

North Schuylkill

District Newsletter

August 2018

Superintendent's Message

It is with Spartan Pride that I welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! I hope the summer break gave you ample time to rest and enjoy time with family and friends.

“Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the reasons that we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don't have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, precisely because it is easy to settle for a good life. The vast majority of companies never become great precisely because they become quite good. - and that is their main problem.” *-Jim Collins*

As Superintendent of North Schuylkill School District I am not willing to accept the status of being only a good School District. I expect to be a great School District! Embrace the challenge. Calm seas make you weak, dull, and boring. After a few weeks of smooth sailing, the greatness in you shrivels.

We have an extremely dedicated staff working to ensure that this happens on a daily basis. Our mission is to provide our students with opportunities designed to meet individual needs and to ensure that every child has experiences that promote growth and excellence in all academic and social development areas. Through mutual respect, our students will grow and learn in a positive atmosphere, where faculty, staff, parents and students together are enthusiastic about the learning process.

I encourage everyone to stay connected with the school as we know that your involvement has a positive impact on student learning and social well-being. Follow us on Facebook @North Schuylkill School District and Twitter @NorthSchuylkill. The contents of this newsletter are designed to provide you with information about the District and the coming school year, yet it may not answer all of your questions. We welcome your questions and your input as members of the Spartan Community. If I can personally be of help, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available to you at (570) 874-0466 or by emailing rackell@northschuylkill.net.

With Spartan Pride,
Dr. Robert Ackell, Superintendent of Schools
#ALLABOARD



In This Issue:

- Artist Residency Grant
- Art Show
- Authorized Testing Center
- Breakfast Cart
- Career Education and Work Standards
- Career Readiness Grant
- District Contacts
- District Calendar
- Highwood USA Tour
- Interview Day for Juniors
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Maker-Space Room
- Meet the Teacher Nights
- MySchoolBucks - Cafeteria
- NS Facebook
- NS Twitter
- Performance Descriptions
- Spartan Baseball
- Spartan Softball
- School Board Members
- Seventh Grade Orientation
- Summer STEAM Explorers
- Superintendent's Message
- 3 Hour Delays

Important Information:

Where will the bus pick me up? Who is my teacher? As we count down to the start of the 2018-2019 school year, there are several questions you and your family may be asking. In order to help answer your questions, we have posted information on our website that will be available mid-August.

On our website you will find:

- Information on How to Create an Account in CSIU (Parent Resource Tab) to View Student Classes and Bus Schedules
- Breakfast and Lunch Menus
- Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch
- Immunization Requirements

Important Start of School Year Dates/Times:

Kindergarten Orientation - August 22 (3:00 - 4:00)

Meet the Teacher Grades K-3 - August (4:00 - 6:00)

Seventh Grade Orientation - August 23 (1:00 - 3:00)

Meet the Teacher Grades 4-6 - August 23 (4:00 - 6:00)

First Day of School - August 27

(Regular School Day Times - JSHS 7:39-2:30 and Elem. 8:45-3:19)

Meet the Teacher Grades 7-12 - August 29 (5:00 - 7:00)

CAREER READINESS GRANT

Last year North Schuylkill applied for and was awarded \$5,000 from the Career Readiness Mini-Grants. These awards are available thanks to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. We applied for this grant again and submitted our application in June to the Team Pennsylvania Foundation (Team PA).

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) and the 29 regional IUs, this grant will help fund career readiness work at the school district level while also fostering a greater alignment and coordination between schools and districts and their Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs).

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CAREER EDUCATION AND WORK

In today's challenging job environment, it is more critical than ever before that our young people complete their high school education with strong academic and work skills that prepare them for college-level studies and successful careers. The Academic Standards for Career Education and Work reflect the increasing complexity and sophistication that students experience as they progress through school. Career Education and Work Standards describe what students should know and be able to do at four grade levels (3, 5, 8 and 11) in four areas: Career Awareness and Preparation, Career Acquisition (Getting a Job), Career Retention and Advancement, and Entrepreneurship.

