

District Accomplishments from 2012-2018



2012-2013 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below is list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished throughout this school year.)

- Reimplementation of District Curriculum Leaders
- Writing of Science Curriculum
- Writing of Social Studies Curriculum
- Finalizing writing of Elementary K-4 Mathematics Curriculum
- Act 39 Project: Lighting, Entryways, Weatherization, Water Conservation
- Roofing Project: West Newton and HW Good
- Implementation of Bistro Line High School Cafeteria
- Implementation of Full Day Kindergarten
- Initiation of Early Bird Contract
- Finish network at the middle and high school
- Networked elementary schools
- Cameras in elementary schools
- Business office renovation and increase in conference room space
- Revamping of interview process to include summaries and meet and greet
- Implementation of exit interview process for employees that resign
- New evaluation tool for AFSCME employees
- Implementation of SPS Behavioral Health
- Administrative mini lessons and book study as part of principal meetings
- New bus manager
- Construction of bus terminal
- Planning for Response to Instruction and Intervention at elementary schools
- New course offerings in the high school
- Emotional support class at the middle school
- World Language at the middle school
- Graduated from Education and Policy Leadership Fellowship Program
- Submission of Comprehensive Plan
- Implementation of the middle school drama
- High School auditorium carpets and curtain
- New website implementation
- Implementation of electronic school board meetings
- KLH Sewage monitoring for DEP approval
- Professional development year long planning and theme
- Implementation of Random Drug Testing AFSCME employees
- Quarterly meetings with school safety personnel
- New Superintendent Blog and Twitter communication through social media
- CWCTC support of Act 39 project
- Partnered with Sewickley Township Rec Board for Rock the Yough

2013-2014 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished)

- Writing of English Curriculum
- Writing of Foreign Language Curriculum
- Implementation of RTII at the elementary schools
- Pilot of Customized Learning Block in Grades 3 and 4
- Implementation of District Design Team
- Implementation of Grades 5-12 STEM Committee
- Implementation of Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation System
- Pilot of Principal Effectiveness Evaluation System
- Finalization of new Early Bird Contract for YEA Teacher Union
- Implementation of Drug Prevention Committee
- Implementation of Electronic Interviewing Process for New Employees
- Implementation of Remembering Adam Voluntary Drug Testing Program
- Implementation of middle school musical
- HW Good Dehumidification Project
- Mendon Elementary Roofing Project
- Implementation of PIMS Governance Board
- Implementation of Moodle for Principal and STEM Meetings
- Addition of a maintenance/carpenter technician position
- Implementation of a managed print services program
- New oversight program for middle school sewage plant
- New copier lease for the school district
- Implementation/securing of funds for math labs at all elementary buildings
- All fall sports teams made the playoffs for the first time in school history
- Renewal of Nutrition Food Service contract
- Secured school safety grant for \$25,000
- PA Teacher of the Year Finalist: Jennifer Klobucar
- Participation in the county chorus and band festivals
- Pilot of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program at the high school
- Implementation of additional music learning opportunities for middle school
- Hiring of a district school psychologist for the 2014-2015 school year
- Approved additional music position for the 2014-2015 school year
- Partnered with local municipalities and the Westmoreland County Land Bank
- Upgrade of the pneumatic control systems with Johnson Controls
- Approval of website advertising as a new revenue source
- Approval of a K-12 Counseling Plan
- Approval to upgrade wireless infrastructure at the elementary schools
- Addition of cameras at the elementary schools
- Received \$15,991.05 in Great Idea Grant Monies
- Implementation of Enrichment Period at the high school
- Active Shooter Drill at the High School as part of Professional Development
- Implementation of Safety and Drug/Alcohol Resource Info on website
- Updates to the following policies:
 - Policy #222: Student Tobacco Use
 - Policy #323: Employee Tobacco Use
 - Policy #707: Facility Use
 - Policy #904: Public Attendance at School Events
 - Policy #227: Controlled/Noncontrolled Substance Abuse and Paraphernalia
 - Policy #810: Transportation Video/Audio Monitoring
 - Policy #227.1: Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Student Drivers*

2014-2015 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished.)

