

The

# Chalkboard

A Report from the Wattsburg Area Schools

2006/2007 School Year

September 2006

<http://www.wattsburg.org>

## Members Needed for Tax Study Commission

Act 1 of 2006 allows communities to make certain decisions about the local tax structure. Specifically, it requires that a referendum question be placed on the May 2007 primary ballot. If the referendum question is approved by the voters, the resulting tax structure would increase income taxes and decrease homeowner property taxes by an equal amount. Determining the amount of the tax shift is a very complex issue, and any final outcome will affect demographic groups differently.

The Act requires that all school boards receive recommendations from an independent study commission comprised of members representative of the demographic composition of each community. The WASD school board will consider these recommendations when preparing a referendum question to submit to the voters in May. The commission will be appointed at a special school board meeting on September 11, 2006 and is required to make a recommendation to the board no later than December 13, 2006.

Your board of school directors is sincere in its desire to assemble a study commission that is representative of the community and comprised of individuals with a genuine interest in providing this important service. Because of the need for diversity, there will be a screening process and those interested in serving on the commission will be required to provide certain demographic information including gender, occupation, and income level. This information will be held in strictest confidence. The commission will consist of 5, 7, or 9 members, depending upon the number of taxpayers applying. Members of the commission cannot be a relative of a school district board member, official or employee. To be considered for appointment, please request an application by calling Mrs. Betty Jones at 824-3400, ext. 4145, or visit the district web site at [www.wattsburg.org](http://www.wattsburg.org).

**September 11, 2006**

**First Day of School  
Starting & Dismissal Times**

WAEC	8:50 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
WAMS	7:25 a.m. - 2:27 p.m.
SHS	7:30 a.m. - 2:33 p.m.

## WASD Achieves Adequate Yearly Progress

Once again, the Wattsburg Area School District, Seneca High School, the Wattsburg Area Middle School, and the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center have reached Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based on the results of PSSA tests given to all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 in the areas of math and reading. AYP is determined by proficiency levels of 54% in reading and 45% in math, a participation rate of 95%, attendance rate of 90% and graduate rate of 80%. All of the above criteria must be met in order to achieve AYP. The district as a whole, and SHS, WAMS, and WAEC, individually have met these criteria.

Additional information on AYP, the PSSA, and No Child Left Behind will be forthcoming when the state publishes its district and school report cards in the fall.

We congratulate our students, teachers, and principals on a job well done!



# You're Invited...

Public schools across the country are implementing sweeping changes to insure that graduates are well prepared for success in today's world. In Erie County, Wattsburg leads the way with a multitude of changes which are resulting in unprecedented success for students. To maintain and improve that level of success, ongoing input from citizens is essential. Whether your children are enrolled in public school, private school, or home schooled, you have a vested interest in the success of public schools and your ideas for improving our schools are encouraged and welcomed.

To provide an opportunity for all citizens to share ideas and learn more about Wattsburg's schools, Superintendent Frank Bova will host a series of meetings in which you will be able to share ideas, ask questions and hear about the topics which effect our district.

The first meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the newly renovated Seneca High School. Please plan on attending this informal gathering and sharing your ideas or questions with Mr. Bova. Information about Act 1, the new property tax reduction law, and its potential impact on our district will also be shared. This is also a great opportunity to see the wonderful improvements to Seneca High School.

There will be no fancy names for these get-togethers, just plain talk and a sharing of ideas to help make our schools even better. Please join the superintendent for an evening of candid discussion. You may register for the meeting by calling Betty Jones at 824-3400, ext. 4145, or by visiting the school district web site at [www.wattsburg.org](http://www.wattsburg.org).

## Free or Reduced Lunch Program Made Easier!

For the first time, families of children attending a public school district can apply to the National School Lunch Program online for free or reduced school meals. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) program allows Pennsylvania residents to apply for social service programs such as Food Stamps (FS), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Energy Assistance, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), etc., online. Families can use COMPASS to apply for free or reduced price school meals only, or they can apply for other services at the same time (FS, TANF, etc.).

Since your child attends the Wattsburg Area School District which is a public school district, you can apply for free or reduced price school meals online by going to the COMPASS website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or you can continue to use the paper "Household Meal Benefit Application" if you prefer. If you apply for free or reduced price school meals through COMPASS, you **do not** need to submit a paper application.

## Your Employability Skills (YES) Certificate Program

The Your Employability Skills Certificate Program is a course designed to help seniors develop fundamental skills which employers find to be essential for success in a well-trained workforce. YES is for students who plan on attending college or other training programs upon graduation, as well as for those who will enter the workforce immediately. The class includes instruction in seven areas: communications; teamwork; technology; personal development; health and safety; quality; and plant & business operations.