Pennsylvania's economic future depends on having a well-educated and skilled workforce. Students will leave secondary education with a solid foundation in Career Education and Work. It is the rapidly changing workplace and the demand for continuous learning and innovation on the part of the workers that drive the need to establish academic standards in Career Education and Work. Through a comprehensive approach, Career Education and Work Standards complement all disciplines and other academic standards. If Pennsylvania's students are to succeed in the workplace, there are certain skills that they need to obtain prior to graduating from high school. These skills have been identified in the Career Education and Work Standards.

NORTH SCHUYLKILL

INTERVIEW DAY

All 11th grade students participated in a "mock interview" in April. Over 15 businesses were invited and participated that day. They represented a myriad of professions and students were strategically placed according to interests. Students prepared resumes in their English classes and had a variety of discussions on interview skills, how to dress for an interview, what questions to ask, etc. Overall, this was a positive experience for everyone! We are extremely proud of the students at North Schuylkill, and we also commend the teachers and staff for supporting this opportunity. The Guidance Counselors went above and beyond to make this a successful day for everyone.



TEACHERS VISIT HIGHWOOD USA

A number of teachers from the North Schuylkill School District recently visited Highwood USA in Hometown during one of the teacher in-service days. Visits to manufacturing companies for educators is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education because it reinforces career and work standards. This is actually the 3rd opportunity within the last 5 years for teachers at NS to experience this type of visit. Demonstrations are done to give the professional educator a greater understanding of job opportunities in manufacturing for students. It also provides discussions about the soft skills that are needed in today's workforce.



TEACHER FEEDBACK:

"I was able to determine the values that are put forth in their work place that they look for in an employee that they are hiring"

"Collaboration, teamwork, and communication were three areas stressed that Highwood strives to work and live by in their everyday environment. There were a variety of expected soft skills discussed that we as teachers can highlight in the classroom and support our students with when working with them daily."

"Skills such as thinking outside the box, social skills, good attendance, and collaboration are just a few mentioned."

"The tour guide also highlighted basic algebra skills that could benefit students and allow them to be more successful."

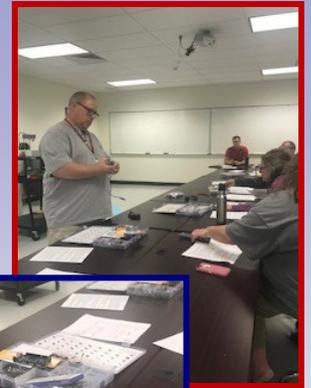
"We will certainly take this information into account during daily lessons. Making sure that students feel comfortable asking for help was another item mentioned. It was also very beneficial for teachers to understand the various career paths an employee at Highwood could take."

"Having the drive and initiative to do well and to want to do more to improve in your career while expanding on skills is something they look for in employees and something teachers want to support students in doing to be successful in school and in the future."

TEACHERS WORKING WITH OTHER TEACHERS TO EXPLAIN THE NS MAKER-SPACE ROOM

Mr. Kelly Stone talks about and highlights the possibilities with the North Schuylkill Maker-Space Room. The items listed are just a few of the topics included in his discussions during a teacher In-Service day in June.

- Arduino and Raspberry Pi
- Open – Source Software (OSS)
- Source Codes
- Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
- C++
- Internet of Things (IOT)
- Data Storage
- Network



North Schuylkill - Certified Authorized Testing Center

We are proud to announce that the North Schuylkill School District is now a Certified Authorized Testing Center.

We are now set up to administer the Auto Desk Certified User Exam and the Certified Professional Exam. Currently, the closest testing centers for this are in Williamsport, York, and Quakertown. The fact that the North Schuylkill School District is now a testing site is extremely exciting! This is not just a wonderful opportunity for our students within the District, but also for our community members. They are also provided the opportunity to use the NSSD as the site of their choice for testing.

Mr. Kelly Stone, a teacher within the North Schuylkill School District, is the certified instructor.

If interested, please contact Kelly at the following email address: kstone@northschuylkill.net



PSSA Performance-

PSSA scores and parent letters will be sent to the districts from the state and then mailed/sent home to parents at the beginning of the school year.

The information on this page and on our website will help you to see where your child is performing and hopefully get a better understanding of what the scores mean.

