



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

For the past three years, Penns Valley Area School District has made an effort to promote teachers' pursuit of National Board Certification (NBC); this supports our efforts to constantly strive to improve our instruction in the classrooms. Research from Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research shows impressive results in improved student performance linked to NBC. A high correlation exists between students receiving their instruction from National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) and a boost in mathematics and language arts achievement.

We celebrate the fact that we now have six NBCTs currently teaching in the District. The NBCTs in Penns Valley are: Kristen Albright, Mary Conner-Righter, Jill Geesey, Angela Homan, Heather Michael and Jacquelyn Wagner. NBCTs are accomplished educators who have demonstrated advanced content knowledge and teaching skills through a multi-year assessment program. Educators applying for consideration must submit a portfolio that includes student work samples and assignments, videotapes of classroom lessons, and self-reflective analysis of their teaching. At the end of the 2012 school year, there were only 1043 NBCTs throughout the Commonwealth. Penns Valley employs over six times the average rate of NBCTs in Pennsylvania per school district.

FACILITIES

The Board has been holding its meetings in the Penns Valley Elementary/Intermediate School band room and library. Both rooms can accommodate approximately 25 visitors. The band room has support posts that interfere with a clear view of the board, and the current library structure is cramped and uncomfortable for visitors.

Board members expressed a desire to meet in a place that provides the public the ability to observe, contribute, and be reasonably comfortable. At the same time, the Board considered a variety of other factors which included: se-

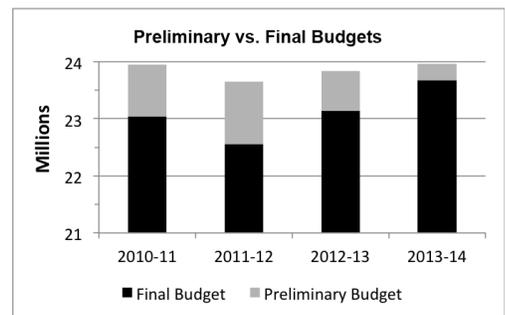
curity, public accessibility, technology, convenience for staff, and impact to educational programming.

Some school districts have designated board rooms. Penns Valley does not have such a room, nor is there any interest in establishing one. After examining existing options, a decision was made to reorganize the library at Penns Valley Elementary/Intermediate School. The good news is that all of the same services and functions within the library will be maintained. We gained space by removing outdated resources (i.e. VHS tapes, dated encyclopedias, multiple copies of seldom used books). The space gained can now be used by students, faculty, staff, and the Board to benefit our educational programming and to support public attendance.

FINANCIAL

The District routinely adopts a Preliminary Budget (PB) in January/February for a couple reasons. First, a PB is a great planning tool that allows the District to examine expenditures and revenues in detail over an extended period of time (January-May). This process has helped us to continue to operate the District with a balanced budget.

Second, adopting a PB provides the District



with the option of applying for available Act 1 exceptions. If granted, Act 1 exceptions permit the Board to increase taxes beyond the Act 1 index. In Penns Valley's case, the District has qualified for exceptions related to obligations for retirement contributions. The Board is not required to utilize the Act 1 exceptions and in most cases chooses against it. Without a PB, Act 1 exceptions are excluded as an option.

Empowering our students every day to reach individual success