- Writing of Music Curriculum
- Writing of Technology/Library Curriculum
- Writing of Physical Education Curriculum
- Writing of Foreign Language Curriculum
- Implementation of Evening Classes for Community Members
- Reinstitution of Bus Tours for New Faculty Members
- Implementation of Cougar Consortium Teacher Training
- STEM Summer Classes for Students
- Public Relations STEM Brochure
- Implementation of Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation System including the Student Learning Objective Module
- Implementation of Principal Effectiveness Evaluation System
- New Contract for AFSCME Employees
- 2nd Annual Drug Prevention Symposium
- Voluntary Drug Testing Program at Middle School and High School
- Drug Testing of Student Drivers Policy and Procedure Implementation
- Replacement of Boilers at West Newton Elementary
- Secured school safety grant for \$12,250
- PA Teacher Apple Award: Leann Steban
- Lifechanger of the Year Award: Kim Smith
- Champion of Learning Award: Brian Blasko
- Participation in the county chorus and band festivals
- Implementation of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program at the high school
- Implementation of additional music teacher at the middle school level
- Addition of district school psychologist for the 2014-2015 school year
- Implementation of After School Dinner Program
- Addition of cameras at the elementary schools, middle and high schools
- Received \$138,873 in grant monies through various sources
- 9-1-1 Training at the District Level as Professional Development
- Implementation of Kindergarten Transition Tab on Website
- Updates to the following policies:
 - #916 School Volunteers
 - #249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
 - #819 Suicide Awareness
- Varsity Softball were Section Champs
- School Board won the D. Richard Wynn School Board Award
- District won the Top Workplace in 2014 for Midsize Schools #10
- Implementation of Visitor Management Software at the Elementary Schools
- Diesel Fuel Bid favorable for district monetary savings
- Implementation of Sensory Night for special education students and parents
- Recognition for Excellence for School wide Positive Behavior Support at all three elementary schools through the Department of Education
- Special education plan development and submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval for implementation
- Implementation of Truancy Elimination Plan processes at all Yough School District Buildings
- Addition of technology courses into the high school curriculum
- Investigation of a Before and After School Program for implementation in the 2015-2016 school year
- Approve a grass cutting service to take care of school grounds for all five buildings
- Renewal of a print management contract to maintain more efficient district printing costs

2015-2016 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished.)

- Writing of Art Curriculum
- Writing of Family Consumer Science Curriculum
- Writing of English Language Arts Curriculum K-6
- Writing of Technical Education Curriculum
- Continued implementation of evening classes for community members
- Continued implementation of Cougar Consortium for staff
- Transitioned from STEM to STEAM, adding the Arts as a focus area
- STEAM summer classes for students
- Continued implementation of teacher, principal, and non-teaching professionals' effectiveness evaluation model
- 3rd Annual Drug Prevention Symposium
- 1st Annual Drug Prevention Awareness Walk
- Secured a school safety grant for \$25,000 from state
- Champion of Learning Award Winner: Dr. Jenifer Pappasergi
- Participation in the county chorus and band festivals
- Implementation of BYOD program at the middle school
- Continued implementation of the after-school dinner program
- Addition of cameras at the stadium to open for public use
- Updates to the following policies:
 - Policy #823: Naloxone
 - Policy #824: Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
 - Policy #227: Controlled/Non-controlled Substance Abuse/Paraphernalia
 - Policy #331: Job Related Expenses
 - Policy #012: Conflict of Interest
 - Policy #TBD: Cash Management-Federal Grants
 - Policy #TBD: Allowability of Costs
 - Policy #218: Student Discipline
 - Policy #626: Federal Fiscal Compliance
- Varsity Softball Team PIAA State Champions: First in the history of the school district
- District won the Top Workplace in 2015 and 2016 from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette
- Continued implementation of Sensory Night for special education students and parents
- Implementation of YMCA Before and After School Program for students in all of the elementary schools
- Implementation of quarterly budget meetings with the school board
- Approval of District Comprehensive Plan
- Posting of new Mission and Vision Statements throughout the district

2016-2017 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished.)

- Piloting of online mathematics textbooks through CK-12
- Continued implementation of evening classes for community members
- Continued implementation of Cougar Consortium for staff
- STEAM summer classes for students
- Continued implementation of teacher, principal, and non-teaching professionals effectiveness evaluation model
- 4th Annual Drug Prevention Symposium
- 2nd Annual Drug Prevention Awareness Walk and Fun Day
- Secured a school safety grant for \$22,000 from state
- Variety of teacher applied grant opportunities
- Settled teacher contract from July 2017 through June 2020
- Participation in the county chorus and band festivals
- Continued implementation of the after school dinner program
- Addition of cameras and door safety locks throughout the district
- Public utilization of stadium for walking purposes throughout the year
- Updates to the following policies:
 - Policy #247 Hazing
 - Policy #123.1 Interscholastic Athletics/Athletic Awards
 - Policy #246: Student Wellness
- Policy online through a partnership with PSBA
- Varsity Softball Team PIAA: Made to Semifinals
- District won the Top Workplace in 2016 and 2017 through the Pittsburgh Post Gazette
- Continued implementation of YMCA Before and After School Program for students in all of the elementary schools
- Continued implementation of quarterly budget meetings with the school board

2017-2018 Listing of District Accomplishments

(Although the below list is not all inclusive, these are the major things that we accomplished.)

