



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 ext. 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.

ACADEMICS

In November 2013, the Penns Valley Area School District asked all parents, community members and staff to participate in our Comprehensive Planning process. All interested parties were placed on either an Elementary or Secondary Subcommittee, or on the District Level Planning Committee. The District Level Planning Committee, comprised of district administrators, building administrators, teachers, school board members, students, and community members, was tasked with overseeing the process of Comprehensive Planning. The District Level Committee began by analyzing data in order to determine needs of the district. The data included student, staff, teacher, and parent surveys, district academic data, School Performance Profile data, PAYS surveys, and community survey data. Based upon the determined needs, the committee developed goals to target and focus. These goals were then sent to Elementary and Secondary Subcommittees which developed action plans aligned to meet the goals. Upon completion, the goals and accompanying action plans were reviewed one final time by the District Level Planning Committee, as these are the goals and accompanying action plans which will drive district decisions over the next several years.

The committees' work culminated with a Comprehensive Planning document which is posted for public comment on the front page of the website. If any community member has questions or comments about the plan, he/she should contact Mrs. Sherri Connell, Assistant Superintendent, at 814-422-2000 or via email at sconnell@pennsvalley.org. The plan will be submitted to the Penns Valley Board of Education on May 21, 2014 for final approval. Upon approval, the plan will be submitted to the PA Department of Education. The district would like to thank all committee members that took the time to meet and develop the goals that Penns Valley will focus on in order to improve in all aspects of education.

FINANCE

Over the past five years, the Penns Valley Area School District has been very prudent in managing expenditures and revenues. As of June 30, 2013, the District's general fund balance, or "savings account," was just shy of \$7.8 million. The only way a school district can use its general fund balance is to overspend the annual revenues. That is exactly the plan used to pay for two recent renovation projects at the Junior-Senior High School and a security system upgrade for the entire District.

In June 2013, the board authorized major renovations to all four of the original high school locker rooms to include the addition of 8,000 square feet of new space just east of the existing main gym. This new space houses a multi-purpose and cardio room, as well as officials' locker rooms, a trainer room and storage. Total project cost was approximately \$3.2 million. The security system upgrades installed this past year cost an additional \$650,000. The board chose not to borrow money for this project and authorized the use of reserve funds. At this time it is estimated that the District will access approximately \$1.7 million of these reserve moneys by overspending its 13-14 revenues by that amount.

FACILITIES

The Penns Valley Area School District continues to accomplish projects listed on our five year facilities plan. The plan includes those items identified in need of repair or upgrade. This year's proposed major summer projects include: lighting upgrades to improve safety at the High School, resurfacing the deteriorated asphalt area at Miles Township Elementary School, and brick repaired on the original exterior of the Penns Valley Elementary School. The District will be soliciting bids for this work and looks forward to receiving interest from many qualified contractors. Questions related to these projects should be directed to Robert Miller, Director of Physical Plant at rmiller@pennsvalley.org or 814-422-2000 ext. 2524.

Empowering our students every day to reach individual success