



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

APRIL 11, 2019

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on March 13 and April 8, 2019, to discuss the 2019-2020 Budget, capital improvements, energy savings, and other projects:

1. **2019-2020 Budget:** The preliminary budget was submitted to the County for approval prior to final adoption by the full board on April 25, 2019. State Aid is expected to increase by \$1,063,533. The Business Office is reviewing health plan options for 2019-2020.
2. **Capital Projects:** Grandview Classroom addition is on target for August 2019 completion. Other work currently in process includes new entrance doors at five schools, pavement and concrete replacement at PHS, dropped ceiling installation at PHS, and a new roof on the transportation building. The Business Office and Facilities Department are currently planning summer maintenance projects.
3. **School Marquees:** Marquees are in place at all K-8 schools and awaiting town inspection prior to usage. PHS marquee planning and approval process is underway.
4. **Cenergistic Energy Savings:** The district has partnered with energy conservation company Cenergistic to explore and implement energy saving strategies.
5. **Transportation:** Subscription Bussing registration for Piscataway Schools students will open on May 1, 2019; the cost will remain at \$425. Planning for non-public school student transportation routes is underway for the 2019-2020 school year.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on April 1, 2019 to review and discuss the preschool Grant Status and Early Release and Option 2 at PHS:

1. **Preschool Expansion Grant:** This expanded grant for approximately three million dollars provides funding for 205 tuition free grant students. Additional positions through grant funding: master teacher, behaviorist, community parent involvement specialist. The community parent involvement specialist would support parents and families as a whole through such functions as home visits, healthcare, immunizations, pediatric visits, social services. The district is building a preschool referral intervention team that will include a school psychologist, behaviorist, and master teacher.
2. **Early Release and Option 2:** PHS will offer Early Release to high seniors in good standing and on track for graduation in 2019-2020. This will allow students to leave school early and work on their own on topics of individual interest. This also offers more underclassmen opportunities to take electives historically filled by seniors. Students taking Early Release must obtain parent consent, and permission from their school counselor and assistant principal.

In addition to the currently offered Senior Option that allows PHS seniors the opportunity to pursue independent study for credit, the high school will also allow juniors and seniors to use Option 2 as a substitute for a required or elective course. Option 2 allows students who take courses or partake in activities outside of school, to receive credit for those classes, lessons, or activities, in order to take additional higher level math, science, or ELA courses. For example, a varsity athlete could use Option 2 as a substitute for Physical Education, or a student who studies piano privately can use Option 2 for a Fine Arts requirement. These students must also be in good standing and obtain appropriate staff approval.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, April 4, 2019, to review the 8000 Series of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual and to review recent legislative developments of interest to the District.

1. Review of the 8000 Series of the Strauss Esmay Policy Manual:

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Strauss Esmay 8000 series, and then approved with the following modifications:

- The Committee agreed upon changes to the language of: Policies 5120 (to bring it into conformity with Policy 8110 (Assignment of Students)), 8130 (School Organization), 8130 (Public Records), 8454 (Management of Pediculosis), 8500 (Food Services), 8601 (Student Supervision After School Dismissal), 8651 (Community Use of Transportation), and 8810 (Religious Holidays).
- The Committee postponed action pending further Administrative review for Policies 8420 (Emergency and Crisis Situations), 8431 (Preparedness for Toxic Hazard), and 8468 (Crisis Response).
- The Committee recommended not adopting Strauss Esmay Policies 8635 (Student Transportation Vehicles and School Buses) and 8820 (Opening Exercises/ Ceremonies) as they are unnecessary given current District practice.

2. Legislative Update: The Committee was updated on legislation developments of interest to the District:

- 1. S-3330, a bill authorizing school districts to provide child care services at district facilities, has been approved by the full Senate. The bill could provide a legislative solution to a lawsuit currently being litigated challenging the right of the Evesham school district to provide daycare at district facilities.
- 2. S-3160, a bill that would establish a four-year pilot program in the N.J. Department of Education on later school start times for high school students, has advanced out of the Senate Education Committee. The program would implement later school start times for high school students in selected school districts and study the issues, benefits, and options for instituting a later start time to the school day. The NJ State Commissioner of Education would select five school districts from urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state to participate in the pilot program.