



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9, 2023

Fiscal Planning and Operations

The Fiscal Planning and Operations Committee met on March 1, 2023, to discuss the 2021-22 audit, the 2023-24 budget, capital projects, the Energy Savings Improvement Program, and more

2021-2022 Audit

- Dave Gannon from PKF O'Connor Davies reviewed the draft audit report with the Committee. Mr. Gannon noted the financial performance of the district and that there were no audit findings. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report will be filed by March 17 and the audit report presented to the Board April 6.

2023-2024 Budget

- The Committee discussed the release of state aid on March 2 and the tentative budget presentation on March 9. Budget changes include probable increase in state aid, overall staff reductions, increase in ELL and special education staff, potential decrease in health-care cost, and transportation adjustments.

Facility Capital Projects

- HVAC Upgrades #1 – Casework was installed in two classrooms at Knollwood over President's Day weekend.
- Generator Replacement Project – Generators are in place and gas lines are being connected.
- NJSDA ROD Grants – Approval of submission of documentation for ADA restroom upgrades in the K-8 schools is on the March 9 Board agenda.
- 5-year Capital Project Plan – Mr. Oliveira discussed the progress of the plan over three years. An updated plan prioritizes door hardware and restroom upgrades.

Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP)

- Honeywell Projects –Transformer replacements and Siemens building management system upgrades are ongoing. Seven transformers await installation. Additional roof-top unit deliveries are expected in March. The PHS window replacement project was awarded.

Transportation

- The Committee reviewed subscription bus rates for other districts. The Committee supported a fee increase to \$500, the first increase since 2016-17.

Food Services

- Mr. Oliveira discussed the large negative balance that has accrued in the food service account and the limitations in adjusting that balance. The Committee supported issuing letters in an attempt to collect funds.

New Jersey School Business Legislative

- Dr. Connors mentioned the legislative focus on school meals obligations, including Bill S530.

Business Office

- The Committee reviewed the available cash balance for investment and current interest rates, and approved an investment in the NJ/ARM account.

Policy & Legislative

The Policy and Legislative Committee met on March 2, 2023, to discuss pending legislation and a proposed resolution on fossil fuel use.

The Committee discussed a proposed resolution calling on State officials to reduce and eventually eliminate dependency on fossil fuels. Mr. Rubin will forward a proposed resolution to the Superintendent to be placed on a future Board agenda.

Mr. Rubin briefed the Committee on pending legislation:

- S3554, which would require districts to follow specific procedures when removing students from school pending a psychiatric clearance.
- S-2151, which would entitle students to five excused absences per year for mental health or behavioral needs.
- S-3330, which would require the State Board of Education to adopt Student Learning Standards pertaining to dealing with grief.