

September 2026 NHSD School Board
Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2026 6:30 PM
Eastern

District Office Conference Room
180 West Bridge Street
New Hope, PA 18938

John Augenblick: Present
Tracy Costigan: Present
Judy Finn: Present
Nikhil Heble: Present
Montu Patel: Present
Melissa Persichetti: Present
Liz Sheehan: Absent
Ellen Stiefel: Present
Linda Szwedo: Absent

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

1. Meeting Opening

1.A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Judy Finn at 6:39 pm.

1.B. Announcement of Executive Agenda

1.C. Roll Call

1.D. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Acceptance of Agenda

2.A. Additions, Deletions, and Modifications

2.B. Acceptance of Agenda

3. Reports to the Board of Directors

3.A. Student Reports

3.A.1. HS - Jothika Amuth and Mary Stefanache - HS Presentation

[High School Presentation](#)

1. High School Board Presentation - Jothika Amuth and Mary Stefanache

A. Fall Sports Update

1. Battle of the Bridges vs South Hunterdon
2. Girls Tennis
3. Girls Soccer
4. Girls Volleyball
5. Girls Field Hockey
6. Coed Cross Country
7. Boys Soccer

8. Boys Football
- B. Opening of School Events
 1. High School Back To School Night - 9/16/26
 2. Club Interest Meetings - Over 20 Clubs set up tables during lunch and learn
 3. Student Council Fundraiser - Ritas Event - Class of 2028 - 9/25/26
 4. Homecoming Tickets - Class of 2027 - 10/3/26
- C. Student Highlights
 1. National Merit Scholarship Recognition Semifinalists - Aiden G, Nora R, and Dimitris K.
 2. 140 Students (82 Upperclassmen) received AP Scholar Awards
 3. Quinn Spencer along with the crew of New Hope Eagle Fire Co. did the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Logan Hotel
 4. West Chester University Honors Choir Festival - 4 students participated - Chelsea V., Jordyn B., Matt P., and George A.
- D. Profile of a Graduate Spotlight - Theme - Curiosity
 1. Mrs. Donatelli's Gifted Seminar Class created Vision Boards
 2. Mr. Pfancook's AP Environmental Science Class: created duckweed and its uses
 3. Mr. Pompeii's Photography Class: used Fuji Brand Mirrorless Cameras
- E. Upcoming Events
 1. Lions Fest - 10/2/26, tables with clubs, and hs football game and volleyball games
 2. Homecoming - 10/3/26 - theme is Disco
 3. Haunted Woods - 10/22/26 - 10/24/26 - Community Event

3.B. Superintendent's Report

School Board President started the Superintendents report off with her own presentation regarding Dr. Charles Lentz discussing the payoffs for our district from his Wharton Experience, his interaction with the Navy, and how both have impacted our district in a positive manner, and thanked him on behalf of the board for his time and contributions to the district and making it a better place for our staff and students.

Superintendent's Report — Dr. Lentz

A. Recognitions

1. Maximilian House - West Chester University Summer Teacher Academy
2. Navy Memorial Sea Service Internship - Reza Ardehali., Nahom Teshome., and Mohnneesh Vinulollu.
3. Academic Excellence, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists - Aiden Generaux, Dimitris Kesisoglou, and Nora Redfield

B. Comprehensive Plan Update - Dr. Amanda Benolken

1. 2027-2030 Plan Update - Stakeholders came together on 9/17 and reviewed drafts of proposed goals and action plans.
2. Srafted plan is being revised based on input and feedback and will be presented to the stakeholder group in early October
3. The proposed plan will be presented at the October 22nd board meeting.

C. Transportation Update - Dave Shapp - Transportation Manager

1. We have 25 routes and 34 drivers (5 years ago we had 25 routes and 20 drivers)
2. Students are on bus 45 minutes or less (5 years ago up to 1.5 hours)
3. No early arriving buses to school (5 years ago buses were arriving to school up to 20

minutes early)

4. We have the latest version of routing software (2018) (5 years ago it was from 1984)
 5. The average age of our fleet is 5 years old (5 years ago the average age was 7 years old)
 6. We worked with community and PennDOT to get a 4 way flashing stop sign at the corner of Old York Road and S. Sungan Road
 7. Looking ahead - contract rates, new tech, behavior expectation alignment, more efficient buses and tracking fuel use.
- D. Save the Date
1. Lionfest - 10/2/2016
 2. Free Vaccine Clinic - 10/6/26 - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

3.C. Liaison Reports

3.C.1. BCIU

No Report

3.C.2. MBIT

MBIT Report - given by Judy Finn on behalf of Linda Szwedo

A. Highlights

1. Current Enrollment is 1100 students
2. They are working on a new screener application
3. The Cosmetology Department now has 26 stations for students and they are adding an esthetician room for facials.
4. They are opening their public schedule for Dental visits, hair appointments and their culinary restaurant.

