



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNE 9, 2016

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy and Legislative Committee met on Thursday, June 2, and discussed policies up for action as well as legislative developments:

- 1. Transgender Student Rights Policy:** The Committee continued its discussion of a transgender student accommodation policy, reviewing policies and practices recommended by policy experts, and looking forward to anticipated athletic policies recommended by the NJSIAA. Further review will include policies currently implemented in other school districts.
- 2. Policy 3153 School Activity Funds:** The Committee continued its discussion of this policy, and expects to forward a recommendation to the full Board shortly.
- 3. Transition from NJSBA Policy Service to the Strauss Esmay Policy Service:** It is anticipated that the Board will approve a contract with Strauss Esmay on June 9, with a transition to their service beginning this summer.
- 4. May 14 NJSBA Delegate Assembly:** The Delegate Assembly addressed the following issues:
 - 1) Supporting multiple pathways to a high school diploma in addition to the PARCC assessment. (Approved)
 - 2) Supporting an increase in the age of mandatory school attendance from 16 to 18. (Approved)
 - 3) Removing unfunded NJ state curriculum mandates from the budget cap. (Defeated)
 - 4) Supporting tuition payment in School Choice Act districts. (Approved)
 - 5) Supporting an amendment to the Affordable Care Act to remove school districts from the "Cadillac Tax." (Approved)
 - 6) Supporting the State funding of pensions without passing the burden on to the School Districts. (Approved)

Issues that the Delegate Assembly supported will now become part of the NJSBA legislative agenda
- 5) NJSBA Legislative Day –** Discussion of a "Robin Hood" bill, proposed by Senator Sweeney, as a possible means of funding the School Funding Reform Act.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, June 6, for discussion of Summer Projects, Professional Development, and a Parent Resource Website. Presentations included an ELA Special Education Resource Program and an Organic Chemistry book.

- 1. Summer Projects:** The Committee conducted a final review of Summer Projects, now optional, including participation incentives. Classroom learning is preparing students for both math and ELA projects. Projects can be accessed on the district website under the C&I channel, parent center, and the home page.
- 2. Professional Development:** The Committee discussed the numerous professional development opportunities available for teachers during the summer, including the large-scale Readers' Workshop and Teacher Academy for Science that focuses on Next Generation Science Standards. Training for the federally-funded Teacher Achievement Coaches begins with weeklong training for ten teachers at TCNJ. Identified teachers will also attend professional development for ecological research, computer science, and tolerance training through parallel readings in literature.
- 3. ELA Special Education Resource Program** This program provides structure to ELA curriculum for special education and allows flexibility for individual student needs.
- 4. Organic Chemistry Text Book** The text book "Organic Chemistry: a Short Course" was selected as the text book for the new organic chemistry three-credit elective.
- 5. Resource Website:** The committee discussed creating a website for digital learning resources available to students.