



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Culture & Climate Committee

The Culture & Climate Committee met on September 19 and November 14, 2017 to discuss environmental initiatives and community services.

1. **Environmental Awareness:** In response to the committee's desire to foster environmental awareness among our students, the Administration reviewed the Sustainable New Jersey program and its detailed application process. The committee, full board and administration will continue to explore options to raise environmental awareness across the District.
2. **Back to School Nights:** In an effort to serve the community and build attendance at major school events such as Back-to-School Nights., the committee asked to consider child care coverage during these events.
3. **Charity Fundraising & Participation:** The committee discussed adding a community service component to district-wide education. The Administration provided examples of current K-12 Community Service .
4. **Anti-Bullying:** The committee discussed the various anti-bullying efforts at every grade level throughout the district, and the staff training offered at each school.
5. **Student Community Service: Arbor Easement:** The Committee drafted a letter to inform Arbor area residents of easement projects.
6. **New Business:** The Committee agreed that increased involvement with senior citizens would benefit our students .

Policy & Legislative Committee

The Policy & Legislative Committee met on October 10 and November 2, 2017 to discuss new policies, regulations, and legislation.

1. **Policy 5466 Graduation and Yearbook Fees:** In keeping with district guidelines for reduced rates for school services for students on free/reduced lunch, the committee reviewed yearbook and graduation costs and recommended for first reading a new policy for "reduced rates" for these students.
2. **Policy on "Recognition for Participation in Interscholastic Competitive Activities," as necessitated by Public Law 2017, Chapter 62.** This new law calls for the option to allow awarding varsity letters in areas other than high school sports. After thorough discussion, the committee remains divided on a recommendation, and has asked that further discussion be moved to the full board acting as "Committee of the Whole."
3. **HIB Updates:** Mr. Rubin discussed new regulatory amendments that will take effect in July 2018, clarifying the definition of HIB, allowing additional discretion to building principals, and requiring additional sensitivities to students' privacies.
4. **Transition to Strauss Esmay** The Committee will begin review of Strauss Esmay policies, beginning with the 1000 Series.
5. **Legislative Update:** A recent NJSBA resolution called for greater public district input for charter school approvals. Mr. Stern was appointed to the NJSBA task Force for Educational Opportunities for Non College Bound Learners.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on November 6, 2017 to discuss new programs, articulation in-service, PHS Academies and more.

1. **STEM:** Ms. Dayton (Supervisor of PreK-6 Mathematics and Mr. Irovando (Supervisor of Instructional Technology) met with Johnson and Johnson representatives who proposed an educational program targeting third grade students to engage them in engineering challenges. Target date for the program is mid-December.
2. **Articulation In-Service:** During the November In-Service, to insure a smooth transition between grades and between schools within the same subject area, faculty met with their colleagues teaching higher and lower grade levels to review and synchronize curricula.
3. **High School Academies:** Four Learning Academies are in planning for the high school: the Performing Arts Academy, the Visual Arts Academy, the Biomedical Academy, and the Engineering Academy. The academies' purpose is to guide students through the course sequence available for a particular field of study and to prepare students for college and/or career within the field. Each academy will include approximately 20 students and participation is voluntary. Students must go through an application process to be considered. Announcements will begin in December.
4. **Course Updates In Visual Performing Arts :** In 2018-2019, new courses will be offered in Ceramics 3 and Animation 2. Updated courses to reflect changes to syllabus or a redistribution of curricula goals include Theater Production Workshop, Ceramics & Sculpture 1 & 2, Print & Production 1 will become Multimedia Printing & Design, and to be gender neutral, Beginning Men's Chorus will become Tenor/Bass Chorus and Beginning Woman's Chorus will become Treble Chorus.

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on November 1, 2017 to discuss the 2016-2017 annual audit, and other services.

1. **2016 - 2017 Audit:** PKF O'Connor Davies is concluding the annual district audit. The fiscal year 2017 Financial Report will be filed by December 5, 2017. PKF O'Connor Davies will report to the committee and the full board at the December meeting.
2. **Perkins Grant Audit:** An audit of our Perkins Grant federal funds expenditures for career and technical education was completed by NJDOE with no findings.
3. **2017 - 2018 Budget:** A new federal mandate requires school level reporting for all expenditures, so the District is updating account codes.
4. **Student Activities Accounts:** The Business Office is working with school personnel to ensure proper record keeping for all student activity accounts.
5. **Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects:** PHS bathroom upgrades are nearly complete in the Patton Building and work on the first bathroom in the Anthony Building has begun. Project completion is expected by June 2018.
6. **Transportation Update:** The first of two new buses budgeted for this year has arrived. Transportation is reviewing bus routes, a long-term bus replacement plan, and vehicle maintenance plan.
7. **Food Service:** The Business Office is reviewing some of the new offerings in our cafeterias, including wok stations and cooking demonstrations. Further reviews will consider new lighting and cafeteria layouts, more fresh fruit and vegetable offerings, and working within the new fixed cost contract requirements of the NJ Department of Agriculture.
8. **Business Office:** The Business Office has included the comprehensive maintenance plan for approval at the November Board Meeting. The district will receive an academic scholarship from Source 4 Teachers.

Community Relations Committee

The Community Relations Committee met on November 15, 2017 to discuss Key Communicators, Social Media, Events Communication, and Community Schools.

1. **Key Communicators:** The Committee reviewed criteria for Key Communicators and will provide suggested community members to the Administration.
2. **Social Media :** In an effort to increase Social Media following, the Administration will send a district-wide email alerting parent/guardians to the benefit of following the District on Social Media, including alerts for inclement weather.
3. **District Events:** The Committee discussed additional ways to offer event information to the community, including opt-in weekly alerts or newsletter. Ms. Palermo is investigating new options available for the District website.
4. **Community Schools:** The committee discussed the Community School concept and how it might fit with Piscataway Schools.