totaling \$8,916.37 to purchase additional auditorium seats.
- Proposal to replace the auditorium stage lighting at high school in the amount of \$19,438.92.
- Five capital projects for 2024, funded through the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Credit change order for the Simmons stairwell window replacement project resulting in \$60,772 in savings.

### Finance Committee

Bill Stone, Director of Business Affairs, reported that the Finance Committee discussed the 2024-25 Act 1 index on Oct. 12, establishing the maximum real estate tax increase at 5.3%. He also presented the following Finance Committee action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- Tax assessment stipulations between HHSD and three property owners in Horsham.
- New delegates to the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee.

Mr. Stone noted that Oct. 31 is the deadline for property owners to pay their real estate tax bill before the 10% penalty is added. Keystone Collections will be on-site at the District Administrative Office on Oct. 30-31 to accept real estate tax payments.

### Human Resources Committee

Tara Conner-Hallston reported that the HR Committee recently discussed the implementation of position control, substitute staffing, and hiring protocols. The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hatboro-Horsham Education Association, in addition to several support staff hires and changes of assignment or classification.

### Policy Committee

Denise Shultz presented the following Policy Committee action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- First Readings of Policy No. 251, *Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care, and Other Educational Instability*; new Policy No. 627, *Debt Management*; Policy No. 6271, *Post-Issuance Tax Compliance*; and Policy No. 6272, *Post-Issuance Compliance*.

### Other Board Action Items

The Board approved the revised 2023-2024 HHSD District Calendar, including changing Dec. 7 from an early dismissal schedule to a full day of school in observance of the first night of Hannukah. Dec. 6 became an early dismissal schedule for parent-teacher conferences.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Scott Eveslage congratulated HHHS for being named to the 2023 AP School Honor Roll due to student performance on advanced placement exams in the previous year. He also expressed thanks to students, families, teachers, and staff for a wonderful start to the school year.

Dr. Eveslage addressed questions regarding the District's reporting of test scores. PSSA and Keystone results were received over the summer, but the District has yet to receive PVAAS growth data. Once received, the student data will be presented during the November Curriculum Committee of the Board meeting. Dr. Eveslage emphasized that the student data is already under review, highlighting the increasing academic achievements throughout HHSD and the District's commitment to supporting learning.

Dr. Eveslage shared the District's successful and celebratory Homecoming Weekend and also showcased the various accomplishments of Hatboro-Horsham's fall athletics programs. Moreover, he mentioned that the high school hosted an Instant Decision Day, providing students with post-secondary opportunities. Forty-one students participated, leading to 95 acceptance letters and the awarding of various scholarships totaling over \$1 million.

Additionally, Dr. Eveslage reported that Sara Johnson, the District's Solicitor, accepted another position and will be stepping down from her current role. HHSD will continue to receive legal counsel from Rudolph Clarke, LLC. Dr. Eveslage extended his appreciation to Johnson for her dedicated work and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

## Liaison Reports

### Eastern Center Arts & Technology

Tara Conner-Hallston reported that Eastern Center is constantly improving instructional programs to ensure they meet industry standards. With the cost of materials increasing, ECAT is still accepting donations from the community to remain financially responsible.

### Safe Schools Committee

Dr. McLaurin reported on the Safe Schools Committee's plans, which include using PCCD grant funding for new cameras, software, trauma bags, and staff safety training. The committee also addressed nationwide swatting incidents and reinforced safety procedures, along with discussing safety protocols at high school football games.

### Federal Programs

Dr. McLaurin reported that the District's Title I elementary schools recently hosted their Title I Family Nights, where principals and teams engaged with families to discuss their Title I plans. Additionally, in the upcoming weeks, these schools will hold Parent Compact meetings to involve families in developing plans to support students for the school year.

### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Jennifer Wilson reported that the MCIU's Office of Organizational and Professional Learning was awarded a \$3.5 million five-year grant to support the PA Gifted Equity Initiative.

## STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

In response to a Board Member's question, Ariana Bertrand, Harper Sirine, and Aashna Patel discussed an overall feeling of safety at the High School amongst the students.

## Next Board Meeting

The next Legislative/Action Meeting is Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7 p.m.

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