



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

OCTOBER 13, 2016

## Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

*The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on September 7, 2016 and reviewed budget and audit timelines, summer maintenance work, school-year transportation and stadium upgrades.*

- 1. Audit:** Interim Audit was successfully conducted from June 20-24.
- 2. Budgets:** Roll-out of the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget has gone smoothly. Planning will begin in October for the 2017-2018 budget.
- 3. Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects:** Admin Building roof and HVAC projects were completed on schedule over the summer months. Capital Reserve Reconciliation figures and pending projects will be updated this month.
- 4. Summer Maintenance Projects:** Carpet removal and tile installation was completed in classrooms throughout the district. Structural improvements were completed at Schor. The gymnasium floor at Randolphville was refinished. Multiple painting jobs, including 460 lockers at PHS, were completed.
- 5. Food Service:** The District is making a concerted effort to have all eligible families enroll in free/reduced lunch as this number impacts overall federal funding.
- 6. Transportation:** Back to school busing ran well; subscription busing is filling up to capacity. Nonpublic Transportation had a successful start to the year.
- 7. High School Sports Complex:** El Associates will provide architectural services for proposed stadium complex upgrades. An Ad hoc committee will evaluate community stakeholder needs and review next steps.

## Curriculum Committee

*The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, October 10. PHS Department Chairs presented new 2016-2017 courses: AP Computer Science Principles (HS), Advanced Media Productions (HS), Personal Finance (HS blended elective), Organic Chemistry (HS), and Mandarin Chinese for grades 4 and 5; reviewed implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for grades 6-8; and discussed Visual and Performing Arts in grades 4-5 and 6-8.*

- 1. AP Computer Science Principles :** We currently teach two sections with 48 students enrolled. Sections may be added in the future.
- 2. Advance Media Production:** The course covers all aspects of video production culminating in the production of movies and movie “shorts” for competitions. Video editing software include Adobe Premier Pro and Final Cut Studio X.
- 3. Personal Finance, Blended Elective:** This course blends classroom instruction and independent online learning by Ever Fi, through a grant from Provident Bank. Offered as an alternative to the state mandated classroom course, this blended course allows students scheduling flexibility.
- 4. Organic Chemistry:** Focusing on problem solving, topics include basic nomenclature, organic compounds, reactions, reaction mechanisms and biomolecules. PHS is one of three high schools offering organic chemistry in Middlesex County.
- 5. Mandarin Chinese for Grades 4-5:** This grant funded pilot program introduces Mandarin Chinese in the 4th and 5th grades. The course spans one marking period.
- 6. NGSS Update:** Now called NJ Student Learning Standards in Science (NJSLS-S), the same emphasis on critical thinking is applied to grades 6-8 with a course sequence of physics in Grade 6, life sciences in Grade 7 and earth science in the Grade 8. Life sciences will de-emphasize taxonomy and increase focus on human impact on the environment.
- 7. Visual and Performing Arts:** The committee reviewed integrating technology into the curriculum, promoting collaboration, and developing creativity in grades 6-8, LEAP (Learning Enriched Art Program) art and LEAP music in grades 4-5, and band and orchestra in grades 4-5.

## Policy & Legislative Committee

*The Policy & Legislative Committee met on Thursday, October 6, 2016 and reviewed current and proposed policies, and the transition to Strauss Esmay policy service:*

- 1. Policy 8454 Management of Pediculosis:** The committee reviewed options to deal with pediculosis (head lice), and asked the administration to provide information on past practice, current practice in other districts, and the recommendations of District school health personnel.
- 2. Policy 3125 Employment of Teaching Staff Members:** The committee reviewed the District's policy toward long term substitutes and tenure. Current policy calls for written notice to the substitute to insure clarity and understanding.
- 3. Policy 5756 Transgender Student Accommodation:** The committee continued discussion of transgender student rights and passed the policy to the full Board with recommendation.
- 4. Move to Strauss Esmay Policy Service:** The transition is going smoothly as Strauss Esmay converts the District's policies to their format.
- 5. Legislative Update:** Mr. Stern attended and reported on the September 17 NJSBA Legislative Committee Meeting. Topics included, among others, the Superintendent salary cap, the Transportation Trust Fund package and its influence on school funding, and competing school funding plans.