



# Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

## Fiscal Planing & Operations Committee

*The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on February 8, 2017 and reviewed budgets and audits, construction projects and equipment needs, food service, and other issues.*

1. **School Funding:** Discussion continues at the state level regarding the 2008 School Funding Reform Act (SFRA). Ms. Rafferty and Mr. Oliveira conveyed the District's position that Piscataway is vastly underfunded by the state at a public hearing of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness.
2. **2017-2018 Budget:** Budget planning is underway, planning for state aid to remain flat. Ms. Rafferty will present the preliminary budget to the Board at the March 9 Business Meeting.
3. **Professional Services:** Mr. Oliveira recommended issuing an RFP for audit services and will begin to put that in process.
4. **Federal Funds Monitoring - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** Federal monitors audited our use of IDEA funding and found the district to be in full compliance.
5. **Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects:** The PHS Bathrooms ADA Compliance project should begin May 1 and the initial work will be completed at night. Discussions continue about the PHS exterior metal panel work.
6. **PHS Marquee:** Discussions took place regarding replacing the PHS Marquee. Mr. Oliveira will report back in March with options and costs.
7. **PHS Planetarium:** With the current system no longer operational and past its life expectancy, the Business Office is requesting bids for new planetarium equipment.
8. **Food Services:** Discussions were held regarding unpaid student balances for food services. The committee continues to emphasize that all students — including those with unpaid balances — will be given lunch, while additional steps will be determined to encourage all parents who can, to settle their unpaid balances.

## Policy and Legislative Committee

*The Policy and Legislative Committee met on February 7, 2017 to discuss policies under review and the transition to Strauss Esmay Policy Service.*

1. **Discussion of Policy 5512 (Strauss Esmay) Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying:** The committee discussed our HIB Policy, and the progress made over the years, and reviewed the new Strauss Esmay Policy to insure it conforms to our specific district practices.
2. **Resolution for a Proposed Moratorium on Public Charter School Expansion:** The Committee discussed a resolution circulating in Middlesex and Somerset County to stem the rapid expansion of public charter seats and schools. Committee members were generally in agreement with the resolution and agreed to recommend it to the full board for discussion and approval.
3. **Discussion of the Strauss Esmay Policy Service Transition:** Mr. Rubin presented a printed version of the Strauss Esmay District Policies, stating that they are currently under review by the Administration.
4. **Legislative Update:** Dr. Connors presented the most recent "Government Relations Update" from the NJ School Boards Association. The issues discussed included competing budget plans, the Superintendent salary cap, and school security changes.

## Curriculum Committee

***The Curriculum Committee met on February 13, 2017 and reviewed the Preschool Grant Program and PiscatawayREADS.***

1. **Preschool Grant Program:** The committee reviewed the grant funded through the NJ DOE Early Launch to Learning Initiative Program, which Piscataway has received for 12 years. The District is submitting a three-year proposal focusing on ESL needs, but broadly covering professional development, student screening and services, and evaluation metrics. The overall goal is to continue to provide quality preschool to the Piscataway community. As it has in previous years, The grant will service approximately 67 preschool students.
2. **PiscatawayREADS:** Books are purchased and will be distributed as soon as possible; Pre-K books will be distributed the night of the program. Planning continues for the event program in the PAC. Students have been offered the opportunity to contribute creatively through story, song, art, video, oral history, etc. A poster contest will be held for grades 4-5. For parents, plans are underway for a panel discussion by community members focusing on personal experiences with diversity. An additional *ad hoc* meeting will be held on March 20.

## Community Relations Committee

***The Community Relations Committee met on February 15, 2017 and reviewed the Key Communicators Program, the Board Communications Goal, and outreach for the Piscataway Education Foundation.***

1. **Key Communicators Program:** The Committee reviewed a draft of an invitation letter for the Key Communicators Program and built a timeline for the roll-out, including identifying prospective key communicators.
2. **Communication Goals/Foundation Support:** With improved community communication one of the Board's 2017-2018 goals, the Committee discussed how outreach for the Education Foundation and its initiatives could help elevate the foundation and by extension, improve community involvement in our district