



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARCH 26, 2016

Fiscal Planning and Operations Committee

Community Relations Committee

The Fiscal Planning and Operations Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, and discussed the 2016-2017 budget and other important proposals for health benefits, grants and energy:

- 2016 - 2017 Budget Preparation. The committee reviewed revenue and expense analysis, state aid and health care cost exceptions. Budget presentation to the Board begins with the March 10, 2016 Business meeting.
- Health Benefits Requests for Proposals. We continue to work with Brown & Brown to find the most cost-effective health plans for district employees. Proposals will be reviewed in the coming weeks.
- Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects. We reviewed the status of all 12 local share projects, along with the possible 13th project for restroom renovation included in the original SDA submission. Projects underway include PHS Chillers and HVAC upgrades at Arbor, Eisenhower, Grandview, Knollwood, King, Randolphville, and Schor Schools. Bids will soon be approved for the Administration Building roof project. The PHS Exterior Skin Replacement project includes metal panels over existing panels on Susan B. Anthony Building to prevent air, water, moisture damage. This project will be completed in 2017.
- Architect of Record. RFP's have gone out for an Architect of Record and are due on Friday March 12.
- Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs). Our first SRECs (June 2012 to May 2013) determined by the Generate Attributes Tracking (GAT) program were put up for sale in February.
- Business Office. The committee reviewed the restructuring of the Business Office .

The Community Relations Committee met on Wednesday March 16, 2016. We are excited to have a revised statement of purpose for the committee and energized to do great things based upon our 3 goals. We include discussions on each goal in our monthly agendas to ensure that all projects and initiatives are given ample time and attention while also giving each member on the committee an opportunity to share their own vision for each initiative. This month, we continue our mission to increase Piscataway Schools visibility within the community and to improve communication overall.

- The "Our Piscataway Heroes" policy was submitted to the Board of Education and unanimously passed the first reading. We hope to share this initiative with the school community this spring.
- We are on target to participate in the Piscataway 25th Annual Street Fair on Saturday May 7, 2016. We hope to increase visibility while communicating our efforts to ALL members of our community – not just school families.
- District social media engagement is gaining momentum each and every day. Currently, we have approximately 219 followers on Twitter and 295 followers on Facebook.
- The meeting concluded with a discussion of the re-establishment of the "Know Your Schools" newsletter. Our Administrative Liaisons provided the committee with an update and proposed timeline for the newsletter to be completed. The committee shared ideas on the content of the newsletter. The committee will act as a liaison to the community to ensure that the newsletter represents our diverse interests.

Culture and Climate Committee

The Culture & Climate Committee met on Tuesday, March 16, 2016, reviewing best practices for keeping minutes, beautification and toolbox development updates, staff recognition programs and “The Happiness Advantage” book response.

- Dr. Ranelli updated the members on two action items from last month’s meeting (Beautification Projects and District Character Education Toolbox Binder).
Approximately four to five building administrators have submitted their beautification wish list. Others were given flexibility due to instructional programming and extracurricular evening events. All submissions are expected within the coming weeks.
- Character Education Toolbox will take time to tabulate; several programs and guidelines have already been collected. Building principals will have discretion in using and altering toolbox programs for specific use in each building.
- Board Recognition Award -- Mr. Johnson discussed further plans for a BOE recognition award for deserving staff members, and shared an example from the “Happiness Advantage.” He noted the impact of positive interaction with all school staff (secretary, custodian, teacher, nurse, etc.) made on students, parents, and the community, and the benefit of identifying and rewarding these individuals. It was agreed the building principals should be the main identifier for staff awards.
- Happiness Advantage Discussion -- Mr. Johnson expressed the Board’s interest in receiving feedback/ critique from district members who received and read a copy of the “Happiness Advantage.”