



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORT

March 14, 2024

Fiscal Planning & Operations

The Fiscal Planning and Operations Committee met on March 11, 2024, to discuss the 2024-25 budget, capital projects, food services, and more.

2024-2025 Budget

- The Committee reviewed the 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget-Draft Information. Mr. Oliveira discussed state aid, use of fund balance, tax levy, banked cap, and significant expense categories. The Committee supported the administration's recommendation to increase the tax levy 1% for 2024-2025, with the unused allowable tax levy accumulating as banked cap.

Facility Capital Projects

- PHS Wood Shop Dust Collection – Seven contractors have requested the bid specifications, which were released February 13. Bid opening will be March 12 with a bid award recommendation expected to be added to the March 14 Board agenda.
- Paving Projects – The civil engineer is preparing specifications for the PHS Patton bus loop. A resolution authorizing the submission of projects at Arbor, Grandview, and PHS is on the March 14 Board agenda.
- Door Hardware Upgrades – Projected cost of the project increased due to inflation and more doors than expected needing to be replaced. The Committee reviewed the current Capital Reserve balance along with a list of other potential projects.
- Other Projects – District administration continues to assess long-range plans and costs for the Eisenhower Addition, Admin Building remodel, K-8 bathroom remodels, door replacements, and window coverings.
- Acoustical Evaluations – Acoustical testing in the PHS Anthony Gym and Admin Building multi-purpose room is scheduled for Spring Break.
- PHS Media Center – A design meeting with administration and Spiegle Architectural Group is scheduled for March 19.

Transportation

- The Committee agreed to keep the subscription busing rate at \$500 for the second consecutive year.

Food Services

- Nine companies have requested the Request for Propos-

als (RFP), which was released on March 6. Proposals are due March 27. An evaluation committee consisting of district staff, a Board member, student, and parent will evaluate the proposals and recommend a Food Service Management Company to the Board for the May 9 meeting.

- Sodexo transitioned to a new menu platform, Nutrilice. Menus are available on the website and through an app. Parents can select "favorite" schools to customize the app and all menus are available in 50+ languages. The District updated its website and notified the school community about Nutrilice.

NJ School Business Legislative Update

- Dr. Connors updated the Committee on recent legislation discussion at the NJSBA meeting.

Business Office

- Investment Account – The Committee reviewed the current balance on the February 2024 NJARM statement and current interest rates. All funds remain in the Joint account because it is currently yielding more than the long-term investment options. The Committee discussed options for future investments.
- Upcoming RFPs and Bids – Bids and RFPs coming up this Spring include Substitute Services, Educational Staffing, Garbage Collection, and Food Service Lines (Grandview, Quibbletown). The copier lease expires in Nov./Dec. 2024.
- Wellness Committee – The Pway Step Challenge is ongoing during March 2024. Staff with the most steps within their school will receive prizes donated by Gallagher and Meritain. The 12-month wellness visit challenge closed February 29. Staff members that had a well-visit during this time will be entered in a raffle for an additional personal day off.

Policy/Legislative

The Policy / Legislative Committee met on March 6, 2024, to discuss updates to various policies and recent legislative developments.

Policies

The Committee discussed updates to numerous policies and regulations reflecting recent changes to the Administrative Code regarding comprehensive equity plans and equal access to educational services. In particular, the State Board of Education expanded the list of protected categories.

The following policies and regulations were approved for consideration by the Board on First Reading:

- Abolition of current Policy 5755 ("Equity in Educational Programs and Services") as unnecessary because it has been absorbed into other policies.

- Update to Policy 5570 ("Sportsmanship") to align with current NJSIAA bylaws and regulations.
- Updates to Policy 9233 ("Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition"), Policy and Regulation 2423 ("Bilingual Education"), and Policy and Regulation 2431.4 ("Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries") to reflect changes in governing law or other relevant standards.

Legislative

Mr. Rubin briefed the Committee on recent legislative developments, most notably a bill establishing the New Jersey Educator Evaluation Review Task Force to review evaluation requirements for teachers and administrators. Dr. Connors also addressed recent developments in state aid and the school funding formula.