

February 2022

Highlights

Board Approves Revisions to District's Health & Safety Plan

The RTM Board of School Directors approved changes to the District's [Health and Safety Plan](#) at its Legislative Meeting on February 24, 2022. With this revision, masking became optional inside RTM school buildings as of Monday, February 28, 2022 and students and staff were permitted to determine their own masking use.

Masking will remain optional if building case numbers remain below 2% of the total student enrollment for that building. The District will monitor building-level incidence rates each Friday to determine if or when to move from mask optional to mandatory masking indoors for all students, staff, and visitors for the following week. If a building reaches the 2% threshold, the District will send out a communication indicating that masking will be re-instituted in that building for the following week.

Individuals returning from isolation who were positive for COVID-19 or who are identified as close contacts of a positive COVID-19 individual are still required to wear a mask for the period of time specified in the ["What Should I Do?"](#) chart.

Equity for All a Focus of Board Action in March

As reflected in our [strategic plan](#), the Rose Tree Media School District is committed to examining curriculum, structures, processes, and biases so that the District's educational program reflects the values of respect for diversity and inclusion.

A number of speakers expressed concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the District during the public comment period at the February 24th Legislative Meeting. The RTM Board of School Directors and the administration support the continued work on addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the District. Consistent with the District's ongoing focus on work in this area, the results of the DCIU Equity Audit (that the Board approved on October 28, 2021) will be discussed at the Work Session to be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022.

More information about this and other upcoming Board meetings is available at: <https://www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/board>

The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held its monthly Legislative Meeting on February 24, 2022

Next Work Session:

March 10, 2022

Next Legislative Meeting:

March 24, 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 Board Representatives

Ava Finnegan

Mckenzie Grant

Neil Sen

Superintendent

Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen

More information available at
www.rtmsd.org/administration/board

News & Notes from Board Liaison Reports

- The [Delaware County Intermediate Unit](#) will launch a strategic planning process this year. DCIU will reach out to the community for feedback and input as this process moves forward.
- DCIU's [Project ELECT](#) enables school districts and intermediate units to help pregnant and parenting teens earn a diploma or high school equivalency certificate and provides comprehensive support for school-aged pregnant students. The program is on track to support more than 90 students across Delaware County this school year.
- Pennsylvania cyber charter schools spent [more than \\$35 million](#) in taxpayer dollars on advertising over the last two school years, according to Education Voters of Pennsylvania.
- In January, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 1 (2022) into law. It requires school districts to provide one-on-one assistance to students who are at risk of losing course credits as a result of foster care or juvenile justice placements or who experience homelessness.
- In February, Governor Wolf announced historic educational investments in his 2022-23 budget proposal, including a \$1.25 billion increase in basic education funding and a \$200 million increase for special education.

Points of Pride

- The RTM Board of School Directors congratulated the following Penncrest High School students for their achievements at the recent [SkillsUSA District 2](#) regional competition: Lucas Sampson (1st place in CPR) and Jack Gomer (3rd place in carpentry).
- The Board recognized Penncrest student Similoluwa Olaniyi for being inducted into the [National Technical Honor Society](#).
- Penncrest High School student-athletes also were recognized during the Legislative Meeting:
- The Girls and Boys track teams for their trip to the 2022 PTFCA Indoor State Championship in State College, PA (where 9 student-athletes collected 14 medals on February 27th!)
- Jonathan Hoole and Ruby Schwelm for qualifying for the District 1 swimming championships.
- Penncrest wrestlers headed to the District 1 championships were also wished good luck.

