



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNE 11, 2020

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on June 1, 2020 to review remote learning and support, summer instructional offerings, state mandates, and other ongoing projects.

1. **Remote Learning:** The Committee reviewed platforms used to deliver remote instruction and discussed alternate platforms, mental health and wellness for students and staff, and concerns for special needs students.
2. **Summer Instructional offerings:** Piscataway Community Education will offer Jump Ahead Academic Instruction and Enrichment, as well as the AP Summer Institute, in a virtual format this summer. The District will also offer a Virtual Help Desk for K-8 ELA and Math, staffed by District teachers and a Summer Virtual ELL Institute.
3. **Summer Professional Development:** The District will offer a Teacher Academy for Grade 3 literacy teachers in Foundations, a word/phonics/vocabulary program currently used across the District in grades K-2.
4. **QSAC Mandates:** Dr. Baskerville reviewed mandates for 2020-2021 and how the District will address them in the areas of curriculum, mental health, and social-emotional learning.
5. **NJDOE VPPA Standards:** The District is well-prepared for new standards to be issued in the coming months.
6. **Summer Curriculum Writing:** Curriculum review and revision continues to take place on a five-year schedule. Final planning will take place for new courses at PHS, including Music in Literature, English 2 Honors Law and Justice Academy, and US History 1 Law and Justice Academy, Musical Theater, ROTC Aviation Honors, and American Sign Language.
7. **Future Topics:** The Committee discussed possible areas for future focus.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on June 4, 2020 to review and discuss a number of policies, regulations, and laws:

1. **Policy 5330, Administration of Medication:** This will be considered by the Board of Education for first reading.
2. **Policies 3421.13 and 4421.13, Postnatal Accommodations:** The Committee approved the policies as presented with additional language obligating staff to be personally responsible for storage arrangements.
3. **New Regulations:** The Committee reviewed a recent regulation by the U.S. Department of Education updating school districts' responsibilities under Title IX concerning sexual harassment. The new regulation makes significant changes to prior law regarding sexual harassment, reporting responsibilities, the duties of Title IX Coordinators, investigations, hearings and other matters that will require revisions to our existing Policy and Regulation 5751.
4. **Furloughs for Public Employees:** The Committee reviewed a bill awaiting action by Governor Murphy, that would allow for furloughs of public employees in order to take advantage of federal unemployment compensation benefits.

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on June 10, 2020 to review COVID-19 related legislation, 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 final information regarding the distribution of State Aid for the 2020-2021 school year, but the Governor's initial estimate is for a \$1.1 million decrease.
3. **COVID-19 Related Legislation:** The Committee reviewed the following legislation:
 - A3969/S2932 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.
 - A4175 Bill authorizing the State to sell up to \$5 billion in bonds and borrow up to \$9 billion from the federal government.
 - 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. NJEA continues to actively promote the plan.
4. **Facility Capital Projects:** Stadium upgrades are on target to be completed for fall 2020. A contract was awarded for the PHS and Middle School Auditoriums/PHS Family Consumer Science Room upgrades. 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 .
5. **Summer Maintenance Projects:** With schools closed, the Maintenance Department and some outside contractors began working on summer projects early.
6. **Cenergistic Energy Savings:** Cenergistic, an energy conservation company contracted with the District, provided an update on the first year of energy savings across the district, and suggestions to increase savings moving forward.

7. **Energy Savings Improvement Program:** The District has issued a request for proposals to implement the energy savings projects identified in the Local Government Energy Audit.
8. **Transportation Updates:** The Committee approved renewing Layla Transportation for the 2020-2021 school year and proposed contract settlement terms for the 2019-2020 school year. Subscription busing is now open, with prices kept constant at \$425. The Transportation Dept. is working on nonpublic transportation payments for 2019-2020.
9. **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. Meal distribution will continue throughout the summer, twice each week at five pick-up locations across the District. The Committee approved the recommendation to renew our agreements with Sodexo.
10. **Cyber Security:** The consultant is completing their work on the implementation of patches, policy/regulation updates, and procedural recommendations.
11. **Professional Services:** The Business Office recommended acceptance of a proposal for Bond Counsel from Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer to be approved at the June 11 Board meeting.
12. **Annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit:** PKF O'Connor Davies Accountants and Advisors will begin interim audit procedures soon.
13. **Wellness Week:** Virtual classes in meditation, yoga, and meal preparation are taking place this week online for all staff.