



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

APRIL 14, 2022

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 to review Food Services and Facility Capital Projects, and to receive updates on the 2022-2023 Budget, the Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), and other pending matters.

- 1. 2022-2023 Budget:** Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee that the County has approved the 2022-2023 budget, with budget book and final presentation planned for April 28.
- 2. Facility Capital Projects:**
 - ⇒ Generators – Concrete pads have been poured and inspected. Interior installation work has begun.
 - ⇒ RTU Replacement— Knollwood and Randolphville ventilators are scheduled for summer installation. Roof-top units will ship in late August.
 - ⇒ Paving – Bid documents will be released on April 14, with a walkthrough on April 21 and bid opening on May 10, 2022.
- 3. ESIP Update:**
 - ⇒ Solar PPA – Supply-chain issues have caused further delays in solar panel installation at Arbor, Eisenhower, and MLK . EZenergy is still hopeful of activating the solar panels at the Administration Building, Grandview, Knollwood, PHS, and Schor during Spring Break. The District is awaiting the quote and scheduling information for a roof coating at Quibbletown School that would extend the roof warranty and accommodate solar panels. Mr. Oliveira spoke to the BPU about extending the TREC deadlines to account for supply-chain issues and COVID staffing issues. The BPU recommended that extension requests be filed in late May if still necessary.
 - ⇒ Honeywell Projects – LED lighting replacements are ongoing during the evening shift and will continue during Spring Break. Building envelope improvements are complete and will be inspected over the next few weeks. Schor and MLK roof-top unit HVAC equipment is on order with delivery expected in the late summer. Preliminary work has begun on the mechanical upgrades, building management system, and cogeneration ECMs that were awarded in late March.

- 4. Food Services Update:** Mr. Oliveira summarized results of scratch cooking and vegetarian meals rolled out in March at PHS and the middle schools. Also discussed was feedback from the PHS student advisory council, Sodexo’s progress towards full staffing, and new equipment for the kitchens. Mr. Oliveira recommended that the vended meals contract with Academy for Urban Leadership not be renewed for 2022-2023 to allow Sodexo to focus on Piscataway’s operation. The financial contribution to the District will be minimal this year, less than \$20,000. The Committee supported the recommendation.
- 5. NJ School Business Legislative Update:** Mr. Oliveira discussed his meeting with Senator Gopal and the feedback that NJASBO provided to him on various bills that affect education. Dr. Connors discussed other relevant bills and the District’s future consideration of school start times.
- 6. Business Office Update:**
 - ⇒ Ethel Road DEP remediation - Mr. Oliveira discussed the ongoing monitoring being managed by Whitman and the Administrative Consent Order that will be on the Board meeting agenda for approval.
 - ⇒ Investment policy – Mr. Oliveira briefed the Committee on updates being prepared to the Investment policy that will allow alternative investments with potentially greater returns within the framework of very conservative NJ laws.
 - ⇒ NJSIG safety grant – Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee about the 2022 safety grant award and the intended use of the funds.
 - ⇒ Govdeals – Mr. Oliveira reported on the successful sales of 3 buses netting the District about \$16,000.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, April 4, 2022 to review state assessments and efforts toward Diversifying Our Narrative, Read Across Piscataway, a mathematics Update, and a partnership with the Metlar Bodine House Museum.

- 1. State Assessments:** Dr. Baskerville discussed the completed NJGPA, ACCESS testing for ELL students, DLM, and NJSLA that will start when we return from Spring Break. All submitted portfolio appeals have been accepted.
- 2. Diversifying Our Narrative (Nationwide Organization):** PHS English Department Chair Scott Hood, along with two PHS students, explained creating curricula to address diversity through instructional choices and course readings, what makes an inclusive curriculum, what is already in place, why a diverse curriculum is necessary, how to create a better curriculum, and their preliminary book list. Students also presented to the high school English department. Mr. Hood followed with the next steps for the group and the department.
- 3. Read Across Piscataway:** Janine Albanese shared the focus of this program that invites community members during the week of April 1, to share a read aloud, a personal story, a poem, an excerpt, etc. There are 25 guest speakers including the local soccer club, the library, Rutgers students, and workers from Piscataway stores.
- 4. Metlar Bodine House Museum - Our Plan is Revolutionary:** Stephanie Dunlap met with the executive director of the museum to determine ways for Piscataway students to learn and benefit from the museum offerings. School tours will begin in 2023, an activity book is being developed, and internships are being explored. Students can also apply to be a tour guide.

- 5. Mathematics Update:** Rebecca Dayton and Frank Wrublevski presented the focus of mathematics instruction across the grade levels in Piscataway. The presentation also included data that shows growth, contest winners, and our students working together again.