3.C.3. PSBA

PSBA Report - Judy Finn

A. Highlights

1. The Ethics Act - There is a State Webinar on the PSBA Platform
2. The Leadership Forum will take place in October at Kalahari.

4. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

1. Melvin Band - Solebury Twp. -

- a. The amount of money approved for Dr. Lentz's coursework at Wharton
- b. After speaking with a former board member he found out that the former Student Services Director saved the district over one million dollars by having students stay in district rather than outside placements.

5. New Business / Facilities Advisory Committee

5.A. Committee Report and Discussion

Facilities Advisory Committee Report - Mr. Montu Patel

A. Highlights

1. There is still an opportunity to fundraise for the LES Playground and we are still taking donations.
2. The MS STEAM lab and the new curriculum and programming are very enticing for

students.

3. They would like to discuss new parking lot designations for students and faculty.

4. Other discussions at the meeting were HVAC System, Solar Projects in conjunction with grants and the Environmental Club, and Lions Legacy Projects are being revisited.

6. New Business / Curriculum Advisory Committee

6.A. 5. A. Committee Report and Discussion

Curriculum Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Tracy Costigan

A. Highlights

1. They approved two new applicants for the committee.

2. Math and Science programs will now be on a 5-year renewal cycle. Math is on hold because of new standards coming out.

3. Professional development will focus on STEM and STEAM

4. They discussed more training on Parent Square for everyone (community and staff)

5. AI Summit coming up in April

a. Best Practices and Finding the right balance

b. Free Event - No vendors

c. They want this to be organically grown - for districts to come together and share ideas

6. Screentime guidelines

a. Survey results from parents regarding student screentime at home

b. We can pull the Go-Guardian report for grades K-2 and see the results on their screentime and what they are viewing which will allow us to take a deeper dive into the conversation.

B. Approvals

5. Conscious Discipline and MTSS

6. PD and Assessment Calendar

7. Chris Balme Speaker from Argonat coming to the Middle School during Advisory Period.

7. New Business / Finance Advisory Committee

7.A. Committee Report and Discussion

Finance Advisory Committee Report - Mr. John Augenblick

A. Highlights

1. Real Estate Tax - we will not be missing any interest on the collection event though it was later than usual.

2. The Budget - what is our intent, and what are we looking to do: the goal is to find the right balance.

B. Contract Approvals

1. Homestead /Farmstead Mailing by the IU

2. FC Consulting for food service - they are looking at our operational and fiscal needs and ability to better serve our students.

7.A.1. Year Budget Projections

8. New Business / Policy Advisory

8.A. Committee Report and Discussion

Policy Advisory Committee Report - Dr. Nik Heble

A. Highlights

1. First meeting in 3 months so there were several policies and AR's that came up for approval.
2. Most were easy discussions, 3 policies will be tabled for future discussion.
3. Next meeting is on October 1st in the Middle School Library.

9. 2027 PSBA Officer Election

9.A. PSBA Officer Election Ballot 2026-2027

10. New Business / Action Items

10.A. Board Discussion of Action Items as Needed

It is recommended that the Board of School Directors of the New Hope-Solebury School District approve action items 10. 1 through 10.16, including item 10. A.10 to be approved with amendments as noted, and except for Item 10. A.11. E to be tabled. Motion made by Dr. Nik Heble and seconded by Ms. Ellen Stiefel. Motion Carried. This motion, made by Nikhil Heble and seconded by Ellen Stiefel, Carried.

