

Highlights

RTM School Directors Recognized for Their Volunteer Service

January is School Director Recognition Month in Pennsylvania. The Rose Tree Media School District joined the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in recognizing our School Board Members for their outstanding service to the community.

School Board Directors volunteer more than twenty hours per month to provide governance that ensures a clear, shared vision of public education for our schools, set high standards for the education of all students, and support the effective and efficient operation of the District.

The recent challenges and difficult choices placed in front of school boards go beyond routine educational decisions. While continuing to ensure students have quality learning opportunities, board members have had to consider their decisions in terms of the health and safety of students, teachers, and community members.

Thank you for your commitment to the children, the staff, and the citizens of our School District!



The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held its monthly Legislative Meeting on January 27, 2022

Next Work Session:
February 10, 2022

Next Legislative Meeting:
February 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

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Board Approves Act 1 Resolution

The RTM Board of School Directors approved a resolution not to exceed Pennsylvania's [Act 1](#) index. Adoption of the resolution means that the District will not raise taxes more than 3.4% for the 2022-2023 school year.

Calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Act 1 index is the average of the percentage increase in the statewide average weekly wage and the Employment Cost Index. For next school year, the base index is 3.4%. It is used to determine the maximum tax increases for each tax a school district levies (without PDE exception or voter approval).

District Health & Safety Plan Revised

The Board approved revisions to the District's [Health & Safety Plan](#) at its Legislative Meeting on January 27, 2022. Proposed revisions to the Health and Safety Plan with regard to quarantine and isolation align with updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Policy Lab.



To help families understand how to proceed with regard to quarantine and isolation guidelines, the District published ["What Should I Do?"](#) which can be found on its website.

“It has been quite a challenging first month of 2022 with the rapid increase of Covid-19 impacting both students and staff,” said Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen in her Superintendent's Report. “Despite this, we have been able to remain open and provide safe, in-person learning as teachers and administrators stepped into classrooms in lieu of planning periods, administrative duties, and other obligations to ensure our students are supervised and learning.”

Dr. D also acknowledged “the extraordinary efforts of our school nurses these past few months as Covid surged throughout the community and the demands on our school nurses increased exponentially as they worked late into the evenings to complete contact tracing, communicate to families and staff, and provide information and guidance to parents, students, and staff.”

District Schools Participated in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

In their monthly report, our student liaisons shared the many ways district students honored Dr. King in 2022!

- Glenwood Elementary students contributed money and donated it to the Media Food Bank. Additionally, they created grocery lists of the Food Bank's “most needed items.”
- Indian Lane Elementary students and staff created "Comfort Bags" which were delivered to people undergoing cancer treatments at various nearby facilities.
- Among their projects, Media Elementary students collected toiletries for the Media Fellowship House and collected and sorted clothing and baby items for Cradles to Crayons.
- Brandywine SPCA, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Sara Smiles Foundation, Granite Farms Estates, Cancer Center at Riddle Hospital, and Operation Gratitude benefited from Rose Tree Elementary's efforts.
- Springton Lake Middle School students created Superhero Night Lights, including messages to children battling a life threatening illness. These will be donated to the Cards for Hospitalized Kids organization.
- At Penncrest High School, the Human Relations Club sponsored a food drive during the month of January.