Students who successfully complete all course requirements will earn a YES certificate. Attainment of a YES certificate indicates to the over 130 companies which endorse the program, that the students understand what it takes to be successful in the work environment. Employers participating in the program are such entities as Hamot Hospital, St. Vincent Health Center, and Erie Insurance Group. The certificate will earn students preference in the hiring process with these companies.

Mr. Chris Boyd, Business Education Teacher, and Mr. Doug McGarvey, Assistant Principal, attended a train-the-trainer program for 1 ½ days in York, PA on the essential components of the YES program. Mr. Boyd will be teaching the course in the upcoming school year.

The program supports Seneca's commitment that all graduates will be well prepared to pursue their careers of choice upon graduation. For further information on the YES program, please contact the SHS guidance office at 824-3400, ext. 4119, or visit [www.wattsburg.org](http://www.wattsburg.org) and click on the Seneca High School link and then the YES program link.

### 2006-07 Lunch Prices

#### Elementary Center

Breakfast/Reduced Price	\$ .30
Breakfast/Full Price	.80
Lunch/Reduced Price	.40
Lunch/Full Price	1.50
Milk	.45

#### Middle & High School

Breakfast/Reduced Price	\$ .30
Breakfast/Full Price	.80
Lunch/Reduced Price	.40
Lunch/Full Price	1.65
Milk	.45

# 2006-07 Building Goals

Each year, goals are established for each WASD school building. The 2006-07 goals are as follows:

## Elementary

- Integrate the Learning Support teachers and programs to WASD.
- Implement an electronic report card and LetterGrade at WAEC to allow parents real-time access to students' grades.
- Continue student recognition through assemblies.

## Middle School

The goal of the middle school this year is to continue to center attention on student academic achievement. To accomplish this, the middle school staff will frequently assess students using the Pennsylvania benchmark exam called "4-Sight." The staff will use these periodic test results to individualize instruction for students and ensure that students are academically successful. In addition, after-school tutoring in the areas of math and reading will be offered to students who score below proficiency on the Pennsylvania standardized assessment.

Finally, the middle school will focus on its 2006-07 theme, "GOALS!" This school improvement campaign will feature activities and assemblies throughout the year aimed at getting students to set goals in school and in life and to break down their plan into small achievable steps. One of the first assemblies to address the school theme will feature world famous horseshoe pitching champion, Mr. Dan Kuchcinski. Mr. Kuchcinski has appeared on Johnny Carson's Tonight

Show four times and won the World Professional Horseshoe Pitching Championship three times. Mr. Kuchcinski will speak to the students about building positive life skills and what it takes to be a champion.

## Seneca High School

- The integration of technology into the classroom.
- Grant implementation and coordination (pending state approval)
  - Project 720 - High School Reform (\$62,000/year for 3 years)
  - College and Career Guidance Grant (\$120,000/year for 3 years)
  - Carol White Physical Fitness Grant (\$375,000)
  - High Mark Blue Cross-Blue Shield Grant (\$4,400)
- The implementation of several curriculum programs.
  - 4-Sight Testing implementation
  - Career Academics development and implementation
  - Reading Apprenticeship integration
  - Differentiated Instruction expansion
  - Reading and Writing Initiatives continued
  - Pre-advanced Placement (AP) English 9 and 10 implementation
  - Science Curriculum Development Action Plan implementation
  - Forensic Science course implemented
  - Physical Science course implemented

## SHS News

### Go Lady Bobcats!

The Lady Bobcats Volleyball team attended the "State Champs 2006 Camp" held at The Junker Center of Behrend. Over 150 girls participated.

Congratulations go to Jennie Wells who was named MVP for the camp. Anna Graham and Ashley Minnis were awarded Hustle Awards for their hard work. Looks like the volleyball team is off to a great start for the upcoming season!



Seneca High School met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) again for the third consecutive year in math and reading for its 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA results. 138 juniors took the PSSA in the spring of 2006 and results indicated that 75% of these students scored at the advanced or proficient level for reading and 54% scored at the same level for math. The AYP level for the 2005-06 school year were 54% for reading and 45% for math. Although PSSA writing doesn't figure into AYP, results show that 71% of our juniors scored at the advanced or proficient levels.

### Bobcat Bullet

Bobcat Football is BACK!  
Come join us on Sept. 22nd -  
1st home game against  
Corry!



## Seneca Marching Band and Color Guard

The Seneca High School Marching Band and Color Guard has been busy preparing for the upcoming marching season. This year, they will be competing with music adapted from the IMAX movie *The Living Sea*, originally composed by Sting. Seneca's marching athletes will be putting in many long hours for the remainder of the summer and fall combining complicated drills with the music from the show.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Barnes and Noble will be hosting a book fair for the Seneca Marching Band. The band will perform in the parking lot and a portion of the purchases made from 6:00-9:00 p.m. will benefit the Band and Color Guard.

