



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, to review goals and projects for 2021-2022, including continuing positive messaging, community partnerships, and wellness.

1. **Positive Messaging:** The Committee reviewed marquee messaging across the District; discussed parameters for the social media contest to launch in December; and discussed a District-wide market presentation that stresses college placement for graduating seniors.
2. **Community Partnerships:** Mrs. Pongratz reported on the relationship between Rutgers and Piscataway Schools, with a focus on the work currently underway with Rutgers Business School students to mentor next year's PHS Business Academy; a visit to PHS from Rutgers' Minority Engineering Educational Task and the National Society of Black Engineers for a hands-on group activity for sixty PHS students interested in exploring engineering in college; and the work undertaken by Dr. Gray and the Rutgers D.I.C.E. to explore grant opportunities.
3. **Wellness:** The Committee reviewed plans for "Wellness Wednesdays" videos to be produced by PHS students with oversight from our counseling and health departments, and shared District-wide.
4. **New Business:** The Committee discussed and requested further exploration of creating a Women's Engineering Fair with our Engineering Academy students. Mrs. Pongratz will review this request with Dr. Baskerville to determine the best avenue of support.

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, to review the 2020-2021 audit status, the 2022-2023 Budget, the Energy Savings Improvement Program, NJ Clean Energy Program Grants, and Business Office updates.

1. **2020-2021 Audit:** The 2020-2021 audit report is being finalized in accordance with the new filing deadlines. PKF O'Connor Davies will present the audit to the Committee at the January meeting. Mr. Oliveira recommended moving \$6-8 million into capital reserve and \$3 million into maintenance reserve. The committee discussed the increase in Excess Surplus from 2% - 4% as per S2691.
2. **2022-2023 Budget:** School and department budget submissions were due to the Business Office by Dec. 3, 2021, with budget meetings taking place in December and January. Health benefit expenses are trending 14% above budget and may require a significant increase in that budget line for 2022-2023. The committee discussed the use of the District's \$1.7 million banked cap in preparing the 2022-2023 budget.
3. **Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) Update:** Solar panels were loaded on the Schor roof in November and are now being loaded onto the Grandview roof. Honeywell Projects: Bid documents were released for ECM 1&6 – Lighting and Electrical, ECM 4 – Building Envelope, and ECM 10 – Water Conservation. The Pre-bid walkthrough meeting was scheduled for December 2, 2021 and bid opening will be December 22, 2021.
4. **NJ Clean Energy Program Grants:** Mr. Oliveira discussed the two School and Small Business Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair Program Grants and the School and Small Business Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance Program Grant. Some restrictive implementation rules may inhibit an application, but the District is seeking additional information and may request approval for submission for one of the grants as soon as the next Board meeting.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Thursday, December 2, to discuss Policy 2425, Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program and Policy 5751, Sexual Harassment of Students, as well as Legislative Updates.

- 1. Policy 2425, Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program.** Mr. Rubin explained that this policy was intended to implement the State's directive to resume full-time in-person instruction for 2021-2022, to rescind the "remote only" option available last school year, and to provide a limited exception if students must quarantine for COVID-19-related reasons. The Committee discussed the policy and approved its placement on the Board of Education agenda for First Reading.
- 2. Policy 5751, Sexual Harassment of Students:** Mr. Rubin explained that the regulations in this update puts in place a complicated, multi-step process for handling reports of sexual harassment, revises the definition of sexual harassment, and requires additional training and reporting obligations for staff. Following discussion, the Committee approved this policy as well for placement on the Board of Education agenda for First Reading.
- 3. Legislative Update:** Mr. Rubin reported on Mallory's Bill, a statute named after a student in the Rockaway School District who took her own life after being relentlessly bullied by her schoolmates. The bill is moving rapidly through the Legislature and, if enacted, would increase the consequences for HIB, and even hold parents liable in some circumstances if they knowingly allow their children to engage in this behavior.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, December 6, 2021, to discuss the Start Strong Assessments, PHS Academies, English Language Learners, and Curriculum Areas.

- 1. Start Strong Assessment:** Dr. Baskerville reviewed data from the Start Strong Assessments, which provides baseline data from the previous year's State standards. Questions on the assessment are being analyzed in order to directly inform curriculum. Parents will be notified with Individual Score Reports.
- 2. PHS Academies:** Theresa Edmondson reviewed the application process and enrollment for the Academies. All students are able to apply to participate in an Academy.
- 3. English Language Learners:** Glennysa Jurado-Moran reviewed ELLs in Piscataway, including testing for proficiency to move from the program. There are 525 ELLs as of December 2021.
- 4. Visual and Performing Arts:** Rebekah Sterlacci reviewed ensembles, and offered information about the student art installation at the Administration Building, the PHS Fall Play, Puffs, and the VPA Book Club.
- 5. Curriculum Guide Review:** Frank Wrublevski presented the Mathematics curricula: Computer Science 8 (Addition), Computer Science Discoveries (Addition), Precalculus (Modification), Honors Precalculus (Modification); Jessica Pritchard presented the Science curriculum: Marine Biology (Addition); Glennysa Jurado-Moran presented the World Language curricula: American Sign Language 3 (Addition), Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 (Modification), Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2 (Modification).
- 6. Textbook Adoption:** Science: *Human Anatomy I for the Health Sciences* and *Human Anatomy II for the Health Sciences*. These textbooks are for Dual Enrollment courses via Rutgers and are required college level texts.