

Highlights

October Celebrations and Recognitions

The Board of School Directors heard about a number of celebrations and recognitions that occurred around the district during the month of October. Numerous photos were shared during the student liaison reports at the October 27 Legislative Meeting.



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Legislative Meeting on October 27, 2022

Next Legislative Meeting:
November 17, 2022

Board of Education Members

Susan Henderson-Utis
President

Theresa Napson-Williams
Vice President

Ken Dinitz

Hillary Fletcher

Jackie Gusic

Shelley Hunt

Robert Kelly

Susan Layne

Kelly Schaffer

Student Liaisons

Joy Chen

Jason Lanca

Neil Sen

Superintendent

Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen

More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/domain/60



Glenwood students pose in front of 60th anniversary mural



Grandparents and special friends at RTES in October



Penncrest's National Merit Scholars



Springton Lake's field trip to Paradise Farms

October was also National Principals Month. Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen recognized Rose Tree Media principals and assistant principals during her Superintendent's Report at the October Legislative Meeting. "Their role is essential in providing safe, supportive, and engaging school environments that meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students," said Dr. D. "I know they are highly valued and appreciated by our families and staff for all that they do."

Board Adds Additional Staffing to Meet Increased Student Enrollment

At the October Legislative Meeting, the Board approved the addition of two additional professional staff positions and the conversion of six part-time special education positions to full time.

The two new professional staff positions - a 0.6 FTE Speech and Language Therapist and a 0.5 FTE Special Education Teacher at Media Elementary - were not included in the budget for 2022-2023 fiscal year; however, the District experienced greater student enrollment than originally predicted. A large percent of these new students require special education services and the existing staffing levels were insufficient to provide needed services and to stay within the acceptable caseload maximums set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These additions cost \$127,815.04, but the District is able to cover through federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funding.

A staffing shortage and increased student needs is requiring additional professional capacity to support special education. First, the District has several part-time special education aide positions that it cannot fill. Second, there is a need at Media Elementary, Springton Lake Middle School and Penncrest High School to convert six part-time positions into three full-time positions. The actual cost of these changes is \$30,759.

In addition, there is a need to add a full-time position to the Linking Learning to Life program at Penncrest High School. This position is currently in the budget, so it will not be an added cost.

PIAA Eligibility Concerns

During the unscheduled presentations portion of the October Legislative Meeting, several district residents expressed concern about the ineligibility of a student to participate on the Penncrest High School wrestling team. The student in question attends a private school and thus is ineligible to participate in Penncrest athletics under the governing rules of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA).

Specifically, [PIAA rules](#) state that “a student is eligible only at the school at which the student is enrolled.” There are certain exceptions: students who attend alternative schools, magnet schools, and full-time technology schools as well as students placed in schools by their home district to receive special education services not available at the district. Students who attend charter and cyber charter schools along with home school students also are eligible to participate at their home school district. Finally, students who are placed by a court order are eligible to participate at their home school district. However, students who attend a private school are not eligible to participate in athletics at their home school district.

Residents who wish to seek an exception to the PIAA rules should [contact the PIAA directly](#).

Points of Pride

At its October 27 Legislative Meeting, the Board accepted the retirement of two long-time Rose Tree Media School District employees:

- Catherine Lacock, Secretary I to the Athletic Director, Penncrest High School, 18 years of dedicated service to the District.
- A. Marc Piccoli, Bus Driver, 28 years of dedicated service.

At the request of interested students, the Board approved two new clubs at Penncrest High School:

- Special Needs Inclusion Club: This club will facilitate opportunities for students with special needs and their peers to interact socially and to promote positive social interactions between students with and without special needs.
- Student Equity Club: This club will promote belonging within the high school and recognize, acknowledge and celebrate student identity.