We would like to invite all residents of the school district to support the band at our competitions, especially the Seneca Home Show taking place the evening of September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Bob Diffenbacher field. This year, we will host 14 bands with a special exhibition by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Marching Band.



If you like jazz music, be sure to mark your calendars for November 1<sup>st</sup>! The Seneca Music Boosters will be hosting **THE ONE AND ONLY MAYNARD FERGUSON** and his Big Bop Nouveau Band live in concert at the Seneca High School Auditorium starting at 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20 per ticket, with general seating. Tickets will be on sale at the Seneca Home Band Show.

### Marching and Concert Band, Color Guard and Boosters Reunion

All Marching/Concert Band members, Color Guard members, and Boosters from 1980 through the 2005 Jekyll and Hyde production are invited to attend a reunion on December 28, 2006 at the St. Boniface Ushers Club on Rt. 8 in Greene Township. The reunion will be held from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

A small admission fee will be collected at the door to cover food costs. Please contact Mr. Bob Reid at [rreid@wasd.iu5.org](mailto:rreid@wasd.iu5.org) or [abcreid@earthlink.net](mailto:abcreid@earthlink.net) to make reservations.

## SHS Drug-Free Schools and Community Grant

The Wattsburg Area School District received \$6,048 from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grant for the 2006-07 school year. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act stipulates that in order to be eligible to receive a grant, the Local Educational Agency (LEA) shall submit an application to the State Educational Agency (SEA) which assures that the programs and activities to be funded comply with the six Principles of Effectiveness described in Section 4115 of the SDFSC Act of 2001 and fosters a safe and drug-free learning environment that support academic achievement. In addition, the LEA must develop its application through timely and meaningful consultation with state and local government representatives, representatives of the schools to be served, including parents, students, teachers, and a drug and alcohol agency representative.

This year's grant has been written to focus on the following areas:

**Performance Measures:** To reduce the number of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drug (ATOD) policy violations.

**Performance Indicators:** To reduce the number of disciplinary infractions related to ATOD offenses from year to year by 1-2%.

**Evaluation Methods:** Comparison of yearly disciplinary referrals related to ATOD offenses.

Periodic evaluations will be used to measure the effectiveness of the prevention and intervention programs to increase the skills of the students in rejecting alcohol, tobacco, and drug use by:

1. Utilizing the Student Assistance Program (SAP), drug and alcohol counselor, and the SAP mental health liaison so that students can access services more readily. We will monitor student accessibility to these services at weekly SAP meetings. We will also monitor the success of the services based on the student cases being opened and/or closed.
2. Utilizing Seneca Solutions and Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) as a peer mentoring group for high school students to work with middle school and elementary students in making positive choices when faced with drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco use.
3. Conducting periodic discipline reviews to monitor the number of referrals related to ATOD violations, as well as the number of SAP referrals as stated above.

# Wattsburg Area School District Retirees Boast over 130 Years of Service!

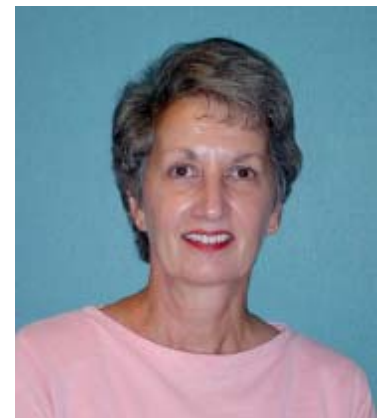
The 2006-07 school year brings with it the retirement of four employees. Together, these four employees have a combined total of over 130 years of service.

Mrs. Kristina Waskiewicz has retired after teaching for 35 years at Seneca High School and Wattsburg High School. She taught several math courses, and was the district's Athletic Director for 23 years. She had also coached volleyball and girls' softball for 12 years. When asked what her plans for retirement were, Mrs. Waskiewicz said she plans to travel, do volunteer work, garden, quilt, relax with family and friends, and float down the Allegheny River on her tube! "I will miss teaching the students. It was a great feeling to see them grow into young adults and know that you were a part of that. As Athletic Director, I worked with many great people and enjoyed the camaraderie with fellow Athletic Directors and Coaches. It's been a great ride and I look forward to the next chapter in my life," said Mrs. Waskiewicz.



