



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

JANUARY 24, 2019

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, January 10, 2019, to review roles and responsibilities of the Committee, set the Committee's Annual Goals for 2019, and develop a timetable for the Committee's review of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual.

Committee Roles and Responsibilities: The Committee reviewed the current description of the Policy/Legislative Committee on the District's website and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Committee with a view towards updating the website description of the Committee's work. The Committee unanimously recommended that the current website description be revised to read as follows:

The Policy and Legislative Committee:

1. Continually reviews District Policies to ensure compliance with Federal and State Law and Regulations and recommends policy updates to the full Board as necessary to maintain compliance.
2. Reviews newly proposed policy language as requested by the Board and/or Administration and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding its adoption.
3. Solicits feedback from the Public to ensure that District Policies and Procedures are reflective of the desires of the Piscataway Community.
4. Monitors legislative developments impacting public education at the State, County, and Local levels and provides regular reports to the full Board on these developments, including recommendations for legislative advocacy where applicable.

Annual Goals: The Committee unanimously adopted the following Annual Goals for 2019:

1. Continue to ensure that District Policies are in compliance with applicable Laws and Regulations, promptly review newly proposed policy language as directed by the Board and/or Administration, and make

2. Monitor legislative developments impacting public education and our school community at the Federal, State, County, and Local levels and provide regular reports to the full Board on these developments, including recommendations for legislative advocacy where applicable.

3. Explore ways to increase Community feedback regarding District Policies and Procedures, and Community participation in the Committee's activities, and provide the Board with updates on the Committee's ideas and progress in this effort.

4. Complete the review of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual and have the newly revised Manual available online prior to the start of the 2019-2020 School Year.

5. Develop and implement a process whereby the Committee's Meeting Agendas can be made available to the public on the District's website prior to each Committee Meeting.

Strauss Esmay Policy Manual Review:

The Committee agreed upon the following timetable to complete its review of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual:

February 7: 6000 series (with the exception of 6450)
 March 7: 7000 series (7650 to end) and 8000 series
 April 4: 9000 series
 May 2: 0000 series
 June 6: Regulations

Legislative Update: The Committee discussed the recent New Jersey appellate court ruling striking down a regulation requiring PARCC tests as a graduation requirement, and Assembly Bill A1414 which would require financial literacy instruction for middle school students. The Committee inquired about the status of any pending legislation that would permit the sort of district child care programs recently ruled unlawful by the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Rubin advised that he would look into the matter and report back to the Committee.

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on January 15 to review the committee's mission, review projects currently underway, and begin discussion of future goals.

Culture, Climate & Community Relations Mission:

Promotes a partnership of healthy communication between our schools and our community. This committee will work in collaboration with representatives of the Piscataway Schools as well as community stakeholders to support, improve, promote and develop:

- (a) Support community awareness of educational opportunities;
- (b) Improve parent and community involvement within our schools.
- (c) Promote a culture of positive and healthy learning within our schools; and
- (d) Develop the physical climate of schools thereby boosting a climate of safety, morale, and pride.

1. Positive Reinforcement Bathroom Messages:

Quibbertown Principal William Gonzalez agreed to pilot this project, folding it into his previously planned "No Name-Calling Week" starting Jan 20. Students will create positive messages and a student-driven committee will select final quotes for the final bathroom messages. Plans are underway to unveil messaging in bathrooms in the sixth grade wing upon return from Spring Break

2. Stigma Free Resolution

The Stigma Free Resolution for Mental Health was passed in December.

The resolution was shared with building principals and communicated to all district staff.

3. Community Resources Brochure

The brochure outlining all community services provided by the District that fall outside academic requirements is completed and ready for distribution of hard copies at all schools, libraries and town hall. Website links are also up and running. Full distribution and publicity launch will take place during the week of January 28.

4. New Business:

Farmer's market research – the committee previously discussed the idea of having a farmers' market in Piscataway and how the committee could lead this initiative, using the parking lot at one of the schools as the site. The administration provided research on steps necessary to research and implement a community farmers' market for review. The committee agreed to explore partnering with the municipal government to move forward, and will continue to explore this project in 2019.