



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

APRIL 14, 2016

## Curriculum Committee

*The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, April 4, for further discussion of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the upcoming PiscatawayREADS.*

Gita Manchanda, PHS Science Department Chair, continued discussion of NGSS, presenting, along with subject area teachers, how science curriculum is adapting to these new standards. Chemistry curriculum was presented by Kim Garbarini and Janet Mrotek. Physics curriculum was presented by Rohan Gokhale and Daniel Hayes. Discussion followed regarding faculty training, implementation time line and coordination with AP course pre-requisites.

- **Chemistry:** Course covers standard topics using problem based learning to step up concepts. An example proposed choosing materials for making pipes for house construction. This requires an understanding of the project demands and the physical properties of materials under consideration. Students must justify their material choices based on given information and other credible sources.
- **Physics:** Course emphasizes inquiry based learning vs. traditional presentation, for better understanding of concepts. The course philosophy shows science as an integrated part of learning — science is the tool for understanding observations; math is the tool for modeling theories; and English Language Arts is the tool for communicating concepts. Emphasis is also placed on supporting ideas with evidence.
- **Implementation of NGSS:** The NJ DOE anticipates a 3-5 year transition period to the new standards, including teacher training. We are currently in year 2 — courses are beginning to adopt NGSS. Full implementation of NGSS, including changes in assessments, will take place in 2016-2017.
- **PiscatawayREADS:** Final plans were reviewed for the April 7 event.

## Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

*The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on Wednesday, April 6, and discussed the 2016-2017 budget, proposals for health benefits, busing, food service, and other important issues:*

- **2016 - 2017 Budget Preparation:** The budget was submitted to the County Executive Superintendent's Office for review. A public hearing and final adoption of the budget is scheduled for April 28th. Ms. Rafferty and Mr. Oliveira joined area school districts in meeting with State Assemblyman Joe Danielsen on the budgetary needs of the school communities he represents.
- **2016 - 2017 Health Benefits:** The administration recommended we remain self insured with same carriers.
- **Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects:** All 12 local share projects are on target, with several underway. PHS Chillers were installed and on track for May completion. PHS HVAC upgrades are targeted for completion in May. Bids for other district HVAC upgrades project will be opened on April 19. Bids were submitted for the Administration Building roof. Northeast Roof Maintenance is the recommended vendor.
- **Architect of Record Request for Proposals (RFP) Results :** Five architectural companies were interviewed. A decision and recommendation will be made by the April 28 Board Meeting.
- **Subscription Busing Rates:** Mr. Oliveira presented subscription busing rates, including data from 10 districts similar in size to Piscataway.
- **Food Services:** Mr. Oliveira reviewed current meal plan pricing structures.