

Complete Minutes of the School Board Meeting can be found at [raiderweb.org](http://raiderweb.org) after next month's Board Meeting.

## RECOGNITIONS

January Students of the Month:  
Adriene Funck with Mrs. Tiffany Lewis  
Scott Ash with Mr. Brett Myers

## PRESENTATIONS

Safe2Say Something  
*presented by Dr. Lori A. Suski*  
2019-2020 General Fund Preliminary Budget  
*presented by Mr. David A. Franklin*

## EMPLOYMENT

Stefanie Fuchs, Elementary (Reid) Learning Support Teacher  
Stacy Roman, Elementary (Kunkel) Learning Support Teacher

## MENTOR

Jenelle Miller to serve as a mentor teacher for Stefanie Fuchs

## CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Ken Blouch from Third Shift Custodian to Second Shift Custodian  
Catherine Judy from Instructional Aide to Alternative Education Instructional Aide

## RESIGNATIONS

Darren DiCello, Director of Technology and Digital Learning, effective February 8, 2019  
Lianna Houtz, Elementary Teacher (MATES Program at Fink), effective upon hiring of her replacement but no later than March 8, 2019  
Anna Rux, Elementary Teacher (Reid), effective January 18, 2019 as per the terms of the agreement  
Karen Williams, Elementary Learning Support Teacher (Kunkel), effective upon hiring of her replacement but no later than March 15, 2019

## RETIREMENTS

Karen Battenhausen, Reading Specialist, effective the end of the 2018-2019 school year  
Linda Eppley, Elementary Teacher, effective the end of the 2018-2019 school year

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

Tiffany Mittereder, Teacher, to take child-rearing leave from February 14, 2019 through March 5, 2019

## POST SEASON PAY

Samuel Fisher, HS Band Director, for PMEA District 7 Orchestra

## STATEMENT ON THE HIGHSPIRE EDUCATION COALITION PETITION

On January 16, 2019, the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued his Opinion and Order rejecting the proposed transfer of Highspire Borough from Steelton-Highspire School District to Middletown Area School District because it "is not meritorious from an educational standpoint." The Secretary's decision upheld the Deputy Secretary's earlier pre-adjudication determination, which reached the same conclusion last year. The Middletown Area School District ("MASD") believes the Secretary's decision is thoughtful, comprehensive and well-reasoned – and the correct one based upon the facts and the law.

MASD expressed its opposition to this proposed transfer when Highspire Education Coalition ("HEC") filed its petition 4½ 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. Thereafter, MASD supported a vigorous hearing process before the Secretary to allow all parties the opportunity to present evidence and make arguments in support of their respective positions in this matter. That process ultimately resulted in state Department of Education rendering two separate decisions in two years that HEC's petition should be dismissed.

MASD's solicitor has advised that HEC may file an appeal of the Secretary's latest decision to the Commonwealth Court. We sincerely hope that does not occur. MASD's strong preference would be for the parties to accept the findings reached by the Secretary of Education as final, and for HEC to bring this litigation to an end. But if HEC persists in continuing this litigation for another round, MASD is prepared to defend the correctness of the Secretary of Education decision.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Suski noted that the District has begun the second half of the 2018-19 school year and report cards will be issued on January 25. Dr. Suski said that the following Friday, February 1, is a half day for elementary students in order that teachers can hold parent/teacher conferences and there is no school for any students K -12 on Monday, February 4 for elementary parent/teacher conferences and secondary staff development.

Dr. Suski announced that the Blue & Gold Club dinner which had been scheduled for Saturday, January 19 was postponed to Saturday, January 26 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the American Legion. Dr. Suski encouraged the Board to consider buying tickets which are \$30 per person to support this organization.

Dr. Suski congratulated Blue Raider Richie Sykes who was featured on Penn Live for his commitment to play football at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. Dr. Suski announced that the band will hold its annual Souper Saturday event on February 2.

## FIELD TRIPS

The Board approved a trip for Megan Burghdorf and Mr. Fisher to attend the All-East Orchestra in Pittsburgh on April 3-7, 2019.

## APPROVALS

The Board approved the resolution authorizing display and advertisement of the 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget Notice and Act 1 Referendum Notice.

The Board approved an amendment to the letter of credit agreements with Mid Penn Bank to reduce the amount for irrevocable letter of credit No. 577 with Lower Swatara Township from \$336,716.25 to \$177,121.25, to terminate letter of credit No. 578 with Lower Swatara Township Municipal Authority, and to terminate letter of credit No. 583 with Middletown Borough Authority.

The Board approved solicitation of proposals for the following products/services for the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Food Service Management Company (current five-year agreement with The Nutrition Group expires June 30, 2019)
2. Copiers/Multi-Function Printing Devices (current five-year lease agreement with the Phillips Group expires June 29, 2019)
3. Postage Meter (current five-year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes expires March 31, 2019)

The Board appointed the following individuals to the evaluation committee for the food service management company RFP:

1. Daniel Borrelli, Kunkel Elementary Principal
2. Tony Colemire, School Nutrition Programs Coordinator
3. Amy Dintiman, Federal and State Programs Fiscal Manager
4. David Franklin, Chief Financial Officer
5. Dr. Chelton Hunter, Assistant to the Superintendent

The Board approved an agreement with Mazzitti and Sullivan to provide in-school substance abuse counseling services to students at Middletown Area High School with no cost charged to the District for the 2018-2019 school year and for successive years at the pleasure of both parties.

The Board approved contracts with Choice Security Services to provide security upgrades in the locations detailed below with funding provided by Phoenix Contact and less than \$5,000 from the budgetary reserve line item of the General Fund:

1. Middletown Area Middle School - \$46,536
2. Middletown Area High School - \$17,728
3. Kunkel Elementary School - \$17,384
4. Reid Elementary School - \$16,123
5. Fink Elementary School - \$15,930

The Board approved the following individuals as contracted van drivers for the 2018-2019 school year upon verification of all clearances and disclosures:

1. Leisa Davis (Boyo)
2. Kenneth Wakefield (Boyo)