



Penns Valley Area School District News and Information Update

The Penns Valley Area School District is pleased to share information with the community. If you have a topic that you would like to see published in a future edition, please contact Mrs. Elbin at 422-2000 x 2540 or melbin@pennsvalley.org. We are also making an effort to communicate with established community groups. If you know of a group that would like to better understand our schools, please contact us.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

Penns Valley Area School District will once again sponsor 'Getting Your Child Ready To Read' spring workshops for parents and their children who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2014. These workshops provide parents ideas to promote early literacy at home. Specific topics include: Letter and Sound Recognition, Vocabulary Building, Early Language Awareness, and Print Awareness. Parents meet with our teachers to learn reading strategies while the children play and receive a snack. Parents and children are also provided time to try the strategies. The evening ends with students receiving a free book. Last year, more than 25% of the incoming Kindergarten class participated. The reviews of the program were overwhelmingly positive and participants encouraged us to offer the program.

The workshops will run from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on March 25th, April 29th, and June 3rd. If you would like more information about 'Getting Your Child Ready To Read,' please contact Ms. Shelly Weaver at 814-422-2017 or at sweaver@pennsvalley.org. Information will also be posted on our website and distributed to local daycares.

FINANCIAL

All Pennsylvania school district employees are required to participate in the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). Both school employees and school districts are required to contribute to the fund based on a percentage of wages. Employees pay from 5.25% to 10.3%, with most paying 7.5% of their annual salary into the system. Employer contribution rates are determined annually by the legislature.

Over the past 54 years, the employer contribution rate has fluctuated from a low of 1.09% in 2001-02 to a projected high in 2014-15 of 21.4%. From the 1960s through the 1990s, district contribution rates had been between 10-20%. In 2000-01 through 2011-12 the state reduced school district contribution rates below 10%, including a

low of 1.09% in 2001-02. This led to an underfunding of the PSERS system, creating the retirement system crisis the state faces today.

For 2014-15, the Penns Valley Area School District has a projected payroll of approximately \$9.7 million. With a 21.4% employer contribution rate, the District will be required to contribute just over \$2.0 million in 2014-15, an increase of \$450,000 from 2013-14.

FACILITIES

On January 7, 2014, the Penns Valley Area School District officially opened the high school's new multi-purpose facility. The multi-purpose facility provides increased educational space for our physical education classes and extracurricular activities. After school, the space is currently being used as a practice facility by the district's wrestling team and will allow for baseball and softball practices in the spring during inclement weather.

The district continues to experience fuel cost savings, especially during our extremely cold winter season, by providing efficient biomass heat to Penns Valley High School and Elementary School.

These two projects continue to generate positive community interest. If you are interested in seeing either or both of these facilities, please visit us during our scheduled March 10 Open House tours from 6-8pm. Tours will begin in the gym lobby and on the southeast corner of the biomass building.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Visit www.pennsvalley.org or call 814-422-2000 x2540

Professional Substitutes and Support Substitutes (Custodians, Para Educators, Secretaries).

Part Time Para Educator • Part Time Health Room Para Educator • Educational Interpreter

Empowering our students every day to reach individual success