



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

JANUARY 26, 2017

## Fiscal Planing & Operations Committee

*The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on December 7, 2016 and January 11, 2017 and reviewed budgets and audits, construction projects and equipment needs, food service, and other issues.*

1. 2015-2016 Audit: The audit is complete and has been accepted by the full Board. An RFP for the 2016-2017 audit will be distributed in the coming months. A federal audit of IDEA funds will take place in January.
2. 2017-2018 Budget: Budget planning for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget is proceeding smoothly; capital reserve is ample for anticipated needs. State law now allows school security enhancements to be funded from emergency reserve.
3. Food Services: The District increased outreach efforts to encourage qualified families to sign up for free/reduced lunch. Overall, 32% of our students qualified.
4. Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects: Bids for renovations of the PHS bathrooms to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act are being accepted. Discussions took place about the PHS metal panel exterior work.
5. PHS Planetarium: With the current system no longer operational and past its life expectancy, the Business Office is requesting bids for new planetarium equipment.
6. Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC): Income continues to be generated from solar panels; maintenance of solar panel systems is up-to-date.
7. Lead Testing: Following up initial testing in 2015-2016, lead testing will be completed in all schools before the end of the school year.

## Policy and Legislative Committee

*The Policy and Legislative Committee met on December 1, 2016 and January 12, 2017 to discuss policies under review and the transition to Strauss Esmay Policy Service.*

1. Policy 5514 Student Use of Vehicles on School Grounds: The committee conditionally approved the revised policy pending ability of all schools to comply with safe bicycle parking.
2. Policy 3327 Relations with Vendors: The policy revision corrects a vendor database error. The committee asked for additional clarification on political contributions covered under the policy.
3. School "Sanctuary" Resolution: The committee reviewed a draft Board resolution stating the District's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for students of all ethnic and religious backgrounds, and without regard to immigration status. The committee recommended it be submitted to the full Board for approval.
4. Legislative Update: Tom Connors gave state updates on 1) the three competing Education funding formula proposals, 2) the enactment of a bill which expands school options in employing security personnel, and 3) A3539 which provides funding (and standards) for the testing of lead in school drinking water.

## Community Relations Committee

*The Community Relations Committee met on January 16, 2017 and discussed two programs: Our Inspiring Heroes and Key Communicators.*

1. **Our Inspiring Heroes:** The Our Inspiring Heroes Initiative has launched. This program remembers and honors the 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 Piscataway school community. The nomination process for “Our Inspiring Heroes” is now open and can be found on the District website under District Information. Nominations will open in the fall each year with announcements of chosen Heroes in the Spring.
2. **Key Communicators Program:** This program identifies community members whom others within the community rely on for information. Key Communicators can be parents, municipal employees, service providers within the township, coaches, members of the clergy, or from many other factions within the community. Key communicators offer two-way communication with the District, letting the district know how the community is responding to initiatives and programs, while keeping up-to-date on accurate District information. This allows Key Communicators to be a conduit for accurate information within the township.

## Curriculum Committee

*The Curriculum Committee did not meet in January, but the Ad Hoc PiscatawayREADS Committee did meet on January 9, 2017 to finalize this year’s book selection*

1. *The following books were selected for inclusion in PiscatawayREADS under the theme “Diversity:”*

*K-1 = When I Was Eight*

*2 = Separate Is Never Equal*

*3 = Mr. Lincoln’s Way*

*4-5 = How We Are Smart*

*Middle School = Flying Lessons*

*High School = The Underground Railroad*