



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAY 14, 2020

## Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

***The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on May 6, 2020 to review State Aid, Capital Projects, and other ongoing projects.***

1. **2020 - 2021 Budget:** The 2020-2021 budget was approved and adopted to begin July 1.
2. **SFRA S2 Piscataway State Aid:** With the state's fiscal year extended to September 30, we are awaiting further information regarding the distribution of State Aid for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. **COVID-19 Related Legislation:** The Committee reviewed the following legislation:
  - A3904/S2337 Virtual or Remote Instruction permits the use of virtual or remote instruction to meet the minimum 180-day school year requirement, and requires school districts to continue to pay the salaries and benefits of union, non-union, and third party service workers during states of emergency. The District is currently negotiating its payment to Layla Transportation.
  - A3902 Delay of Tax Payments would allow municipalities to delay tax payments to school districts during an emergency. The Business Administrator is in communication with the Township's Finance Director regarding cash flows.
  - S2350 Benefits and Leave Provided to Workers makes school employees eligible for the Federal CARES Act H.R 748 Section 2104. This increases unemployment compensation by \$600 per week over an individual's base amount for four months.
  - S2273 NJ Educators Health Insurance Legislation would establish new medical plan options for employees at all school districts and would have a significant impact on our self-insured medical plans. The new plans would be subject to revised employee contributions that are less than Chapter 78 contributions.
4. **Facility Capital Projects:** Stadium upgrades are on target to be completed for Fall 2020. Bids for the PHS and Middle School Auditoriums/PHS Family Consumer Science Room upgrades will be accepted on May 12. Other projects under consideration include Piscataway High School Vocal Music room HVAC upgrades, an ADA compliant entry ramp at Arbor, and miscellaneous concrete/ paving projects.

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5. **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. The District is reviewing requirements for the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act and plans to apply for a grant to include Alyssa's Law upgrades.
6. **Summer Maintenance Projects:** The Maintenance Department will begin working on summer projects early with schools closed for the remainder of the year.
7. **Environmental Remediation:** The Business Office will contract with our environmental engineer and Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LRSP) to conduct ground water testing for two sites at the Ethel Road property and ensuing remediation.
8. **Cenergistic Energy Savings:** Cenergistic, an energy conservation company contracted with the District, will provide an update on the first year of energy savings across the District for the next Committee meeting.
9. **Professional Services:** The Business Office put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Bond Counsel.
10. **403b Plan Adjustments:** The Business Office updated the District's 403(b) plan document for compliance with IRS requirements and added account options for employees.
11. **Transportation Updates:** The Committee approved renewing Layla Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year. A full board vote is expected in June. Subscription busing is now open, with prices kept constant at \$425. Transportation is working on nonpublic transportation requirements for 2020-2021.
12. **Food Services:** Sodexo prepares meals in our High School kitchen and they are bused to 13 school district locations for distribution from 9:30 to 11:30 am Monday through Friday. The free meals are available to all families in Piscataway
13. **Business Office:** The Business Office would like to offer two internships to PHS students this summer if the office reopens.

## Policy/Legislative Committee

*The Policy Committee met on May 7 to review several policies and proposed policies, as well as legislative updates.*

1. **The transition to the Strauss Esmay Board Policy Manual** is nearly complete, and is expected to be posted on the district website within a week.

2. **The Committee reviewed the following policies:**

• **Policy 5330, Administration of Medication**, updating the medications that could be administered at school. The Policy revision was approved for presentation to the Board. In additional discussion, Mr. Rubin advised that the district would be guided by directives from local and State public health officials regarding social distancing and other protective measures when school reopens.

• **Policies 3421.13 and 4421.13, Postnatal Accommodations** (Teaching Staff Members) and (Support Staff Members), implementing state and federal legal requirements for accommodating breastfeeding mothers who have returned to work.

• **Proposed Policy 8462, Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children**. The Policy was approved and will be presented to the full Board.

• **Proposed Policy 7243, Supervision of Construction**, was removed from the agenda for further consideration by the Administration and Mr. Rubin before presentation to the Committee.

3. Mr. Rubin alerted the Committee to several of the more prominent legislative developments in recent weeks, including the enactment of A1104, the Hunger Free Students Bill of Rights Act addressing overdue meal charge accounts, and A3809 requiring certain payments to contracted service providers during the school shutdown, as well as the Governor's veto of A3842 providing for a Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program due to cost concerns.