*Mrs. Waskiewicz*

Mrs. Sandy Phillips has retired from Wattsburg Area School District after 35 years of service. She has been the Principal's Secretary during all of this time, working in two different buildings with four different principals. Her plans for retirement include relaxing, enjoying her family and friends, enjoying her hobbies of golf, reading, landscaping and spending more time at her camp. Mrs. Phillips is looking forward to setting her own agenda—doing things when, and if, she wants—no more deadlines to meet and schedules to follow! She said, "I will most certainly miss the friends and relationships I have created with my colleagues and the families in the school district. Someday I am going to try to figure out how many kids, parents, and colleagues I have had contact with in 35 years. I'm not sure I can count that high!"



*Mrs. Phillips*

Mrs. Yvonne Boyle has taught Health and Physical Education at Seneca High School for 34 years. Her plans for retirement include doing volunteer work, traveling to Peru in October, and to Holland next April. Mrs. Boyle says she will miss the students and friends she has made while at Seneca.

Ms. Marlene Tanner has been with the Wattsburg Area School District Cafeteria for 29 years. Ms. Tanner was hired for the Wattsburg Central Cafeteria and filled several positions at Central, Middle and Seneca, ending her 29 years at the Elementary Center. Before being hired in the Cafeteria, Ms. Tanner worked as a Substitute Teacher Aide at Central from 1972-1977. Although Ms. Tanner retired from WASD in June, she is working at Camp Findley, Findley Lake, N.Y. as Cook and Assistant Manager. She says it seems strange to be working with 100 children instead of 400. "I have many memories working in the Cafeteria. The teachers became friends and the children were like my own. It's nice to go shopping and have a student come to me and greet me by name, no matter what their age. Now that I have more time, I plan to do some traveling and spend time with my family and friends. I also will have time to work on my favorite past-time, family ancestry on my computer." Among her interests, Ms. Tanner is also a NASCAR Racing fan.



*Mrs. Boyle*



*Ms. Tanner*

All four retirees will be greatly missed. They each played such an important part in Wattsburg's history.

# WASD Welcomes New Staff

Ms. Betsy Gamble will be teaching Health and Physical Education at Seneca this year. Ms. Gamble graduated from Edinboro University with a B.S. in Health/Physical Education and previously taught at Saegertown Jr./Sr. High School. She is a resident of Waterford, and enjoys bike riding, kayaking, Presque Isle, and visiting her nieces. Ms. Gamble grew up as a Bison, but is looking forward to becoming a Bobcat!

Mrs. Kristina Shelley will be a wonderful asset to our first grade staff this year. Mrs. Shelley has taught pre-school in China, served as the Distance Learning Coordinator for the IU, team-taught in an inclusive fourth grade classroom in New York, and worked for the Head Start program in Erie. Mrs. Shelley received her Master of



*Ms. Gamble*

Education and B.S. from Edinboro University. She is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, the National Science Teachers Association and is computer savvy. When she's not thinking about her students, Mrs. Shelley enjoys traveling, camping, and biking around the peninsula with her two boys, Max and Sam, and husband Dan. We welcome Mrs. Shelley to the Elementary Center.

Mrs. Sherri Shaffer, an Erie native, has re-joined the Wattsburg team. She received her B.A. degree and teaching certificate from Mercyhurst College in 1989. Mrs. Shaffer was employed as a teacher by the Wattsburg Area School in 1990. She taught at all three elementary schools (prior to the building of the WAEC) and joined the fifth grade team at the middle school in 1994.

While teaching in Wattsburg, Mrs. Shaffer attended Edinboro University and completed a Master of Education degree and Reading Specialist Certification in 1993. Although Mrs. Shaffer enjoyed teaching in the Wattsburg Area School District, she resigned in 2001 to stay home with her young children. It is with great enthusiasm that she is now returning to the Wattsburg Middle School's fifth grade team. She is delighted to be back and eager to share her passion

for learning with her students once again.

Mrs. Shelley Ochterski will be a new kindergarten teacher at WAEC. For the past few months, Mrs. Ochterski has been substitute teaching at the Elementary Center. She may be a familiar face to you as she has been in our building both as a parent in our district and because of her job with the YMCA of Greater Erie for the past eight years. Through her YMCA experiences as both Program Director and Site Director, Mrs. Ochterski has had opportunities to work in many capacities with children and adults. She holds numerous certifications for training staff who work with infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, school aged children, and adults. She graduated from Mercyhurst College with a B.A. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. When Mrs. Ochterski is not busy educating herself further in order to teach children more effectively, she enjoys gardening and spending time with her family. She has two children whom she and her husband enjoy spending time with on the lake. It is a pleasure to have Mrs. Ochterski as part of our Elementary Center team.

