



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNE 9, 2022

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, to review goals and projects for 2021-2022, including positive messaging, community partnerships, and wellness.

1. **Positive Messaging:** The Committee reviewed marquee messaging across the District for April as the month of HOPE , (Helping Others Practice Empowerment), and noted that June messaging will be for Piscataway Pride. The Committee then reviewed final brochures created to market the District to potential employees, as well as to new and potential homeowners. Committee members made marketing suggestions for launching the pieces.
2. **Community Partnerships:** The committee reviewed the ongoing relationships with Rutgers University and received an update from Ms. Pongratz as to work completed throughout the year and to anticipated partnerships to begin in 2022-2023. Ms. Palermo reviewed upcoming work at Schor School with Jersey Cares.
3. **Wellness:** The Committee reviewed student videos for “Wellness Wednesdays” now incorporated onto the District website and supported this effort to continue in 2022-2023. The committee also reviewed a flyer and publicity plans for an upcoming parent workshop developed by The Haven.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, June 1, to review policies about HIB, Facilities Maintenance, Procurement, and more.

1. **First Reading:** The Committee discussed and approved the following policies for placement on the Board of Education agenda for First Reading. All of these policies were updates to existing policies to align with current legal requirements and terminology.
 - Policies 3161 and 4161 (Examination for Cause)
 - Policy 5512 (Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying)
 - Policy 7410 (Facilities Maintenance, Repair Scheduling and Accounting) and a related regulation, 8420 (Emergency and Crisis Situations)
 - Policy 8561 (Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs)
 - Policy 9320 (Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies) and a related regulation
2. **First Reading Pending Revisions:** The Committee preapproved the following additional policies for First Reading subject to completions and revisions to be determined by the Administration:
 - Policies 2415.04 (Title I District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement)
 - Policy 2415.50 (Title I School Parent and Family Engagement)
 - Policy 2417 (Student Intervention and Referral Services). The Committee discussed the possible need for additional language
 - Policy 2416.01 ("Postnatal Accommodations for Student") The Committee requested additional input from the Administration

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, June 6, 2022 to review Counseling programs, ELL, Health/PE Updates, Collaborations, Tutoring and Summer Programs, and more.

- 1. PHS Counseling Department:** Ms. Edmondson reviewed the May 1 PHS What's Next Celebration, held in collaboration with the Freshman Seminar program to celebrate next steps for all students and to further their knowledge of job and educational opportunities beyond high school. This includes trade opportunities introduced to students at the construction industry event held at the NJ Expo Center. The guidance department will also start a parent advisory committee to discuss FAFSA and other financial aid opportunities.
- 2. Desmond Dunham (Author):** Mr. Dunham presented *Running Against the Odds*, a book about Seeing the Bigger Picture, Coaching, and Finding Purpose.
- 3. Hidden Gems Literary Emporium/Above Art Studios:** Kaila Boulware introduced the committee to Hidden Gems Literary Emporium, a non-profit community-owned bookstore located in New Brunswick and their book events that include motivational speaker, Brad Butler II. Will Charles and Donte Pierce discussed the importance of art and art education and how it is essential to social and emotional learning.
- 4. STEM Collaboration:** Mr. Patel introduced innovations that originated in New Jersey. The Committee discussed how to build the Computer Science and Robotics areas, including extra-curricular opportunities at the middle schools, and community partnerships.
- 5. ELL: Ms. Glennysa Jurado-Moran** provided an overview of the ELL institute, including leveled classes, ELL classes, and ELL push-in support for core content classes. ELL Institute also offers parent classes and holds parent nights two or three times a year to provide information about programs and scholarship opportunities.
- 6. Metlar Bodine House Museum:** Ms. Dunlap provided an update to the Metlar Bodine House partnership. Ms. Dunlap and Mr. Irovando are planning a short documentary to promote the museum and will offer students internships to help create the film. Mr. Irovando also updated the Committee as to improvements in the PHS TV/Radio Program.
- 7. Curriculum Updates:** Mr. Irovando provided an update on curriculum rewrites for Digital Literacy/Media Tech K-8 that aligns to the 2020 standards. All five TV/Radio courses will have their five-year curriculum revision this summer, aligning to the Tech/CTE standards. K-3 Social Studies will be updated to the 2020 standards and continue to highlight API/AMISTAD/Holocaust lesson. Grades 6-8, there will be aligned to the 2020 standards and include Grade 6 Civics.
- 8. Health/P.E. Updates:** Dr. Baskerville presented the required Comprehensive Health and PE Standards, and outlined the core ideas regarding social and sexual health that should be understood by the end of Grades 2, 5, and 8, along with how the district plans to implement these lessons next school year. Parents will receive the exact language that will be used, and dates and times these lessons will be taught. Parents will also have the right to opt out their students from the lessons. The curriculum updates will be submitted to the board for approval.
- 9. District Learning Acceleration Plan/Tutorial Programs:** Dr. Baskerville explained the completion of the District Learning Acceleration Plan, which includes local and state testing data, and explained how the plan will be used for the upcoming year. Data will travel with students from school year to school year via LinkIt so teachers can see student progress. Portions of the plan are already in use in tutorial programs as well as classroom instruction.
- 10. Summer Programs:** Dr. Baskerville presented a flier to promote the summer programs Jump Ahead, AP Institutes, and credit recovery. He reminded the committee that the AP institutes are not created to give students an advantage, but rather to preview the course.