



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARCH 12, 2020

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on February 18, to discuss pending projects including positive messages at Conackamack, Black History Month messaging, Rutgers partnerships, and vision health awareness.

- 1. Positive Messaging at Conackamack:** School Administration is working with staff and Junior National Honor Society students to select messages and will begin adding the messages to school restrooms in early spring.
- 2. Black History Month Messaging:** The committee reviewed examples of messaging that appeared on all school marquees during Black History Month
- 3. Rutgers and Corporate Partnerships:** Administration continues to work with the Rutgers Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement to provide student volunteers for Education Foundation and school events. And has confirmed that Susan Robeson will appear at Piscataway READS to share her picture book about Paul Robeson. Updates for an October 2020 presentation on preventing hearing loss from local company Signia also took place.
- 4. Vision Services:** Administration reported on vision services currently available in the district. Discussion took place regarding May as Healthy Vision Month and conducting a used glasses drive at schools during that time to promote Vision 2020.

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on March 4, 2020 to review the 2020-2021 budget process, capital projects, and other ongoing projects.

- 1) 2020-2021 Budget:** The Business Office has prepared the preliminary budget that will be submitted to the County by March 20.
- 2) State Aid:** Piscataway received a \$1,562,896 increase in state aid, bringing total state aid for the 2020-2021 school year to \$22,200,458.
- 3) Capital Projects:** We have begun demolition work for stadium upgrades to be completed for Fall 2020. The PHS Family Consumer Science room upgrades will be put out to bid for completion in Fall 2020. The Business Office is preparing bid specifications for upgrades to the Middle School auditoriums and the PHS Performing Arts Center.
- 4) Five-Year Capital Project Plan:** The Business Office completed meetings with stakeholders in each building to gather input for a Five-Year Capital Project Plan for each building.
- 5) Local Government Energy Audit:** The Local Government Energy Audit determined that the district may be eligible for grant assistance for several energy conservation projects and should pursue the next steps in an Energy Savings Improvement Program.
- 6) Summer Maintenance Projects:** The Business Office is creating a list of maintenance projects to be completed at each school in Summer 2020.
- 7) Food Services:** The committee discussed renewal options in a fixed price contract, and the impact of PHS lunch periods with scheduling changes in the 2020-2021 school year.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy Committee met on March 5 to review the COVID-19 response plan, Policy 5512 "Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying," and the recent Paul's Law statute.

- 1. COVID-19 Response Plan:** Mr. Rubin briefed the Committee on the district's coronavirus response plan, highlighting the Superintendent's formation of a crisis team to make decisions quickly and communicate developments to the school community.
- 2. Policy 5512, Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying:** The Committee reviewed Policy 5512, "Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying." (HIB) Mr. Rubin explained the definition of HIB, the Policy's reporting and investigation procedures, parents' appeal rights, the Policy's anti-retaliation provisions, annual school and district report cards, and other pertinent features of the Policy. The Committee agreed that the Policy is adequate in its present form.
- 3. Paul's Law:** The committee reviewed the statute, "Paul's Law," effective this past January, requiring districts to implement seizure plans for students, finding that the district complies with everything the new law requires.