Mr. John Praetzel joins the Wattsburg Area School District as the new Network and Computer Systems Supervisor. Mr. Praetzel is a graduate of Seneca High School and has a Bachelor's Degree in Management

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*Mrs. Shelley*



*Mrs. Shaffer*



*Mrs. Ochterski*

## New Staff

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Information Systems from Penn State Behrend. He is an avid outdoorsman.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bille is pleased to serve as a Client Technology Specialist, also. Mrs. Bille is also a graduate of Seneca High School and has a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Gannon University. A recent bride, Mrs. Bille lives in Erie with her husband, Kevin.

Mr. Jeremy Cosner comes to Wattsburg as a Client Technology Specialist serving the district Information Technology Services needs. Mr. Cosner is a graduate of Harbor Creek High School and has an Associate's Degree in Computer Information Systems and a minor in networking from Tri-State Business Institute. He has extensive knowledge in many areas of information technology.



*Tom Ridge talks to students at the opening of the Presque Isle Visitor Center on May 26, 2006*

## Tech Talk

As expected, the summer months are a very busy time for the Information Technology Services Department. We have three new staff members dedicated to serving the district's needs; with a presence in each school. Newer computers have been installed at the Elementary Center that will provide new educational software. The Middle School has changed operating system platforms and now has new personal computers. Seneca High School now has a fully equipped mobile science lab with the latest science equipment and software. Each summer, the district reviews security and content filtering policies. Beginning this school year, an improved security firewall and content filtering system will address the ever-changing threats in the information technology environment. A plan is being developed to implement a new and more modern website that can better serve the district's needs. Steps are also being taken to facilitate and improve the collection and retrieval of student data for teacher and parental use. The Wattsburg Area School District continues to make great strides in technology to ensure that students are ready for whatever career decision they make.

### Bobcat Bullet

Wattsburg Area Middle School met all Annual Yearly Progress Test Score requirements outlined by No Child Left Behind. The school will be awarded the prestigious Annual Yearly Progress Award this fall.



*Mr. Praetzel*



*Mrs. Bille*



*Mr. Cosner*

# WAMSAG News

The Wattsburg Area Middle School Action Group (WAMSAG) will again be sponsoring its middle school fundraiser. Superb Fundraising, which has run the middle school fundraiser before, has agreed to give the school a great return on sales at 45% with many prize incentives including the ever popular "money machine!"

The sale starts Friday, September 15th, with a student assembly kickoff in the Seneca High School auditorium. This is an annual event and all the funds raised will directly benefit all middle school students with field trips, science, art and literature, and math programs.

The ongoing community support of WAMSAG fundraisers is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in WAMSAG or are willing to help with the distribution of the annual fundraiser in November, please call WAMSAG president, Mrs. Dawn Smith at 739-9598.

WAMSAG Officers for 2006-07:

- Dawn Smith ..... President
- Emily Sonney ..... Vice-President
- Gretchen Thomas ..... Secretary
- Pam Teed ..... Treasurer

# Early Dismissal Notes

Occasionally, the weather, or an unforeseen circumstance, dictates that students be released from school earlier than their usual dismissal times. In these instances, the following procedures will be implemented.

1. The news media (TV, radio) will be contacted to announce early dismissal.
2. An early dismissal notice will be posted on the WASD website.
3. Middle school and high school students will be dismissed first.
4. Calls will be made to emergency phone numbers of elementary school students.
5. Elementary school students will be dismissed.
6. Elementary school students whose parents, guardians, or older siblings are not at home will be returned to the Elementary Center for parent pickup.

**Note: Parents, please make sure that emergency phone numbers are kept current.**

# Athletic/Activity Fees

All students participating in organized school activities, including athletics, are required to pay an activity fee to help defray the cost of supervision for the activity. The cost for Seneca High School students is \$30.00, and the cost for Middle School students is \$20.00. The fee covers all activities and/or teams in which a student participates for the entire school year. There is a maximum of \$90.00 total for activity fees for one year per family.

After school hours, students are only allowed to remain on the school grounds if they are participating in a school-sponsored activity.

### Game Prices:

Athletic contest admission fees for the 2006-07 school year are again set at \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. A ten-event pass may be purchased for \$15.00 for adults or \$5.00 for students. Grandparents of Seneca students may obtain a free one-year pass, renewable each year. This pass may be obtained at the Seneca High School office.

# Transportation News

For the safety of our children, here are a few reminders regarding Wattsburg Area School District transportation.



- The first day of school for WASD students is September 11, 2006.
- Non-public school busing starts August 28th.
- If students are to be picked up or dropped off at babysitters, parents must call the bus garage to make arrangements.
- On **Fridays only**, students may be dropped off at houses other than their original designated stops. A bus pass, (available at school offices), signed by the student's parent and submitted two days in advance is required.
- Kindergarten students will not be dropped off if a parent, guardian or sibling is not visible. The student will be returned to school and the parents must pick the child up there.

