



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

DECEMBER 10, 2020

## Culture, Climate & Community Relations

## Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

*The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, to review and strengthen Committee goals, and steps taken toward goal completion.*

*The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, to review budget adjustments, capital projects, and other ongoing projects.*

- 1. Positive Messaging:** With positive messaging signage continuing in Quibbletown and Conackamack Schools, Schor will begin the process of adding additional signage in hallways and bathrooms. All K-12 schools will again focus on positive marquee messaging during Black History Month; the Committee suggested Women's History Month should be the next focus. A Social Media Template contest for K-12 students will showcase winning artwork online, announcing positive district messages.
- 2. Community Partnerships:** Working with the Office of Community Education, the K-12 pumpkin painting contest was a big success. The committee discussed ways to broaden the scope of these contests to attract a larger number of students. Further discussion revolved around establishing a process for student feedback for introducing Spring activities.
- 3. Wellness and Physical Health:** The committee discussed students' social and emotional needs during remote learning, and how the district can ensure that families are aware of district mental health resources. The district has made resources available online, and linked to The Haven's resources, including information from its virtual Parent Workshop focusing on handling stress during the pandemic. All mental health and wellness resources will be updated in the School Community Resources brochure. Further suggestions included adding an online suggested wellness library. A Vision for 2020, focus on vision health, will be revisited as we return to hybrid learning.

- 1. 2019-2020 Audit:** Legislation extending the audit report deadline to Feb. 5, 2021 is pending the Governor's signature. The District's audit report will be completed in January.
- 2. Reserve Accounts:** Mr. Oliveira recommended depositing \$8 million into capital reserve and \$1 million into maintenance reserve.
- 3. 2021-2022 Budget:** 2021-2022 school and department budgets are due to the Business Office on Dec. 4.
- 4. Facility Capital Projects:** Stadium upgrades are completed. PHS and Middle School Auditoriums/PHS Family Consumer Science Room upgrades are substantially complete, pending some punch list tasks. Piscataway High School Vocal Music Room HVAC upgrades are progressing with completion expected in December. The District will open bids for the installation of new generators at four schools on January 7, 2021.
- 6. Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) Update:** RFP responses for a Solar Power Purchase Agreement were received and a recommendation will be made to the full Board at the December 10 meeting.
- 7. Business Office:** Mr. Oliveira reviewed plans for the Early Childhood Learning Center Preschool Expansion, expected to open in September 2021.

## Policy/Legislative Committee

## Curriculum Committee

*The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, December 3, 2020, to review Bylaws and pending legislation.*

- 1. Bylaw 0155.1, Electronic Meeting Participation at In-Person Meetings:** This Bylaw will be submitted to the Board for First Reading, subject to revision to assure that Board members participating remotely adhere to the same standards of privacy and security required by proposed Bylaw 0164.6 for remote meetings generally.
- 2. Bylaw 0164.6, Remote Board Meetings During Declared Public Emergency:** Establishing procedures to assure adequate notice to, and participation by, the public at remote meetings. The Committee tabled further discussion until a future meeting to afford the Administration additional opportunity to give their input.
- 3. Bylaw 0145, Board Member Resignation and Removal:** The Committee considered revisions to define what constitutes "attendance" at Board meetings and "good cause" for missing them. Committee members opted for a more subjective standard to reflect meaningful participation and directed Mr. Rubin to circulate a further revision for consideration at the next meeting.
- 4. Legislation:** Mr. Rubin alerted the Committee to two bills pending the Legislature: A4544, permitting retired nurses to return to employment during the pandemic without having to re-enroll in the pension system, and A4357, allowing special education and bilingual education students to repeat a grade level during the pandemic.

*The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, December 7, 2020 to discuss Black History Month, QSAC, aspects of remote learning, professional development, and other topics.*

- 1. Black History Month:** Community members presented a program to the committee for discussion.
- 2. QSAC DPR:** Piscataway is scheduled for a QSAC visit. All information must be submitted by December 15.
- 3. Zoom Breakout Rooms:** These have begun in K-3 with good results.
- 4. Adjusted School Day:** The committee discussed the new schedule and how it impacts individual grade levels.
- 5. Professional Development:** The district is reviewing potential outside vendors for additional professional development.
- 6. Parent Workshops:** Zoom Parent Workshops offering assistance with different technologies used in the district were successful and are still available online. Dr. Connelly is considering additional parent workshops focused on social emotional learning.
- 7. District Curricular Resources:** All curricular resources will be posted on the district website. We are working in partnership with Rutgers for a virtual college tour and lecture opportunities.
- 8. PSAT, ACT, AP:** The district is considering options for testing and testing support.
- 9. Curriculum Guide Planning:** The Committee reviewed courses to be adjusted: Introduction to Organic Chemistry; Conceptual Physics; Conceptual Chemistry; Research in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics; AP Environmental Science; AP Physics C: Mechanics; Spanish 2 Honors; Spanish 3 Honors; Spanish 4 Honors; ASL-2.