

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

WALLINGFORD-SWARTHMORE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Monday, October 10, 2016
Middle School Library 7:00 p.m.

AT THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
THE BOARD CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Dr. Richard C. Sonntag, President
Dr. Marylin Huff, Vice President
Ms. Sally Morbeck, Treasurer
Ms. Wendy Voet, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jerry Ballas
Ms. Chapin Cimino
Dr. Allison Karpyn
Dr. Robert C. Reiger
Mr. Paul Schregel

SUPERINTENDENT PALMER'S REPORT

1) 2016 National Blue Ribbon

On September 28th, U.S. Secretary of Education John King announced the 2016 National Blue Ribbon recipients, and Strath Haven High School was fortunate to be one of only 329 elementary, middle, and high schools selected for this prestigious honor. Schools are nominated for the award by the state department of education, and then complete a comprehensive application about school practices. Schools may apply for status as Exemplary High Performing – among the top schools in the state – or Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing – schools making the fastest progress in their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Strath Haven is especially fortunate, in that this year's award is the third time in school history that we have received the National Blue Ribbon, having earned it previously in 1985 and 2002. Strath Haven is one of only 70 high schools across Pennsylvania which has ever received the Blue Ribbon in the national program's 34-year history, and one of only six high schools in the state which has received the recognition three times, the greatest frequency of any high school program.

Our sincere congratulations go out to Dr. MaryJo Yannacone, our outstanding High School Principal, and everyone (*our students, staff and educators*) at Strath Haven High as well as all of the educators, staff and parents who supported our

students on their journey to Strath Haven. A very well deserved recognition indeed!

2) Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools Foundation

I'm reminding everyone of the Foundation for Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools' 5th annual fall fundraiser and community event, the Panther Pajama Run and Pancake Breakfast, which will be held on Saturday, November 12. This family-friendly community event consists of a 5K Race, a 1.2 mile Family Fun Walk, and races on the King Field track for elementary school children, followed by a pancake breakfast. Last year, over 400 people attended the event which raised almost \$7,000. Please put this date on your calendar and join us for this fun event. You can register at www.runtheday.com or find more info at www.supportwssd.org (events).

3) Migration from Honeywell Instant Alert to *School Messenger*

I'd like to remind everyone that we will be migrating to a new emergency notification system called *School Messenger* on November 4th. Please be on the lookout (tomorrow) for an e-mail from Mark Finlayson, our Technology Director. He will be sending you directions detailing how to customize the *School Messenger* system to best meet your individual needs. Through the use of *School Messenger*, we look forward to improving our level of communications with you.

4) In and Around the District

It has been very challenging (*in a good way*) over the past two weeks in trying to divide my time among the various school activities and athletic competitions. From volleyball, football, field hockey, and the Panthers Go Pink soccer game; to the Silvertones Cantata performance in New York City; to Tyler School of Art for an exhibit featuring works by senior and AP Studio Art student Lizzie Ashbrook and her teacher Jennifer Rodgers; to the Speech and Debate tournament hosted by Strath Haven High School last Saturday. These competitions and activities highlight our students' talents, commitment, and mental and physical agility, but most importantly they highlight their sense of camaraderie. My compliments to our students, their coaches, directors, and advisors who all exemplify the best characteristics of team competition.

Looking ahead - on Friday, October 21st, we will be celebrating the 2016 Strath Haven High School Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony. I'm pleased to announce, this year we honor three individuals:

- John Stauffer, Nether Providence High School, Class of 1961
- David Splain, Nether Providence High School, Class of 1981
- Mark Stephens, Swarthmore High School, Class of 1983

The recipients' biographies are quite impressive and varied, and they all share a strong commitment to the service of others. I will share more information after the ceremony.

5) National School Lunch Week (October 10 – 14, 2016)

This week is National School Lunch Week. This year's theme, "Show Your Spirit," reminds parents, students and school officials that a healthy school lunch helps students power through the day. Since it is National School Lunch Week, it's only fitting that our Focus Topic is the Food Service Department Update presented by Jay Gordon, our Aramark Food Service Director.

That concludes my report.

FOCUS TOPIC PRESENTATION

Mr. Jay Gordon, Director of Food Service for Aramark Educational Services, LLC, shared an informative update presentation to the Board of School Directors.

MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the September 26, 2016 Regular Business Meeting.

PERSONNEL

The Board of School Directors approved the following leave of absence and retirement:

Certified Staff

Donna Dougherty, Teacher, Strath Haven High School, retirement, effective at the end of the day January 23, 2017

Taryn McCafferty, Teacher, Nether Providence Elementary School, paid FMLA leave (use of sick and emergency days), on or about November 17, 2016 through January 5, 2017; unpaid FMLA leave, January 6, 2017 through February 16, 2017

Christina Sterling, Teacher, Nether Providence Elementary School, paid FMLA leave (use of sick and emergency days), on or about November 3, 2016 through November 21, 2016; unpaid FMLA leave, November 22, 2016 through February 2, 2017; unpaid leave, on February 3, 2017 through April 21, 2017

William Thorpe, Teacher, Strath Haven Middle School, paid FMLA leave (use of sick days), on October 27, 2016 through November 22, 2016

Aubree Windish, Teacher, Strath Haven Middle School, paid FMLA leave (use of sick and emergency days), on or about November 11, 2016 through January 11, 2017; unpaid FMLA leave, January 12, 2017 through February 12, 2017; unpaid leave, on February 13, 2017 through end of 2016-2017 school year

The Board approved the following appointment:

Non-Certified Staff

Tori Montello, Substitute Bus Aide, Transportation Department, effective September 23, 2016, replacing Kristen Marinelli, \$12.38 per hour, hours as needed.

The Board approved the compensation of \$50.00 per chaperone, not to exceed the lesser of \$1,000 total or a ratio of 1 chaperone to 30 students, for the Strath Haven High School Homecoming Dance to be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

The Board approved the 2016-2017 Activity Advisor appointments, as stipulated.

The Board approved the Instructional Support change of hours, effective September 6, 2016, as stipulated.

The Board approved the change of salary status for the following teacher, effective August 29, 2016:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Lindsay Wise	Bachelor's, Step 4.5	\$51,941	Master's, Step 4.5	\$53,941

The Board approved the additions to the 2016-2017 fall athletic, winter athletic, curriculum and activities supplemental appointment list, as stipulated.

CURRICULUM

The Board approved the Related Services Provider Contracts for the 2016-2017 School Year

The Board approved the following student #1886030 for homebound instruction.

The Board approved the Educational Services Agreements for students #1727031 and student #2027006.

FINANCE

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics Pennsylvania for the purpose of supporting the Interscholastic Unified Sports program.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: RESPONSE TO TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. David Grande, a Swarthmore resident and SRS parent, addressed the Board and expressed his concern regarding class size at Swarthmore Rutledge School.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Sonntag adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM

**BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**
