

MASD Board Bulletin

MAY 18, 2015

Complete Minutes of the School Board Meeting can be found at raiderweb.org after next month's Board Meeting.

CURRICULUM

The Board approved the curricula for Spanish I - IV and French I – IV. The Board approved adoption of the textbook titled *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing and Rhetoric, Second Edition* for use in the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course.

AGREEMENTS

The Board approved an agreement with Wesley United Methodist Church to serve as a site for the District's summer food service program.

PARTICIPATIONS

The Board approved the District's participation in the biennial PA Youth Survey (PAYS) in the fall of 2015 for students in Grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Board approved to contract with Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates to provide design, bidding and construction administration services for an upgrade project at War Memorial Field.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board adopted a resolution to display the Proposed Final General Fund Budget Resolution for 2015-2016 as presented.

The Board adopted a resolution appointing David Franklin as the school district tax collector.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board elected Gordon Einhorn as the School Board Treasurer.

RECOGNITIONS

May Student of the Month - Sydney Alexander with educator Mrs. Lori Hess
May Student of the Month - Matthew Anthony with educator Mr. Brian Keyser
Class of 2015 Valedictorian - John Ponnett III
Class of 2015 Salutatorian - Joshua Alcock
Patriot News' Best & Brightest Class of 2015 Semi-finalists - Joshua Alcock, Karlee Deibler and John Ponnett
Outstanding High School Graduating World Language Student - Bailee Koncar, awarded by the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association
Study Abroad Students - Georgie Britcher, Oman; Kelly Moyer, Denmark; Jasmine River, Spain; Erin Templeton, Norway
District Retirees - Joseph Cannon (10 yrs); Cynthia Crowe (23 yrs); John Gordon (33 yrs); Michael Haake, (35 yrs); Gwen Martz (36 yrs); Pamela O'Neill (19 yrs); Beverly Paine (14 yrs); Karen Shupp (18 yrs)
Candidates for Employment - Kehley Jo Cimino and Eric Fisher

PRESENTATIONS

STEM Summit - Mrs. Michele Myers, Gabe Wisniewski and Keely Lombardi
Proposed Final Draft of the General Fund Budget for 2015-2016 - Mr. David Franklin

CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Lora Laverty, from Head Custodian to Per Diem Substitute Custodian
Shawn Myers, from Second Shift Custodian to Head Custodian

RESIGNATIONS

The Board rescinded the resignation of Catherine Judy, Part-Time Non-Instructional Aide.

EMPLOYMENT

Kehley Jo Cimino, Elementary Teacher
Eric Fisher, Payroll and Benefits Accountant
Steve Jumper, Second Shift Custodian
Julie Killian, Secondary Math Teacher
Ryan Popp, Seasonal Maintenance Worker

EMPLOYMENT *(continued)*

Extended school year services:

Robert Brodish
Janelle Fenstermaker
Susan Gibson
Pamela Humphreys
Kathleen Moore
Christina Mowl
Susan Parkhill
Robin Wolf
Mary Ziltz

Summer School Programs:

Natalie Cibort
Lori D'Amour
Mackenzie D'Amour
Mary Dougherty
Christopher Etter
Bronson Ganse
Ashley Houseal
Gail Jones
Melissa Kaylor
Cynthia McLaughlin
Erika Mrakovich
Anastasia Neboga
Nicole Petrovich
Angela Pontius
Jenna Riggs
Justin Smith

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Suski reported that the District received approval from the PA Department of Education for the Special Education Plan that was submitted. Dr. Suski thanked Mrs. Krystal Palmer and the members of the Comprehensive Plan subcommittee who worked to develop the plan.

Dr. Suski reported that the District welcomed District Attorney Ed Marsico to both the middle and high schools where he delivered presentations on the dangers of cyberbullying and sexting. Also present for both assemblies were Chief Richard Brandt and School Resource Officer Jon Miller of



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

Lower Swatara Township Police Department. Mr. Marsico's presentation focused on what types of messages constitute cyberbullying and the fact that sexting is not just limited to the transmission of explicit photos but also verbiage. Most importantly, the D.A. discussed with students the fact that what they post on social media is out there for the world to see, providing a "record" of the communication that could resurface in ways that can damage students' reputation and even future employment. Mr. Marsico referenced the damage that can be done to peers when forwarding messages to people and shared that some of the collateral damage results in people committing suicide because of the public humiliation they suffer as a result of cyberbullying. Mr. Marsico delineated for students the various crimes associated with sexting which range from summary offenses to misdemeanors. Dr. Suski said that she attended the High School assembly that morning and was very impressed by how attentive the high school students were during the District Attorney's presentation.

