



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARCH 14, 2019

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, March 7, 2019, to review an update to the District's Policy 5330.04 "Administering an Opioid Antidote", to review the 7000 Series of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual, to continue discussion of a proposed resolution on climate change brought to the Committee by a member of the Community, and to review recent legislative developments of interest to the District.

1. **Review of Policy 5330.04 "Administering an Opioid Antidote":** The Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended for approval on first reading an update to Policy 5330.04., making an opioid antidote available in 9-12 schools during regular school hours and during school-sponsored functions in the school or on school grounds.
2. **Review of the 7000 Series of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual:** The Committee reviewed and approved the Strauss Esmay 7000 series with modifications, exceptions, or need for further review of policies related to School Closings, Supervision of Construction, Disposition of Property, Hygienic Management, Eye Protection, Security of School Premises, Property Inventory, and Use of School Facilities.
3. **Citizen's Climate Lobby Draft Resolution:** The Committee held further discussion of a draft resolution sent to the Committee by Sid Madison of the Citizen's Climate Lobby concerning the topic of climate change.
4. **Legislative Update:** The Committee was updated on the following legislation:
 - 1) The 2019-2020 State Budget call for increased School Aid
 - 2) Senate President Sweeney confirmed that S-2606 will not be posted in the Senate. The bill would have substantially altered Chapter 78's health care cost-sharing provisions
 - 3) The NJDOE agreed to a court-approved compromise that leaves current graduation testing rules in place for current high school seniors and juniors
 - 4) S-3330, a bill authorizing school districts to provide child care services at district facilities, has advanced out of committee.

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on February 19, 2019, to review the launch of the Community Services Brochure, the Positive Messages Program, the Farmers Market concept, and the Stigma Free Resolution.

1. **Community Services Resource Brochure:** The final Community Services Resources document was shared with the committee. Printed copies were distributed at all schools, township libraries and at Town Hall. In addition, the website portion is live and will be updated as needed. There is a public relations campaign underway on social media and through press releases and the Key Communicators will be mailed copies. This project is completed.
2. **Positive Reinforcement Bathroom Messages:** Quibbletown began creating positive messages in Sixth Grade restrooms during no Name Calling Week, beginning January 20. Students were invited to write positive messages on post-its and created a post-it rainbow. Staff will take appropriate messages from those written to place on bathroom doors. The Committee discussed other ways to celebrate and draw attention to this project– rainbow t-shirts – events, etc. More to be discussed in March. This project is ongoing.
3. **Farmers Market:** The committee further discussed how to bring a farmers' market to Piscataway, and how we might work with the municipal government to make it happen. Discussion revolved around starting small – bringing in 3-5 vendors and building from there. The committee agreed that the administration will decide the best course for reaching out to the Township. This project is ongoing.
4. **Stigma Free:** The committee discussed the Stigma Free resolution that was passed in December. There will be outreach through every school. The need to make the language accessible was discussed, as well as ways to raise awareness at each grade level through poster or essay contests. The Committee requested mental health services to be highlighted on the website. This project is ongoing.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on February 4, 2019 to review and discuss State Assessment changes and processes, Personal Finance Courses, K-12 Math Overview, and review an update on several Curriculum initiatives.

1. **State Assessments:** PARCC is now replaced with NJ Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in ELA, Math, Science, with NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLs). State testing window for Math and ELA is April 8 through May 28, with a reduction in the length and time of the tests. ELA testing time has been reduced 75-90 minutes. Math testing has been reduced by 60 minutes in K-5 and by 20 minutes per section in 6-12. Piscataway Township was randomly chosen to participate in a mandatory field test adding a third ELA section to all grades.
2. **Personal Finance:** This state-mandated course will be taught at the middle school level.
3. **Math K-12 Overview:** Kindergarten moves from Tools of the Mind to the Go Math program; Intermediate schools - Honors Program and Math Enrichment; Middle Schools - Math Potential and 6th Grade Accelerated Math Class; Two levels of 8th Grade Algebra; PHS: AP Computer Science Principles and App Development; Trigonometry and Precalculus and College Algebra for College Credits (at MCC); Algebra Lab for Support. Textbooks will be eliminated for some courses to cater our own course design.
4. **2018-2019 Curriculum Progress:** PHS Academies are going well and will include Pre-Law and Justice next year; Report card research continues, with a decision to change Grade 1-3 to one page with comments; college articulations — the administration continue to work with area colleges to offer dual-credit courses; Family Engagement continues as a focus.