- Top Workplace for 4th year in a row
- ISP Distinguished schools, West Newton and Mendon
- High School SAT Rank: 134 in state
- Impeccable Title I Audit
- Donors Choose Grants: \$12,143.13
- Digital Promise Grant: \$80,000
- PLTW Grant: \$50,000
- Thomas Nega Grant: \$2,000
- United Way Grant: \$1,000
- Advocacy for Fair School Funding
- Implementation of District Facebook Page
- Night Event for Parents on School Threats and Social Media
- CK-12 Online Textbooks for Math
- Rewriting of Health curriculum
- Drug Prevention Programming: Symposium, Walk/Activity Day, PTO Presentations, Narcan Training for Community
- School Safety Initiatives: School Shooting Training in Uniontown, Administrator Trainings
- Revamp of Teacher Induction Program for three years
- Implementation of YA4 nonprofit foundation
- Updates to the following policies:
 - Policy 815 Acceptable Use of Technology
 - Policy 808.1 Meal Accounts
 - Policy 827 Conflict of Interest
 - Policy 251 Homeless Students
 - Policy 255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care
 - Policy 914 Relations With Intermediate Unit
 - Policy 311 Reduction of Staff
 - Policy 103 Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices
 - Policy 104 Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices
 - Policy 203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
 - Policy 906 Public Complaint Procedures
 - Policy 918 Title I Parent and Family Engagement
 - Policy 626 Federal Fiscal Compliance /Procurement
 - Policy 625 Procurement Cards
- New School Psychologist
- New Reading intervention program Lexia learning for special education
- 8th year of a spotless financial audit report
- Breakeven budget with no tax increase
- New roof on high school
- New surface on track and field
- New hot water boiler at middle school
- New emergency generator at West Newton Elementary
- Demand response energy savings initiative

Additional notes:

In 2010-11, The District funded the extra hours of two teachers two teachers in order to offer SAT preparation classes free of charge to Yough HS students. The results of which are stated below:

Yough ranked 25 in region out of 120 schools and 3rd in Westmoreland County, behind only Norwin and Franklin Regional.

In 2011-12, reinstated paid curriculum leaders which became the driver for revamping the following curriculums: Math, Science, English, Social Science, French, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Family Consumer Science, Technology Education.

The District has closed on 4 Bond refunding's over the past 6 years at lower interest rates have allowed the District through these refunding's to save over \$1.7 million in reduced debt service payments (interest) without changing the payoff date, which still remains 2034.

The District has issued Bonds twice in the past 7 years to put new roofs on the 3 Elementary schools, retrofit lighting across the District and install mouse trap entranceways at the High School and 3 Elementary School to make our schools safer for our students and employees. Our most recent Bond issuance funded the new field Turf and Track as well as a proposed roof replacement at the High School to occur next summer and replacement of 30 year boilers in the High School.

Of the 17 School Districts in Westmoreland County, the Yough School District is tied for the least number of Administrators. We do not have any Assistant Superintendents, an HR Director, a Facilities Director, a Curriculum Director to name a few. Yough School District does more with less.

Over the past 7-8 years the District has navigated through some tough financial situations. Special Education, Charter School, and Pension expense to name a few have all increased significantly, while funding by the State has not. Pension Expense increases have impacted all 500 School Districts across the state in a major way. Yough School Districts Pension Expense has increased from \$280,000 in 2009-10 to \$2,200,000 in Fiscal 2017-18, a staggering 785% increase.

However, with all that being said, the District has been able to weather that financial storm with cost cutting measures including consolidation of Administrative, Custodial, and Maintenance positions. Attrition of some retiring teachers each year, while not affecting programs. And cost cutting measures for all discretionary expenses across the board. . The significant annual Pension increase are starting to be reduced by the State and with that and all the measures that have been mentioned above the District is in a stable financial position going forward.