



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAY 12, 2016

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, May 2, for discussion of NCLB funding, Summer Projects and Summer Programs, and a review of PiscatawayREADS.

1. NCLB: This is the final year of the Federal program, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), to be replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A required needs assessment identifies need areas aligned to funding. Funding application for next year is due June 30 and includes the following:

- Title I funds for academically at risk students in schools determined income eligible (based on students on free and reduced lunch).
- Title IIA funds for Professional Development (does not include state mandated training such as teacher evaluation).
- Title III funds for ESL support and funding of state mandated assessment and Title III Immigrant Funds to assist immigrant students with language acquisition.

2. District Summer Projects: Projects will remain the same as last year but are no longer mandatory. An incentive program where the summer project can replace a test or project grade in the first marking period, or win gift cards, homework passes, and books, is being developed.

3. District Summer Programs: Summer Academic Programs have been revamped to include:

- Jump Ahead replaces Summer Academy and Sneak Peek, providing academic assistance for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students, and academic enrichment for grades 6-12. These programs are operated by the Community Education Department.
- AP Summer Institute allows students (registered or thinking of registering) a ramp up to their AP courses.
- Literacy Academy/Reading Clinic for select students in grades 1 and 2, and Tier 3 students district-wide.
- Accuplacer Academy for PHS seniors who must meet assessment graduation requirements, including an item analysis of results, and insight on specific areas where each student needs improvement.

4. PiscatawayREADS: The committee discussed the program's successes and ways to grow in future years.

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy and Legislative Committee met on Thursday, May 5, and discussed policies up for action and for discussion:

Policies (up for action)

1. Policy 3153 School Activity Funds: The Committee continued its discussion of this policy, accepted the Business Administrator's comments, and approved the policy subject to additional language changes to more closely reflect the stated intentions

2. Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying: The Committee considered a revision now allowed by state regulations that afford principals more discretion in formal investigations when reported misbehavior does not meet the definition of "HIB." The committee debated the revision, and recommended permitting it on condition that the building principal first consult with the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, and that an aggrieved parent or guardian has a right of appeal to the Superintendent. The policy revision was approved, subject to receiving policy language from Mr. Rubin to reflect this change.

3. Policy 6147.1 Evaluation of Individual Student Performance: Proposed revisions were discussed to align the policy with current NCAA standards. The Committee approved the proposed revisions with no further changes.

Policies (up for discussion purposes only)

The Committee discussed adopting a policy specifically addressing the rights and needs of transgender students. A number of differing views were expressed, but all agreed that a formal policy should be adopted that, at minimum, would ensure protection of transgender students' legal rights. Mr. Rubin will research and draft the policy language for consideration by the Committee.