Dr. Suski reported that she received a request from David Volkman, Executive Deputy Secretary at PDE, for data regarding the MASD Pathways model that Governor Wolf is seeking regarding his budget proposal for additional funding for college and career readiness. Dr. Suski provided data to Mr. Volkman that was obtained from the District's annual graduation survey showing that since the advent of the Pathways model at the High School, the percentage of graduates accessing post-secondary education has increased from 50% to 96%. Mr. Volkman expressed his appreciation for the data that Dr. Suski shared with him and said that the information was very helpful.

Dr. Suski announced that on May 13 at Reid Elementary School and upcoming next week on May 26 at Fink Elementary School, the District welcomed and will welcome several gentlemen to read to students as part of the 500 Men Reading event that was unfortunately postponed in early March due to weather. Dr. Suski thanked Ms. Marie Drazenovich for her work in arranging this event and Mr. David Franklin for helping to secure several readers from among District vendors.

Dr. Suski reported that on May 14, Mr. Earl Bright welcomed a special visitor to Reid Elementary School. Mr. Joe Prokopchak served as principal of Grandview and Demey Elementary Schools. Mr. Prokopchak is now 94 years old and resides in a nursing home. Mr. Prokopchak presented Mr. Bright with a personal copy of an aerial photo of the former elementary school since Mr. Bright was the last principal there before the school was sold to Penn State Harrisburg. Mr. Bright told the Board that he wished to donate the photo to the District since it is a memorable piece of history.

Dr. Suski announced that two student athletes were nominated for the Travers Award – Karlee Deibler and Nathan Ocker. Dr. Suski said that although neither student was the recipient, they are both very worthy candidates who represented Middletown Area High School with pride. Dr. Suski also announced that the District received word that Nathan Ocker was also chosen as the recipient of the Edwin Brunner/Pierce Award. As far as the District is aware, Nathan is the first Middletown student to receive this prestigious award among Mid Penn high schools.

Dr. Suski reported that Mr. King informed Board members at the Athletics/Activities Committee meeting the previous Thursday that Middletown had five student athletes headed to the District 3 Track & Field Championships at Shippensburg University on Friday, May 15. Although each performed well, their results weren't quite enough to qualify for PIAA state competition, but the District would like to congratulate them nonetheless: Brianna Bennett - 35' 1 3/4" in Shot Put; Alexis Ulrich - completed the 100m Dash; Kurt Dey - completed the 200m Dash and 400m Dash; Scott Shaffer - 12' 6" and 13' in Pole Vault; Mackenzie Lombardi - 108' in Girls Javelin

Dr. Suski reported that at the time of the Board meeting the Varsity Baseball team was playing the #1 seed, Shippensburg High School, in the first round of District 3 playoffs. During the Board meeting, a member of the baseball team arrived for a scheduled recognition and reported that the Raiders had defeated Shippensburg.

Dr. Suski reminded attenders that there would be no school for students the following day as it was a scheduled staff development day. The District was planning a staff appreciation breakfast before the first staff development training session. School Board members were invited to attend the breakfast to extend their gratitude for the work of all teachers and staff.

Dr. Suski announced the following end of school year events:

- Honors Night will be held on Thursday, May 28. A dinner will be held at 5:45 p.m. to honor the top five (5) students in each high school class followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. where thousands of dollars in various scholarships will be awarded to the senior class. Dinner is by invitation only but the program is open to the public. Dr. Suski indicated that all Board members should have received an invitation in the mail and she asked them to please confirm their attendance with Diane Hepner at the High School.
- Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, May 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.
- There will be several performances of the Middle School Operetta with the final one being prior to the annual Transfer ceremony on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dr. Russell Eppinger Auditorium at MAMS.
- The 136th Commencement will be held at the Forum in Harrisburg on Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. where diplomas will be conferred upon the Class of 2015.

Dr. Suski thanked Mr. Franklin for his excellent presentation of the proposed final 2015-2016 budget. She commended Mr. Franklin for his unique ability to take a complex topic such as School Finance and explain it in a manner that is easily understandable while preserving the integrity of the information. Dr. Suski said that the administration has been working very hard over the last few months to examine every item in the proposed budget literally line by line. She said that the District takes very seriously the charge to present to the Board a balanced budget that is fiscally responsible while continuing to address the ever-changing and growing needs of the student population. Dr. Suski concurred with Mr. Franklin that the administration fully anticipates that there will be even further reductions to the proposed 1.6% tax increase as retirees' salaries are replaced with new hire salaries in the coming month. Dr. Suski said that much is dependent on the Governor's proposed budget and how quickly that will be passed. Dr. Suski confirmed that the District's proposed spending plan was submitted to PDE as required and that the District awaits their feedback by June 15.