### Bobcat Bullet

Visitors and volunteers are always welcome at WAEC. Please join us for Storybook Cafe, become a volunteer, or join our PTO! Call the Elementary Center for details at 824-3400.



# Legal Notices

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974* (FERPA), educational agencies such as a school districts must annually notify parents of students or eligible students (i.e., students who are 18 years of age or are attending a post-secondary educational institution) of their rights under FERPA, 20 U.S.C.S. §1232g, and the corresponding regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

The federal regulations to FERPA set forth what this notice must contain and informs parents or eligible students that they have the right to:

1. inspect and review the student's education records;
2. seek amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
3. consent to disclosures of "personally identifiable information" contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and the regulations authorize disclosure without consent;
4. file with the Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the educational agency to comply with the requirements of FERPA and the regulations.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

### Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that school districts, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Districts may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Wattsburg Area School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor Roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military

recruiters directory information, upon request—unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.<sup>1</sup>

If you do not want the Wattsburg Area School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by October 1 of each school year. The Wattsburg Area School District has designated the following information as directory information.

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

## Tobacco Free Campus

### Spectators and Visitors — Public Events

Notices are posted to inform spectators and visitors of the tobacco free schools policy. In addition, announcement of the policy is made via the Public Address System at all events.

Spectators or visitors who use tobacco on school property shall be reminded by the principal, supervisor, or his/her designee of the tobacco free school policy.

If someone refuses to stop using tobacco, he/she will be asked by the principal, supervisor, or his/her designee to leave the property. Violators may be referred to the Police or Fire Department.

## Chapter 16: Gifted Education

To be in compliance with Pennsylvania state law, the Wattsburg Area School District has established procedures regarding identification of gifted children. The focus of the law, called Chapter 16, is to ensure that students are not identified as mentally gifted based on a single test score.

The district conducts ongoing screening activities to nominate potential candidates. Children may be referred by parents or teachers. Parents who feel strongly that their child may be gifted should contact the school guidance counselor to initiate gifted screening on behalf of their son or daughter. The gifted screening

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<sup>1</sup> These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002* (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

# Legal Notices

## Chapter 16: Gifted Education

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process will include a review of the student's record, past test scores, report card grades, and input from those familiar with the student's learning strengths and needs.

The following multiple criteria are considered in the identification process:

- strong teacher recommendation
- group achievement test scores at the 95th percentile or higher in total reading or total math on a nationally-normed standardized test.
- a full scale (or composite) IQ score of 130 or higher on an individually administered intelligence test. (This test will be given by the school psychologist.)

## Locker Notice

All 7th through 12th grade students are assigned a locker. All school lockers are and remain the property of the school district. As such, students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers.

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker at any time for the purpose of determining whether the locker is improperly used for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material that poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the schools.

Students shall be notified annually, or more often if deemed appropriate, by the administration concerning the contents of this policy.

Locks will be provided by the school at no cost for use by all 7th through 12th grade students. These locks must be used by the students and kept on their lockers at all times. They are the property of the school district, and must be turned in at the end of the school year. If you have already purchased a lock, it can be used on the student's gym locker. Students in grades 5 and 6 will continue to use their cubbies which are located in their homerooms.

## Special Education Services

The Wattsburg Area School District hereby notifies parents and guardians of special education services available to eligible students ages 3 to 21. If you suspect that your child may have a learning problem requiring special education services, there is help through the school district.

There are a variety of services available. Some services are in the district and some are in neighboring districts, depending on the individual needs of the student. All services are at no cost to the parents. The types of support include:

1. Early Intervention: for children 3-5 years of age with development delays or disabilities.
2. Learning Support: for students with learning problems in academic areas associated with learning disabilities or mild mental retardation.

3. Emotional Support: for students with emotional and behavioral mental health problems.
4. Speech/Language Support: for students with speech and language communication problems affecting their learning.
5. Life Skills Support: for students who require instruction in daily living skills and readiness for basic skills associated with moderate to severe mental retardation.
6. Sensory Support: for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have visual impairments.
7. Autistic Support: for students with autism or a pervasive developmental disorder.
8. Physical Support: for students with physical problems such as cerebral palsy.
9. Gifted Support: for students who are mentally gifted and need enrichment/advancement to their curricula.
10. Multi-handicapped Support: for students who have a combination of disabilities such as mental retardation and a physical disability.

Students with disabilities who do not require special education services but who need some accommodations, can receive support through Protected Handicapped service agreements.

