



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 to discuss the 2016-2017 annual audit, summer projects and other services.

1. **2016 - 2017 Audit:** PKF O'Connor Davies is conducting the annual district audit with completion expected in November.
2. **2017 - 2018 State Aid Increase:** The District received an additional \$995,236 in state aid and voted to immediately return it to local homeowners in the form of tax relief.
3. **Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects:** Six bathrooms were remodeled at PHS over the summer, with additional work continuing at night throughout the school year to bring all PHS bathrooms into ADA compliance.
4. **Maintenance Summer Projects:** District-wide paving, sidewalk, and curb replacement projects were done at nine schools, administration building and transportation/maintenance building. Other projects included carpet removal, floor replacements, tile replacement, painting, and exit door upgrades.
5. **Transportation Update:** Transportation opened smoothly on September 6. Subscription busing was kept at \$425 for the 2017 - 2018 school year and participation was increased.
6. **Food Service:** The committee discussed cafeteria equipment upgrades, additional menu selections, and compliance with NJ Dept of Agriculture regulations.
7. **Lead Testing:** Preliminary lead testing was completed in June. Notification of results was distributed to parents on June 16. Follow up testing is ongoing.

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy & Legislative Committee met on September 7, 2017 to discuss new policies on awarding varsity letters and ensuring website accessibility, and new HIB regulations.

1. **Public Law 2017, Chapter 62:** The committee reviewed additional information regarding legislative and other state input for awarding varsity letters. The committee will go into greater detail, along with a review of high school activities that might fall within the scope of the new law, at its next meeting.
2. **Policy 1511, Website Accessibility:** The Office for Civil Rights has identified bringing school websites into ADA compliance as an enforcement priority for school districts. The committee continues to work toward a draft policy to insure our Piscataway Schools website meets the new minimum legal requirements for accessibility.
3. **HIB revisions:** The Committee reviewed pending amendments to the State Board of Education's "harassment, intimidation or bullying" (HIB) regulations, including a more understandable definition of HIB, additional guidelines for principal discretion, and deadlines for parents to request a board-level hearing.
4. **Legislative Update:** The Committee received a brief update on legislative developments, including the federal government's approval of New Jersey's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, and upcoming deliberations on charter schools by NJSBA's Delegate Assembly.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on September 11, 2017 to discuss PiscatawayREADS, the New Teacher Residency, and curriculum updates.

- Piscataway Reads:** The committee discussed themes for the 2017-2017 event and selected "Imagine." Student groupings will include Grades K-1, 1-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. New this year, students will nominate and vote for PiscatawayREADS selections. Possible activities include a writing contest, gallery of poster displays, student performances and panel discussion. The committee also discussed possible fundraising ideas.
- New Teacher Residency Program:** In August, a four day orientation program was held for teachers new to the district. The themes of the presentation included allowing students to find their vocational passion and developing personal relationships with students and other soft skills that improve the receptiveness of students to their teacher. Teachers took a bus tour of all the schools and neighborhoods in the district on the last day.
- Curriculum Review: Two new PHS courses were reviewed:**

Radio Broadcasting: This full year, 5 credit course, takes advantage of the PHS radio studio. Students will learn the history of broadcasting, radio production, equipment operation, audio editing, public speaking and new broadcasting formats such as podcasting.

Marketing: This an existing course has been revised to meet NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Topics include consumer behavior and trends, marketing research and data analysis, product presentation and sales techniques, and media advertising options. The course will culminate in a final project for the students including creating a sales pitch, developing a marketing plan, presenting a product, etc.
- Goals:** The committee discussed goals for 2017-2018, including better online access to curricula; improved yearly grade level transition for each subject area; explore the creation of subject area Academies at PHS; recruit community professionals to act as student mentors; strengthen curricular communication.