



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

DECEMBER 13, 2018

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 to discuss the School Community Resource Brochure, the Positive Reinforcement Messaging in restrooms project, Stigma– Free Awareness and other projects:

1. **Community Service Brochure:** The Committee reviewed a second draft of the brochure and approved it with minor changes. The link to the website was also reviewed. The project is slated to be distributed and go live on the website in January 2019.
2. **Positive Reinforcement Messaging in Restrooms:** The committee discussed forming a subcommittee involving middle and high school students, teachers and administrators to begin this pilot project. Project execution is anticipated in the first quarter of 2019.
3. **Stigma-Free Resolution:** The draft resolution for Stigma-Free Mental Health is now with the full board.
4. **Brunch with the Board:** This project is tabled pending Board Reorganization in January.

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on December 5, 2018 to discuss the 2017-2018 audit, capital projects, school marquees, and other projects:

1. **Audit:** The 2017-2018 audit was successfully completed and will be presented to the full Board in 2019 due to a delay in the release of financial reporting information by the State of NJ.
2. **Capital Reserve/Capital Projects:** The Committee reviewed capital reserve funds, and received an update on recently completed projects: Striping on the PHS track and the addition of new PHS weight room equipment are complete. Permits are in process for the Grandview addition with anticipated completion by September 2019. The Committee discussed possible 2019-2020 Capital Projects.
3. **School Marquees:** Plans to construct new electronic marquees at all K-8 schools and the administration building are awaiting the issuance of permits and completion of electrical work. Plans for a new marquee at PHS have begun.
4. **Cash Management Policy:** The Committee reviewed and discussed Strauss Esmay’s Policy 6700 and the current district policy for cash management. Administration will present a recommended policy to the FP&O Committee for consideration prior to review by the Policy Committee.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, December 3, 2018 to review PHS Academies, Professional Development, new courses, and five-year Curriculum cycles.

1. **High School Academies:** The Committee reviewed Academies for 2019-2020 —Applications totaled 215, slightly higher than last year.
2. **November 6 Professional Development:** The Committee discussed the successful day focused on vertical and horizontal articulation.
3. **New Courses:** The Committee reviewed new courses for 2019-2020—Arabic; AP Economics; two thematic literature courses following a seminar format: Speculation and Science in Literature and Race and Gender in Literature; VPA course additions and reorganization; Dance 1, for students with previous dance training; Concert Choir for male and female singers; Bella Voce, honors level women’s choir; Chorale, honors level mixed choir.
4. **ELA:** The Committee reviewed overall curriculum guides as well as new programs recently introduced in ELA. Expository Writing is now an honors course taught by three PHS teachers; ELA Potential is launched at our middle schools; 4/5 Honors program began at Intermediate Schools; Readers and Writers Workshop is now piloted at the Kindergarten level.
5. **Social Studies:** The Committee reviewed the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum and DBQs (Document-Based Questions) used to teach and assess middle school students. New courses at PHS were often student-driven, including AP Politics and Government and the African American Experience. A Pre-Law and Justice Academy will be introduced in 2019-2020. The Committee discussed introducing more “practical civics” into our curricula.
6. **VPA:** The committee reviewed the districts' continued expansion into the arts, including increasing art offerings at PHS; stressing music theory and techniques at all grade levels; the wide array of extracurricular music activities; a dual focus on dance technique and choreography; a broadening of theater classes and partnerships with professional companies.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, December 6, 2018 to review and discuss policies and the transition to Strauss Esmay:

1. **Policy 6450:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the policy that expresses a preference for local vendors.
2. **Series 7000:** The committee considered all policies in this series, focusing on safety and security practices, protocols and reports, to ensure the administration was prepared to implement all aspects of these policies if adopted. The committee focused specific discussions on policies related to Gifts, Grants and Donations, Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises, and Recreational Use of Playgrounds.