The district participates in proactive screening activities to help identify students who may be experiencing difficulties. The screening activities include the following:

- Level I: Screening of group-based data such as cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards and group achievement tests. This is done when a student enrolls in the school district and after group testing is completed each spring in Grades 1-9 and Grade 11.
- Level II: Screening of sensory areas which include motor, hearing, vision and speech and language skills. This is done when a problem is suspected and/or as required by the Pennsylvania School Code.
- Level III: Screening by the Instructional Support Team (Grades K-6) which include the parent/guardian in determining strengths and needs of the student. The team determines strategies to use to help the student to be successful in school.

To refer your child for screening/evaluation, contact one of the following places:

**Preschool to school age** (Ages 3-5): Contact the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5 at 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412, or phone 734-5610 or 1-800-677-5610 and ask for the Early Intervention Project.

**Elementary School** (Grades K-4): Wattsburg Area Elementary Center, 10780 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4500.

**Middle School** (Grades 5-8): Wattsburg Area Middle School, 10774 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4544.

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# Legal Notices

## Special Education Services

Continued from page 10

**High School** (Grades 9-12): Seneca High School, 10770 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4507.

Notice is also given to parents/guardians regarding confidentiality requirements for students who are referred for special education services. These requirements are found in both federal and state regulations. Records generated by the identification, evaluation and programming process are confidential and cannot be released outside the school district or intermediate unit without written parent consent. A copy of the Confidential Plan for collection, disseminating and destroying of records can be seen at each district building, including the District Administration Office upon request.

## Civil Rights Policy

The Wattsburg Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, age, gender or disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For more information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Dr. Rosalie Constantine, Assistant Superintendent, Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, Wattsburg Area School District Administration Office, 10782 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509 (824-3400).

## Integrated Pest Management Notification

The Wattsburg Area School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor the school buildings and grounds to detect any pests that are present. The pest monitoring team consists of our building maintenance, housekeeping, office, and teaching staff and includes our students. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM coordinator who evaluates the "pest problem" and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to address the problem. The techniques can include increased sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing pests, etc.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary, and will not be routinely applied. When chemicals are used, the school will try to use the least toxic products when possible. Pesticide applications will be made at a time when only authorized persons have access to the areas being treated. Notices will be posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for

two days following the application. Our regularly scheduled inspections and applications as necessary are scheduled after 11:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in the schools may request prior notification of specific applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the school's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the district in writing. Please include your e-mail address if you would like to be notified electronically.

If chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided by telephone to any parent or guardian who has requested such notification in writing, and whose name is placed on the notification requesting. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products, self-containerized baits placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices or voids.

Each year the district will prepare a new notification registry.

If you have any questions, please contact Wattsburg Area School District at 814-824-3400.

## Notification of Rights Under PPRA

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment gives parents and students who are 18 or older or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding the school district's conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and conduct of certain physical exams. These include the right to:

1. **Consent to federally funded surveys concerning "protected information."** If the U.S. Department of Education funds a survey in whole or in part, a student's parents or an eligible student must consent in writing before the student may provide information relating to the following categories:
  - Political affiliations;
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  - Sexual behavior or attitudes;
  - Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  - Critical appraisals of student's family members;
  - Privileged or similar relationships recognized by law, such as with attorneys, doctors, and ministers;
  - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parents; or
  - Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

A survey that concerns any of these points is called a "protected information survey."

2. **Opt out of certain surveys and exams.** Parents and eligible students will receive notice of any of the following activities and will have the right to opt out of them by requesting so in writing.

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## Notification of Rights Under PPRA

Continued from page 11

- Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for purposes of marketing or selling or otherwise distributing the information to others;
  - Any protected information survey, regardless of funding; and
  - Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent and scheduled by the school, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student or of another student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.
3. **Inspect certain material:** Surveys may typically be administered in the fall or early spring of the school year. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect the following, upon request, at the appropriate school building, before the district administers or uses them:
- Protected information surveys of students (including any instructional materials used in connection with the survey);
  - Documents used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
4. **Receive notification of district policy.** The school district has developed a policy, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, and has made arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. This Student Rights/Survey Policy is No. 5121.1, and may be reviewed in any school building upon request.
5. **Report violations.** Parents and eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
- Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Dept. of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## Medication Policy

This is a reminder that a district-wide policy is in place for the administration of all medication at school. If your child requires any type of medication while at school, the medication must be dispensed by the school nurse. For the safety of all students, please do not put the medication in your child's lunch box.

All medication, including over-the-counter medications, should be sent in the original box or bottle, with a note from the parent or guardian stating what the medication is for, the dosage, and the time it is to be given. Prescription medication must also be accompanied by a doctor's orders.

### Immunization Requirements

**Varicella** and **hepatitis B** are the most recent immunizations required for school children by the state of Pennsylvania.