Pennsylvania's standards are what teachers follow to ensure students are reaching grade level expectations. The PSSA and Keystone assessments then show where your child is at with meeting those grade level standards. There are certainly more skills taught than just the PA standards at each grade level. This is only a snapshot of student performance, but the standards are what is required and are the base of each grade level.



What Does it Mean?

***The descriptions below:** are from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. There are just three listed in this newsletter, but there are links on our website's home page that include all of the grade level descriptions for Grades 3-8 Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.

***The links on our homepage are titled:**

[Grade 3-8 Performance Descriptions - ELA](#)

[Grade 3-8 Performance Descriptions - Math](#)

Grade 3 Advanced - ELA

A student performing at the advanced level in grade 3 ELA demonstrates thorough comprehension of literary and informational texts by referring explicitly to the text to recount and describe key ideas and details. The student thoroughly describes, explains, compares, and contrasts elements of literary texts. **TO READ MORE PLEASE GOTO www.northschuylkill.net and click Grades 3-8 Performance Descriptions - ELA**

Grade 4 Basic - Math

A fourth-grade student performing at the Basic Level in Math solves simple or routine problems by applying skills and procedures in the five Pennsylvania Mathematics Reporting Categories. Students performing at this level demonstrate these abilities by comparing and expressing whole numbers in different forms. **TO READ MORE PLEASE GOTO www.northschuylkill.net and click Grades 3-8 Performance Descriptions - Math**

Summer of STEAM Explorers

In collaboration with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, North Schuylkill Elementary was fortunate to host its first Spartan Summer of STEAM Explorers Program. Students from North Schuylkill, Williams Valley and Pine Grove were invited to participate in the three week session. The STEAM EXPLORERS Program was designed for students to explore the fields of SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART and MATH.

Ms. Tabitha Farrone, Mrs. Anne Tarantelli, Mrs. Megan Gierka, Miss Caroline Schuster, Mr. John Walsh and Mr. Travis Hinkel were the STEAM EXPLORERS' instructors throughout this amazing summer of learning.

Miss Schuster's theme of study was forensics! Students studied DNA structures by creating a helix using Twizzlers, toothpicks and mini marshmallows. They also learned about GENETICS and dominant and recessive genes and created "monsters" to demonstrate their understanding of genetic traits. In their final unit of study, students learned about the significance of fingerprints as a focal point of their identity.

Mr. Walsh's theme of study was astronomy! Students learned everything they need to know about the planets, the moon, the stars, and the entire solar system. They created their own "planet" from paper-mache as a culminating activity.

Mr. Hinkel's theme of study was physics! Students participated in various activities to show force, balance and space, through games and relays.

The SUMMER OF STEAM EXPLORERS completed their program with a field trip to the Walk In Art Center in Schuylkill Haven, to learn about "Folk Art Around the Town". Students participated in Salt Rock Painting, #570 Rocks, Kite, and Sun on Metal Sheet art stations! The students had a fantastic experience!

Summer of STEAM EXPLORERS was a SUCCESS!



North Schuylkill 2018 Wall of Fame Inductees

The Wall of Fame formally recognizes and honors North Schuylkill School District graduates for outstanding academic and professional achievements. Their academic, athletic and artistic achievements are a matter of great pride not only for themselves and their families, but also for our school.

ELECTION PROCESS

The North Schuylkill School District Wall of Fame Committee is accepting applications to formally recognize and honor NSSD graduates for outstanding achievements.

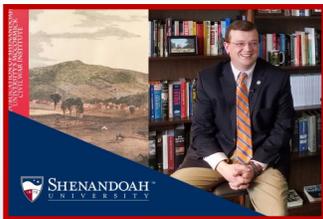
1. At least ten (10) classes must have graduated from the time of the nominee's graduation before he/she becomes eligible for election to the Wall of Fame.
2. Any alumni meeting the ten (10) year rule are eligible to be nominated and selected.
3. Nominating forms are available on the District Website or in the high school principal's office and must be completed and submitted no later than March 15th of each year.
4. Induction ceremonies for newly inducted members of the NSSD Wall of Fame will be held in conjunction with the annual NSSD Commencement Exercises.
5. Names of inductees will be showcased on an electronic display in the main lobby of the NSSD Junior/Senior High School.
6. Each inductee will receive a plaque on the night they are inducted into the Wall of Fame.



