

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

RECOGNITIONS

February Students of the Month:
Zoey Bright with educator Caitlin Hunt
Tre' Leach with educator Leroy O'Neill

PRESENTATIONS

Study Abroad Students:
Morgan Kennedy - Costa Rica
Kendra Valerio - Argentina

EMPLOYMENT

Patricia Carnes, Substitute Nurse
Jessica Craft, Substitute Nurse
Christianne Walker, Instructional Aide

EXTRA-CURRICULAR EMPLOYMENT

Bryce Connor, Assistant Junior High Girls Soccer Coach
Peter Fox, Head Junior High Track and Field Coach
Robert Gomboc, II, Head Junior Varsity Baseball Coach
Tyler Guise, Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach
Drew Heying, Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach
Jen Houser, Assistant Junior Varsity Softball Coach
Brian Keyser, Assistant Junior High Boys Soccer Coach
Aaron Lupia, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach
Nickolas Macri, Head Varsity Track and Field Coach
Lynn Miller, Head Boys' Varsity Tennis Coach
Timothy Neff, Head Junior High Girls Soccer Coach
Tyler Roberts, Head Junior High Boys Soccer Coach
Peter Ryneski, Assistant Junior High Track and Field Coach
John Selcher, Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach
Aaron Shockley, Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach
Erika Sorenson, Head Junior Varsity Softball Coach
Lisa Smith, Assistant Varsity Softball Coach
Dimitri Theofantis, Assistant Varsity Track and Field Coach
Michael Thomas, Head Varsity Softball Coach

CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Ed Craig from Second Shift Custodian to First Shift Custodian
Brenda Mull from Elementary Health Room Nurse to Long-Term Substitute Elementary Nurse
Carla Zlogar from Substitute Nurse to Elementary Health Room Nurse

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Suski expressed sympathy to the families of the victims of the Valentine's Day massacre in Parkland, FL. As stated in her letter to the MASD community last Friday, Dr. Suski said these horrific acts of violence make everyone feel vulnerable. MASD remains vigilant in its focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment for MASD students. To that end, the administration is reviewing its safety and security procedures and will continue to regularly conduct drills. The District will continue to monitor its practices and implement changes as recommended by safety and security experts such as the PA State Police and Center for Safe Schools.

Dr. Suski reported that on the previous Monday, February 12, she had the opportunity to accompany two members of the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma to the five (5) District schools to meet the 2017-2018 new hires and present them with a gift basket of items for their classrooms. Delta Kappa Gamma has been reaching out to various districts for years to extend hospitality to new teachers. The organization consists of many active and retired school teachers who understand the pressure on teachers to deal with many issues beyond merely teaching students. Delta Kappa Gamma seeks to encourage and support those entering the profession. Following the visit, Dr. Suski received a very nice email from Mrs. Stephany Davidson, retired Kunkel teacher, applauding the District for what she observed while visiting each building in terms of student conduct. Chapter President, Gaye Hicks, also commented on how well-organized and disciplined Middletown schools are.

Dr. Suski congratulated Brendan Douglass, Chris Plummer and Tyreer Mills who participated in Signing Day last week. Brendan and Chris have committed to play football at California University of PA, and Tyreer has committed to play football at West Chester University. Congratulations and best wishes to these fine young men in their pursuit of college football.

Dr. Suski congratulated both the girls and boys basketball teams for entering district playoffs. During the Board meeting, Dr. Suski received word that the girls lost their game being held that evening. The boys will play on Thursday at home.

Dr. Suski thanked DCTS for inviting MASD Elementary School Counselors to attend the PACTA Educational Symposium at the Hershey Lodge on Friday, February 16. Through the use of Perkins funds, the counselors were provided a tremendous opportunity to learn from the renowned Dr. Kevin Fleming. The District is grateful to DCTS for opening this opportunity to our elementary counselors to build more capacity at the early levels with regard to career readiness.

Dr. Suski noted that Friday will be an early dismissal for students in Grades 9 – 11 only as seniors prepare to present their post-secondary and career action plans.