Kindergarten, first grade registrants, or students entering 7th grade must have the following immunizations before attending school:

- 4 doses of DTP
- 3 doses of Polio
- 2 doses of MMR
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 1 dose of Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine or history of disease

For more information, please call Mrs. Lisa Zarger, School Nurse, at 824-3400, ext 4121.

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2006-07 FIRST SEMESTER CALENDAR

	Elementary Center	Middle School	High School
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 First Student Day</li> <li>11 Kindergarten Split Session</li> <li>12 Kindergarten Split Session</li> <li>12 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>13 Kindergarten Regular Session Begins</li> <li>14 Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m.</li> <li>20 Jr. Bobcat Store</li> <li>28 Volunteer Training 9:30-10:30 a.m.</li> <li>28 School Pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 First Student Day</li> <li>12 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>27 Open House, 7:00-9:00 p.m.</li> <li>5 School Pictures</li> <li>10 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>20 End of First Grading Period</li> <li>27 7th/8th Grade Dance, 6:30 p.m.</li> <li>9 School Picture Retakes</li> <li>14 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>23-27 Thanksgiving Vacation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 First Student Day</li> <li>12 Music Boosters Meeting, 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>13 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>18 School Pictures</li> <li>29-30 Band Show</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>24 Jr. Bobcat Store</li> <li>31 Fall Celebration &amp; Parade 2:00-3:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 End of Second Grading Period</li> <li>12 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>15 7th/8th Grade Dance, 6:30 p.m.</li> <li>26-29 Christmas Vacation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-7 Homecoming Weekend</li> <li>10 Music Boosters Meeting, 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>11 Sports Boosters Meeting</li> <li>30 School Picture Retakes</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13-17 Book Fair</li> <li>14 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>21 Jr. Bobcat Store</li> <li>23-27 Thanksgiving Vacation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Classes Resume</li> <li>9 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>26 End of First Semester</li> <li>29 Teacher Work Day</li> <li>No School for Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>11 Jackson King Benefit Dance, 7:30</li> <li>14 Music Boosters Meeting, 5:30 p.m.</li> <li>17-18 Fall Dinner Theater</li> <li>23-27 Thanksgiving Vacation</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 End of 1st Grading Period</li> <li>12 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>13-15 Santa's Secret Shop</li> <li>22 Winter Celebration 2:15-3:00 p.m.</li> <li>26-29 Christmas Vacation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Band Concert</li> <li>12 Music Boosters Meeting, 5:30</li> <li>13 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30</li> <li>14 Chorus Concert</li> <li>26-29 Christmas Vacation</li> </ul>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Classes Resume</li> <li>9 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>15 Martin Luther King Day</li> <li>No School</li> <li>26 End of First Semester</li> <li>29 Teacher Work Day</li> <li>No School for Students</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Classes Resume</li> <li>9 Music Boosters Meeting, 5:30p.m.</li> <li>10 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>15 Martin Luther King Day</li> <li>No School</li> <li>26 End of First Semester</li> <li>29 Teacher Work Day</li> <li>No School for Students</li> </ul>

# The Chalkboard

A Publication of  
Wattsburg Area School District  
Equal Opportunity Employer

Non-Profit Org.  
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WATTSBURG, PA.  
PERMIT No. 8

## School Board

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- Ms. Cheryl Nye, Board Secretary
- Mr. Frank Bova, Superintendent
- Mrs. Marty Dean, Chalkboard Editor

BOX HOLDER OR  
CURRENT RESIDENT

## Whom To Call

If you have a question, a concern, or would like more information about a school program, please contact the appropriate school representative at 824-3400, extensions listed below, or visit our website at [www.wattsburg.org](http://www.wattsburg.org). You may also contact us by e-mail at [wasd@wasd.iu5.org](mailto:wasd@wasd.iu5.org).

To discuss issues involving a particular school or program within a school, please contact the building principal.

Busing concerns should be directed to Ms. Barbara Schock, Transportation Coordinator, by calling 825-7996.

Questions regarding district policy or other areas may be answered by calling Dr. Lee Constantine, Assistant Superintendent.

### Wattsburg Area School District 824-3400

- Mr. Frank Bova, Superintendent ..... Ext. 4515
- Dr. Lee Constantine, Asst. Superintendent ..... Ext. 4532
- Mr. Thomas Rinke, SHS Principal ..... Ext. 4510
- Mr. Ken Berlin, WAMS Principal ..... Ext. 4523
- Mr. Chad Porter, WAEC Co-Principal ..... Ext. 4503
- Ms. Gina Rullo, WAEC Co-Principal ..... Ext. 4502
- Ms. Barbara Schock, Trans. Coordinator ..... 825-7996