

Highlights

Lisa Stoddard Appointed Principal of Media Elementary

The Board of School Directors appointed Lisa Stoddard as the new principal of Media Elementary School at its Legislative Meeting on August 4, 2022. Her first day was August 9, 2022. Stoddard replaces Dr. Paula Voshell, who retired over the summer.



Stoddard was selected out of a pool of 41 candidates due in part to her leadership experience, focus on students' academic and social-emotional growth, expertise on literacy, and strong communication skills. She most recently served as assistant principal and teacher on special assignment with the West Chester Area School District, where she managed daily operations in the 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th buildings, with a combined population of 2,100 students. She also helped deliver restorative practices in discipline, organized a student mentor program, and helped provide professional learning opportunities to staff focused on building a positive school culture. Stoddard had worked in the West Chester Area School District since 2008.

Board Approves Purchase of Land Adjacent to Penncrest High School

At its August 4th Legislative Meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a parcel of 15.794 gross acres of land from the Riddle Health Care Foundation for the sum of \$5 million. The parcel is at the northeast corner of 352 and Rose Tree Road and is adjacent to the Penncrest High School campus.

As land becomes increasingly more difficult to obtain, it is prudent to consider purchase of land when it becomes available, especially when adjacent to the District's current campuses. The Riddle property was approved at a time when the long-term plan includes making some decisions around the Education Center (which currently needs renovations) and potentially relocating it to the Penncrest campus and selling the Media property.



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held Legislative Meetings on August 4, 2022 and August 25, 2022

Next Legislative Meeting:
September 22, 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

Superintendent

Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen

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

Health and Safety Plan In Place for 2022-23 School Year

On August 25, the Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved the [Health and Safety Plan](#) for the 2022-2023 school year. This fulfills a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The substantive changes to this year's Plan include the following:

- Masking will be optional. The District will adhere to any Orders or mandates established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health or the Delaware County Department of Health.
- School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with no alterations or restrictions.
- Consistent with the direction given from Delco DOH, the District will not conduct close contact tracing while in the school setting, unless otherwise ordered/mandated by state, federal, or local authorities.
- Consistent with the guidance issued by CDC, close contacts of positive COVID-19 individuals will not be required to quarantine.
- When a cluster of cases occurs, defined by Delco DOH as 10% of students or staff within a specified core group (such as a classroom, building, or extracurricular activity), the District will notify families and staff of the specified core group to empower individuals and families to choose to take their own mitigative steps (i.e. masking, testing).

News of Note

- Pennsylvania school districts are required to submit a Future Ready Comprehensive Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) every three years. The Board approved the District's Comprehensive Plan on August 25. The RTMSD's plan largely parallels its existing 2018-2024 [Strategic Plan](#).
- Approximately 250 campers participated in the District's Summer School program during the month of July as reported by Dr. Tiffany Orrin and Dr. Andy Coonradt at the Legislative Meeting on August 25. The summer school program was funded through federal ESSER dollars.
- On August 25, the Board elected Board Director Hillary Fletcher and Board President Susan Henderson-Utis as [Pennsylvania School Boards Association](#) (PSBA) Voting Delegates. They will be eligible to vote at PSBA's Delegate Assembly in November 2022.
- Also on August 25, Board President Susan Henderson-Utis announced that Board Director Ken Dinitz had been named as the Communications Liaison.



Points of Pride

At its Legislative Meeting on August 25, the Board accepted the retirement of two long-time RTMSD employees:

- Deborah Hoffman, Secretary, Penncrest High School, 21 years of dedicated service.
- George Munro, Health & Physical Education Teacher (and Track Coach), Penncrest High School, 32 years of dedicated service.

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