Dr. Suski announced that the High School Spring Musical will be held on March 8, 9 and 10 and she encouraged everyone to come out to see the performance of "Once Upon a Mattress."

**Dr. Suski read aloud the following official statement from the
Middletown Area School District regarding the EDUCATION COALITION PETITION.**

On February 2, 2018, the Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education issued a 128-page pre-adjudication determination regarding the education merit of the proposed transfer of Highspire Borough from Steelton-Highspire School District to Middletown Area School District. The Deputy Secretary ultimately concluded that this proposed transfer lacked educational merit. Thus, the Deputy Secretary is recommending that this proposed transfer not occur, and that the current boundaries of the Steelton-Highspire and Middletown Area School Districts remain unchanged. The Middletown Area School District ("MASD") believes that was the correct decision based upon the facts and the law.

MASD expressed its opposition to this proposed transfer when the Highspire Education Committee ("HEC") initiated its petition 3½ years ago. During that time period, MASD fully cooperated with the Department's extensive review of this petition by responding to all of its inquiries for information, data and records, as well as making its school facilities available for inspection. The Deputy Secretary's 257 findings of facts reflect the volume of information provided by MASD and the other parties. MASD believes that the Deputy Secretary's determination is thoughtful, comprehensive and well-reasoned.

MASD's solicitor has advised that the HEC filed an appeal of the Deputy Secretary's recommendation to the Secretary of Education. As a result, the litigation will continue, despite MASD's preference for the parties to respect the findings reached by the Deputy Secretary. Again, it is our preference that this litigation be brought to an end, so MASD may continue to its focus its attention and resources on serving the K-12 educational needs of Middletown and Royalton Boroughs and Lower Swatara Township.

FIELD TRIPS

The Board approved the following field trips:

- Middletown Area Middle School Student Council members to New Oxford High School for the annual Pennsylvania Association of Student Council's District conference on Friday, March 2, 2018 with registration costs jointly paid by students and Student Activity funds, transportation costs paid by Student Activity funds, and substitute teacher costs paid by the District.
- Grade 5 students to Philadelphia, PA on April 23, 2018 with no costs to the District.
- Middletown Youth & Government students to Gilbertsville, PA for the YMCA Youth & Government Pre-Legislative Conference on Saturday, February 17, 2018 with District vans used for transportation.
- Several grade 6 and grade 8 students to the Swatara Creek/Suquehanna River for a canoe trip on May 4, 2018 (grade 8) and May 9, 2018 (grade 6) with registration fees paid by a grant from the Masonic Lodge, transportation provided by District vans, and substitute teacher costs paid by the District. Note: although this trip is within fifty miles of the District, approval is sought due to the nature of the trip.

AGREEMENTS

The Board approved a Service Disclosure Agreement with Kades Margolis Corporation to facilitate the implementation and enrollment of a Sage College Tuition Rewards Program for the District's employees.

The Board approved an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services to use The Forum for commencement rehearsal and ceremony on June 6, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. at the cost of \$650.00.

The Board approved an agreement with Solution Tree, Inc. to provide professional development for K-12 math instruction during the 2018-2019 school year.

VOLUNTEERS

Patrick Bircher
Richard Bryan, Jr.
Heather Murphy
Ravinder Rai
Kimberly Snyder
Sophia Williams

RESOLUTIONS

The Board adopted a resolution to oppose Senate Bill 2 which addresses the creation of education savings account vouchers.

POLICIES

The Board adopted revisions to Policy 217.1 (Dual Enrollment at Institutions of Higher Learning).

APPROVALS

The Board approved the request of Dr. Shirley Clark, Professor of Engineering at Penn State Harrisburg, to walk on the campus with her class as part of a storm water management project.

The Board approved the Constitution and Bylaws of the Middletown Area Recreation Advisory Board and an Intergovernmental Agreement of Cooperation for the Middletown Area Recreation Alliance in the versions attached to agenda or substantially equivalent versions should changes be made by one of the other entities.

The Board approved a Waiver of Expulsion Hearing Agreement for student 17-18-005.

The Board approved the creation of the Noah Benjamin Albert 2018 Scholarship fund.