



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARCH 10, 2016

## Policy and Legislative Committee

*The Policy and Legislative Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2016 and discussed a number of existing policies for update, as well as policies new for the district:*

1. Wall of Heroes: We discussed a revised version of the policy establishing an online "Wall of Heroes." We agreed to a nominee waiting period of two years after the individual has been deceased, and concurred with Administration recommendations to leave it to the Superintendent or her designee to determine the placement and format of the website posting. The Policy, with these revisions, will be placed on the Board agenda for First Reading.
2. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy: Mr. Rubin advised that the Department of Education has issued new rules on the HIB procedures. Following input from the Administration, we will visit the issue and the policy in more detail at our next meeting.
3. School Activity Funds Policy: We are awaiting a proposal from District Business Administrator on the disposition of leftover funds.
4. We convened an executive session to review our option regarding the policy service contracted by the District.

## Curriculum Committee

**The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, March 7 to review Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Lynda Jackey, Supervisor of Mathematics and Science, presented fundamentals of NGSS, including alignment to Common Core Curriculum standards and practices, as well as standards for national testing, including SATs., and implementing NGSS within our district.**

Like Common Core, NGSS emphasizes critical thinking over mastering specific facts. It complements Common Core standards in English Language Arts and Math.

NGSS was developed by a national consortium of education stake-holders and adopted by 26 states. The NJ Dept. of Education adopted NGSS in 2013 and will phase in these standards over the next few years.

The structure of NGSS is comprised of three fundamental tenants or "dimensions." The first dimension is "Practices," skills students are expected to use to approach a problem. The second dimension is "Cross Cutting Concepts," the common principles underlying many disciplines of science. The third dimension is "Disciplinary Core Ideas," which organizes the various disciplines of science into groupings.

Overall, learning will be much less rigid for sources of information, discussion, student presentations, etc., with student initiatives emphasized. Students will have more freedom and more responsibility to self-direct.

To prepare for this change, beginning last summer, teachers attended training workshops and will continue attending in-service workshops and summer academies. The PHS biology curriculum has been updated and approved by the board. Updates to the chemistry and physics curricula will be presented at the April Curriculum Committee meeting. Updates to the middle school curriculum will follow this summer.