Bill Wydra, Jr. - Bill is the president of Ashland Technologies, Inc., Honolulu Hot Dog, LLC, Wydra International Properties, LLC, a partner in two international joint ventures – Amecosse, LLC and PAREdox Energy Sytems, LLC, a partner and Chairman of the Board for Skyline Attractions, LLC and an entrepreneur with achievements in global business and community development. His businesses have been frequently featured on PCN Tours television show highlighting many cool products. Bill is the son of Bill, Sr. and Connie Wydra. He is married to Angela Wydra and has four children; Cole, Mason, Mia and Finley. He resides in Celebration, Florida. He received his undergraduate degree from George Mason University. Some of his honors and special accomplishments are Entrepreneur of the Year, Businessman of the Year and the Manufacturing Excellence Aware. He serves on many Executive Boards in Schuylkill County and in Central Florida. Bill is active in his children's activities and serves the community as a business and community leader. While attending NS, he was a Spartan Wrestler, a pole vaulter for the Track and Field Team, served as Student Council President and founded the still active Powder Puff Football Game.



Dr. Nicole Johnson - Dr. Johnson is an Associate Professor at Kutztown University. She resides in Ashland. She is the daughter of Winn and Lori Nice and has one child, Isaiah. Dr. Johnson received her undergraduate degree from Kutztown University and her Masters and Doctorate from Texas Tech. Some of her honors and accomplishments are: she is serving as president of the National Division on Visual Impairments and Deaf-Blindness. Her dissertation on working with children who are deaf-blind is published in various journals. She is also widely published in peer review journals that have low acceptance rates and wrote a chapter in a book used to train future teachers of the blind. Dr. Johnson also has conducted many free in-service trainings for the Vision Resource Center of Berks County, and the Overbrook School for the Blind. She also raises money for walks for blindness, and volunteers as an advocate for parents of students who are deaf-blind. She planned and implemented several Dine in the Dark to raise awareness for visual impairments. She also serves on the Bureau of Special Education Board through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



Johnathan Noyalas – Johnathan is a History Professor and the Director at the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. Mr. Noyalas is the son of Robert and Arlene Noyalas. He is married to Brandy and has one child, Alexander. He resides in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Mr. Noyalas received his undergraduate degree from Shenandoah University and his master's degree from Virginia Tech. Some of his honors and accomplishments are – he has authored or edited eleven books in the past 14 years. He has also authored more than one hundred articles, essays, book chapters and reviews for a variety of popular and scholarly publications. In addition to being a prolific author, Jonathan has consulted on a variety of projects including Chief Civil War Historian for the National Park Service and consultant for National Geographic's documentary series on the civil war. He is currently working on his twelfth book. He also serves the community by being a volunteer at the Kernstown Battlefield Association, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, a Museum of the Shenandoah Valley Member and he also speaks to students about the importance of history.



Dr. Stacy Rentschler - Dr. Rentschler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Cardiovascular at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri. She is the daughter of Donald and Judith Rentschler and is married to Dr. Stuart Friess. She has two children, Cassandra and Noah. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Rentschler received her undergraduate degree from Lehigh University and her doctorates from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. She also did her residency and fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rentschler has been awarded the prestigious Burroughs Wellcome Foundation Career Award for Medical Scientists. Dr. Rentschler's research program focuses on preventing and treating heart rhythms abnormalities that can lead to stroke and sudden cardiac death. She is serving a three-year appointment on the Weinstein Cardiovascular Development and Regeneration Conference Steering Committee. She is an Ad Hoc Reviewer for many journals and publications and is also involved in many community service projects in the St. Louis area.



