



Board Notes

A Monthly Summary of the Hatboro-Horsham School Board Meetings

January 2024

Board Members

Jennifer Wilson, President	Maggie A. Kistner
David P. Brown, 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 January 8, the Board heard presentations on HHSD student achievement and growth, including an update on the KVMS project. During the January 22 meeting, the Board approved the 2024-25 High School course selection guide.

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

PRESENTATIONS

HHHS Lunch and Learn: “Creating a Culture of Belonging”

Hatboro-Horsham High School assistant principals Angela Whelan and Sarah Berman, and teacher Colleen Cram presented how the flexible Lunch and Learn period engages student voices to cultivate a culture of belonging at the high school. Lunch and Learn, now in its second year, offers diverse activities and spaces for students to develop a sense of community and belonging. The Strive Thru cafe was added this year, providing opportunities for students with learning differences to gain work experience and connect with friends. Future plans for the Lunch and Learn include expanding access to food services and adding TV displays to promote awareness of events and opportunities.

Keith Valley Middle School Project Update - D’Huy Engineering

James Lynch, Construction Manager from D’Huy Engineering, provided an update on the new KVMS construction project. The presentation showcased the installation of the building frame, with some sections fully enclosed. Site stabilization has been successful, including paving, landscaping, and stormwater basin installation. Lynch highlighted the positive collaboration with Horsham Township and neighboring residents. Infrastructure developments included paving for a new bus drop-off loop, the formation of the building commons, and progress in mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work. Ongoing coordination efforts involve planning of IT systems, community input and response, educational opportunities, and more. The project remains on schedule for the Fall 2025 school year, with savings from value engineering contributing to an increased project contingency.

Student Performance Data

Dr. Ted Domers, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. David Weber, Director of Curriculum, presented HHSD student achievement and growth data on state assessments, focusing on how student performance informs actions taken in the schools. Dr. Weber shared scatter plots illustrating achievement data and growth data for the PSSA and Keystone exams, with HHSD consistently exceeding the state and county average for both achievement and expected growth in most subject areas.

PRESENTATIONS

Additionally, Dr. Domers presented data for the current 6th and 9th grade cohorts, highlighting the value in comparing student performance to the student's prior performance over three years. The analysis of this data informs decision-making to fulfill the District's commitment to learning as its fundamental purpose. HHSD's approach to improving student achievement includes ensuring students engage in academically rigorous curriculum, establishing a sustainable response to learning and implementing strategies that are research based and measurable.

High School Data

HHHS Principal Dr. Dennis M. Williams presented the 2023 high school SAT, Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment, and NOCTI data. HHHS outperformed both the national and statewide averages on the SAT and ACT exams. However, Dr. Williams noted that SAT and ACT participation rates have fallen significantly post-COVID, both at HHHS and statewide, as many colleges and universities no longer require them for admission. Notably, 89% of HHHS students who took the NOCTI exam in 2023 scored proficient or advanced. Dr. Williams discussed AP exam participation, with HHHS having an impressive 82% pass rate. He also discussed the advantages of a new state law regarding Dual Enrollment requiring schools to enter into agreements with approved PA institutions of higher education to allow students to earn college-level credit prior to graduating high school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

Curriculum Committee

Susan Hunsinger-Hoff reported that the Curriculum Committee met on December 12 and heard an overview of the 2024-25 course selection guide, which emphasizes choice, relevance, and alignment with student outcomes. Key highlights include block scheduling, differentiated levels, Lunch and Learn academic support and enrichment, and a focus on post-secondary options such as AP courses, dual enrollment, and ECAT. The Board unanimously approved the 2024-25 course selection guide on January 22.

The Curriculum Committee also heard bi-annual presentations on the professional development activities for staff and the field trips taken by HHSD students.

Facilities Committee

David Brown presented the following Facilities Committee action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- Awarding the low bid of \$1.295 million to Yates Electrical Service, Inc. for the replacement of the HHHS fire alarm system.