Liz Sheehan: Absent, Linda Szwedo: Absent, John Augenblick: Yea, Tracy Costigan: Yea, Judy Finn: Yea, Nikhil Heble: Yea, Montu Patel: Yea, Melissa Persichetti: Yea, Ellen Stiefel: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

10.A.1. Chris Balme Speaking Proposal (final contract subject to solicitor approval)

10.A.2. 2027-2028 NHSD District Calendar

10.A.3. PD and Assessment Calendar

10.A.4. Committee Applications

10.A.5. Student Settlement Agreement 3XXXX0

10.A.6. Student Tuition Agreements 1XXXX2 and 3XXXX7

10.A.7. Check Register total bills are \$1,501,681.96.

10.A.8. August 2026 Treasurer's Report

10.A.9. 2026-2027 Homestead/Farmstead Agreement

10.A.10. FS Connections - Revised Proposal with Q&A Exhibit
Term should read as Definate Term

10.A.11. Policies - Second Reads

10.A.11.a. 805.2 - SD PNN School Security Personnel

10.A.11.b. 122.1 AR.2 - Request Form for Non-Curriculum Related, Non-School Sponsored, Student Initiated Groups

10.A.11.c. 817 - District Social Media

10.A.11.d. 815.4 - Use of Artificial Intelligence

10.A.11.e. 810 - Transportation

10.A.11.f. 619 - District Audit

10.A.11.g. 332 - Working Periods

10.A.11.h. 236.1 - Threat Assessment

10.A.11.i. 221 - Dress and Grooming

10.A.11.j. 140 - Charter Schools

10.A.11.k. 123 - Interscholastic Athletics

10.A.11.l. 122 - Extracurricular Activities

10.A.11.m. 122.1 - Non-Curriculum Related, Non-School Sponsored, Student Initiated Groups

10.A.11.n. 805.1 - Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies

10.A.11.o. 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response

10.A.11.p. 218.1 - Weapons (Subject to Solicitors Review)

10.A.11.q. 204 - Attendance

10.A.11.r. 006 - Meetings (Subject to Solicitors Review)

10.A.12. Second Read - Administrative Regulations

10.A.12.a. 805.2 AR.0 - Training

10.A.12.b. 122.1 AR.1 - Student Acknowledgement Form

10.A.12.c. 122.1 AR.0 - Non-Curriculum Related, Non-School Sponsored Student Initiated Group

10.A.12.d. 325 AR.2 - Identification Badges

10.A.12.e. 122 AR.0 - Extracurricular Activities

10.A.12.f. 218.1 AR.0 - WeapNotifApproSchComm

10.A.12.g. 204 AR.5 - Cumulative Absence Notice

10.A.12.h. 204 AR.4 - Habitual Truant Notice

10.A.12.i. 204 AR.3 - Truant Notice

10.A.12.j. 805.1 AR.1 - Incident Report Discretionary Notification

10.A.12.k. 204 AR.0 - CompAtt.Unexcused

10.A.13. Policy - First Reads

10.A.13.a. Policy 805.1 AR.0 - Incident Report Immediate Notification

10.A.13.b. Policy 803 - School Calendar

10.A.13.c. Policy 704 - Maintenance

10.A.13.d. Policy 204.2 - Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks Attachment

10.A.13.e. Policy 204.2 - Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks

10.A.13.f. Policy 105 - Curriculum

10.A.13.g. Policy 102 - Academic Standards

10.A.13.h. Policy 249 - Bullying Cyberbullying

10.A.14. First Reads - Administrative Regulations

10.A.14.a. 704 AR.6 - Drinking Water

10.A.14.b. 805.1 AR.1 - Incident Report Discretionary Notification

10.A.14.c. 805.1 AR.0 - Incident Report Immediate

10.A.15. August 2026 Minutes

10.A.16. September 2026 Personnel

11. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Public Comment #2 - Non Agenda Items

1. Melvin Band - Solebury Township

a. Screen Time for students - there is a lot of conversation about students in grades K-2 but what about the students in grades 3-12?

b. Field Trips to Local Historical Sites - how many of our students have been to local historical sites to celebrate the nation's 250th Celebration?

c. Equity - he taught in NYC - all colors and creeds. Why doesn't the district look to offer 100 or so students from the School District of Philadelphia to come to New Hope and share the resources that we have?

12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Judy Finn at 8:10 pm.

13. Informational Items

13.A. Enrollment Report - September 2026

13.B. October 2026 Meeting Schedule

13.C. Fiscal Dashboard - August 2026

13.D. Right to Know Log - September 2026