Dr. Allison Ray - Dr. Ray is a pediatrician and partner in JDC Pediatrics Mechanicsburg, PA. She is the daughter of Charles Reh and Gail Hoffman. She is married to Bradford Ray and has two children, David and Julia. She resides in Mechanicsburg, PA. Dr. Ray received her undergraduate degree from Penn State University and her doctorate from Penn State College of Medicine. She also did a pediatric residency at Wake Forest. Some of Alison's special honors and accomplishments are North Schuylkill Class of 1997 salutatorian, North Schuylkill 700 club, Phi Beta Kappa Academic Society, Penn State University Schreyer Honors Program. At NS she was Vice-President of Student Council, a cheerleader and a member of the Swim Team. Dr. Ray also volunteers with the youth ministry at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church and is a room parent at Silver Springs Elementary.

My School Bucks—Cafeteria Services

What is MySchoolBucks?

MySchoolBucks is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals with a debit or credit card, monitor student cafeteria purchases and receive email notifications for low account balances.

How do I Enroll?

Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and register for an account.

- Activate your account and add students. You will need your student's name and school ID number or birth date.
- Provide your credit or debit card information.
- If you need assistance with the enrollment process, please call MySchoolBucks Customer Support at 1-855-832-5226. If you have any further questions, please visit www.myschoolbucks.com and select the [Help/FAQ](#) link.

Your child's account can be viewed or you can make payments through myschoolbucks web site.

Payments can also be made to the account through the cafeteria. Just send it to the cafeteria in a sealed envelope with your child's name, account number and the amount enclosed. It will be applied to their account the day it was received.

Any questions or concerns, please contact the Cafeteria Food Service Director, Kim Shatafsky at 570-874-0466 Ext. 2124

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

- ✓ Check balances
- ✓ View purchases
- ✓ Pay with a credit card

The Simple Way to Pay FOR STUDENT MEALS

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

Breakfast Cart

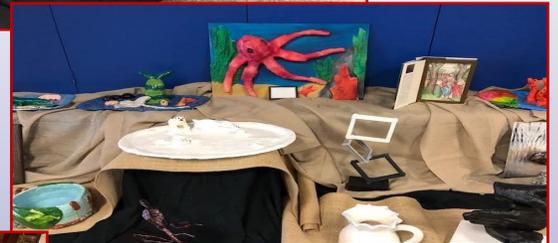
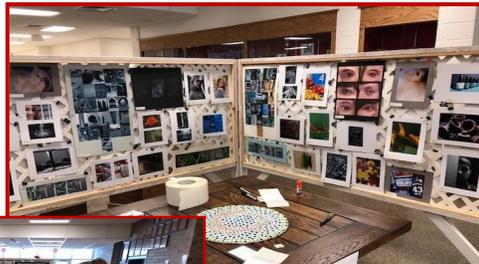
- The breakfast cart, in addition to our full breakfast offered daily, was a huge success last year. We will continue using the cart as students enter the buildings each day.
- This will now be offered to all students in grades 4 - 12.
- Students can use their account number just as they do for purchasing a lunch.
- The cart will provide drinks and quick, healthy breakfasts on ALL regular and 2 hour delay days.



NS ART SHOW

CREATIVE PIECES

TALANTED STUDENTS



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

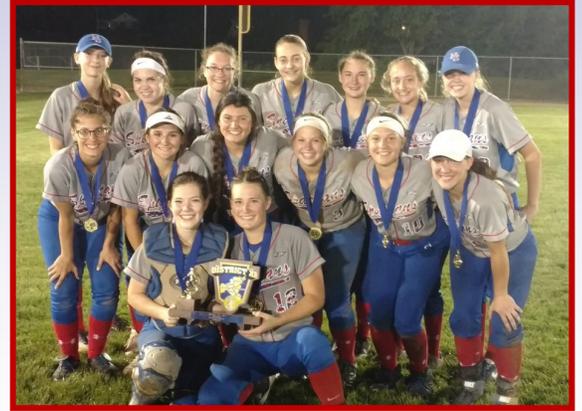
SPARTAN BASEBALL

The Spartan Baseball Team's season ended with a tough 2 to 1 loss to Mid Valley in the first round of the state playoffs. The Spartans finished the season with a record of 18-8. The Spartans were the Schuylkill League Division 1 Wild Card winners, winning an exciting head to head tie-breaker with back to back wins over Pottsville Area and Tamaqua Area. The Spartans went on to claim the District XI AAA Championship, with a 4-0 win over Pine Grove. This was the Spartans 2nd District title in the past three years. The Spartans also won the 2018 Rothermel Tournament Championship with a comeback win over Mount Carmel Area. Congratulations to Coach Brayford, his staff, and all of our players on a great season!



SPARTAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Spartan Softball Team had perhaps the best season in school history. The Lady Spartans finished with an impressive 25-3 record, finishing one win shy of a trip to the AAA State Championship game. Along the way this year, the Lady Spartans won the Schuylkill League Division 1 Championship, and were a Schuylkill League Playoff Runner-up. The Lady Spartans claimed their first ever District XI AAA Championship with an exciting 3-2 win over Pine Grove Area. The Lady Spartans then went onto the Class AAA State Playoffs, where they defeated Swenson in the first round. NS picked up a 1-0 win over Warrior Run in round 2, and the Lady Spartans ran into a tough Holy Redeemer team in the Eastern Final, with NS coming up just short, losing 2-0 to the Lady Royals. Haley Burd and Schuyler Ossman were also named to the Class AAA State Softball 1st team. Congratulations to Coach Grasso, his staff, and the Lady Spartans on an outstanding season!



SPARTAN TRACK AND FIELD

The NS Track and Field teams continued to show progress under 2nd year coach Rob Schaffer. At the All League Meet this year, the NS girls placed 2nd overall as a team, while the boys' placed 5th. Sarah Wagner won a pair of gold medals, winning the Long Jump, while setting a new school record, and the Triple Jump! At Districts, Cori McCormick, won the District 11 AA Gold medal in the 3200, and broke a school record with a time of 11 minutes, 22.2 seconds, and Sarah Wagner won a District gold medal in the Triple Jump, with a jump of 35' 11". All in all, the Spartans set a new record by sending 17 Track and Field athletes to the PIAA State Track and Field Championships in Shippensburg. Cori McCormick placed 11th in the 1600 and 3200, and Sarah Wagner finished 18th in the Triple Jump. The Boys' 4x1 team of Braden Heyer, Scott Grigas, Mitch Wagner, Brayden Boyer finished 9th overall. Emma Green was 10th in the discus. And while the Spartans did not bring any medals home with them, the entire school district is proud of their efforts and the tremendous season each of them had. Emma Green, Scott Grigas, Cori McCormick, and Sarah Wagner were all named to the 2018 Republican Herald All Area Track and Field Team! Congratulations to Coach Schaffer, his staff, and our Track and Field team members on a great 2018 season!



Artist Residency Grant



Through a grant, North Schuylkill was fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to work with resident mosaic artist, Linda Billet creating the fabulous masterpiece located between the auditorium doors. Mrs. Herring and approximately 125 students in her Art Classes, worked for 10 days drawing, cutting, nipping, fitting, and filling in bits and pieces of glass tiles where they would fill four 3x5 panels of tile board, finally completing it with three colors of grout. Please take a minute to check out the final product at the entrance of the North Schuylkill Auditorium. Thank you to Mrs. Kerri Herring and all of the students for a beautiful piece of Art that has a personal touch from everyone!



3 Hour Delay

North Schuylkill has now added a 3 hour delay schedule on to our emergency procedures. This can allow extra time for roads to be cleared and students to travel safely.

If there is a 3 hour delay, the start time will be:

- JSHS 10:39
- Elementary 11:45

2018-2019 District Calendar

To view the 2018-2019 Calendar:

- Visit the NS Website—www.northschuylkill.net
- Click District News
- Click District Calendar



[Twitter.com/NorthSchuylkill](https://twitter.com/NorthSchuylkill)



[Facebook.com/NorthSchuylkillSD](https://facebook.com/NorthSchuylkillSD)

North Schuylkill School District
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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North Schuylkill School District Board Directors:

Charles Hepler—President, **Roy Green**—Vice President, **Mary Anne Woodward**—Treasurer, **Suzanne O'Neill**, **Thomas Fletcher**, **Douglas Gressens**, **Edward Balkiewicz**, **Janine Simms**, **Glenn Weist**, **Brian Urban**—Solicitor, **Merri Lynn Craig**—Secretary