- Proposals to purchase and install an air handler unit at Simmons Elementary School and unit ventilators for the cafeteria at Blair Mill Elementary School from Johnson Controls totaling \$423,084.
- Revised contract award on a time and expense basis for Construction Materials Testing to Gestructures, Inc., King of Prussia, for an estimated amount of \$200,430 for the Keith Valley Middle School Project.

The Facilities Committee met on January 18 and heard a status update from D'Huy Engineering on the summer capital projects.

Finance Committee

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

- Contracts for an expiring student device lease, social work services, and architectural design services for the HHHS bathroom renovation project.
- Tax assessment appeal stipulation that will generate additional revenue for the District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS (CONT'D)

- Mileage reimbursement rate in accordance with the IRS standard mileage rate.
- 2024-25 ECAT budget, with the District contributing \$1,399,497.
- 2024-25 MCIU Membership Services Budget, with the District contributing \$76,420.
- The independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 and associated year-end fund balance commitments and operating transfers.

The Finance Committee met on January 18 and discussed several proposals received for childcare services.

Human Resources Committee

The Board congratulated David Sanderson, HHHS physical education teacher, and Priscilla Martin, KVMS family and consumer science teacher, on their retirement after their respective 22 and 21 years of dedicated service to the District.

Liaison Reports

Safe Schools Committee

Tara Conner-Hallston reported that Eastern Center is hosting an Open House on March 3 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. She encouraged families and students to attend to witness the programs that ECAT offers. Conner-Hallston also mentioned several HHHS students who obtained internships through ECAT and were recognized during Community Service Month.

Safe Schools Committee

Erin Stroup reported that the Safe Schools Committee met on January 18 and discussed the new security officer who recently started working at HHHS. Two new guards are scheduled for mandatory school resource officer training in February. Stroup also discussed the significant progress in fulfilling the state-mandated Act 55 safety training requirements for the 2023-24 school year. He also highlighted the presentation by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to Simmons 4th and 5th graders regarding the sheriff's office role in serving the public. The committee also had an extensive discussion on the District's preparedness for mass student family reunification after a crisis.

Federal Programs

Dr. Andre' McLaurin, Director of Educational Programming, reported that elementary schools are currently assessing mid-year progress in math and reading through a series of assessments, comparing data with the beginning of the year to evaluate student growth. The information guides interventions and instructional strategies to support academic success. He also noted that Title I schools are considering additional resources for student support, and throughout the year, they actively promote parental engagement through various programs.

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

Theresa Brown announced a School Safety Summit on March 19, focusing on risk and crisis management. She gave an update on the Student Leadership Scholarships established by the PSBA Trust, providing a one-time award of up to \$5,000 for graduating seniors, with the application window extended until March 15. For more information, visit www.PSBATrust.org.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Caryne Dio Cruz, Class of 2025, reported that Student Representatives recently visited KVMS and met with 8th Grade Student Council officers, sharing their personal experiences at the High School. The exchange included discussions about potential Student Council initiatives to enhance the overall experience at KVMS. It was an enjoyable and effective experience in fostering personal connections with other students.

Harper Sirine, Class of 2024, noted that Student Representatives are launching a project to enhance support for students navigating the college admissions process. This idea came forward during their recent Town Hall meeting. Next steps include creating a survey for high school students to gather opinions on this topic.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ted Domers discussed the recent weather conditions impacting the school schedule. He reminded everyone that the HHSD calendar allows for up to two emergency weather days as "traditional snow days" with no virtual or in-person instruction. If a third emergency weather day is needed, it defaults to a virtual instructional day. Schools and teachers will communicate directly with students and families on how to prepare for these days as the possibility becomes more imminent. Additionally, Dr. Domers recognized the contributions and service of the School Board during School Director Recognition Month in January. He said that the work of Hatboro-Horsham's school directors is vital to the success of students and schools of HHSD.

Next Board Meeting

The next Legislative Action Meeting is Monday, February 26, at 7 p.m.

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