



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

APRIL 28, 2016

Policy and Legislative Committee

The Policy and Legislative Committee met on Thursday, April 12, 2016 and discussed existing policies for update, as well as pending legislation related to education.

1. Policy 3153 School Activity Funds—The committee discussed a revised policy for unused school activity funds and will continue discussion with further input from the administration.
2. Policy 5120 Assessment of Individual Needs— After reviewing policy modifications related to new dyslexia legislation, the policy was passed unanimously by the Committee and forwarded to the full Board.
3. Legislation - Mr. Connors and Mr. Stern provided an update to the Committee on Legislative developments :
 - Every Student Succeeds Act — Gives more power to the states and replaces “No Child Left Behind.” The NJ DOE is writing regulations for this law.
 - State Budget – Offered small increases to schools with most increases going to “host districts: to compensate them for charter schools, and the severely impacted Atlantic City school district.”
 - Pension Reform – The NJSBA and NJ municipalities continue to raise their voices to reject a pass along of pension costs, believing the state must deal with the issue.
 - Health Care Costs – The “Cadillac tax” calls for employers (public and private) to pay a tax on health care plans over a specified dollar amount. Enacted by its proponents as a measure to control costs, the “Cadillac tax” would potentially increase costs to NJ school districts and municipalities. Implementation is scheduled to go into effect by 2020.

Culture & Climate Committee

The Culture & Climate Committee met on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, and had a discussion on technology trends and helping students build personal connections, and reviewed pending beautification projects and the “Character Education Toolbox.”

1. Beautification—Dr. Ranelli detailed feedback from building principals’ wish lists for beautification projects. The committee discussed which projects could be immediately constructed, creating a list of actionable projects. The committee also reviewed project funding.
2. Character Education Toolbox—The virtual toolbox is under construction and will be filled with helpful ideas for implementing character education. It will be accessible to all building principals.
3. Culture Shift —The committee discussed how students seek help from school personnel and recommended further discussion for a beginning of the year orientation, signage campaign, and ongoing assemblies appropriate for each grade level. Other recommendations to help students connect included peer group or student life assistance. The committee recognizes the importance of character education, but reviews all programs with consideration for budget and mandated curriculum.

Community Relations Committee

The Community Relations Committee met on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 and revisited our mission to increase our visibility and support and build confidence in our schools. This month, we are excited to begin planning "Our Inspiring Heroes." During our meeting we also discussed the following items:

1. District social media engagement continues to build with 350 Facebook followers and 250 Twitter followers. Posters announcing the district's social media presence will be posted in each school and other public spaces.
2. Know Your Schools, the district newsletter, will be completed and mailed to every township household by the end of the school year.
3. Our Inspiring Heroes—the Committee reviewed the adopted policy to ensure full compliance in carrying out the commemorative project.

This project will commemorate contributions of individuals who, during their lifetime, through devotion to young people, acts of heroism or other virtuous conduct above and beyond the call of duty, have become iconic figures in the school community. To memorialize the school district's appreciation of these individuals' accomplishments and inspiring qualities, the board establishes a page on the school district website, to be known as "Our Inspiring Heroes."

The committee reviewed the implementation timeline for both the nomination procedure and the website rollout, with an anticipated announcement of our first "Heroes" in January 2017.