



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on August 13, 2018 to review new courses and curriculum updates for 2018-2019:

1. Curriculum Update: Dr. Ranelli and the C&I team reviewed 29 new courses and curriculum updates spanning K-12, including courses in mathematics, ESL, Visual and Performing Arts, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Practical Arts. Five new courses will be introduced and a previously discontinued course will once again be offered. Course changes were made to accommodate class schedule and/or to better align courses with national and statewide standards.
2. Website: Over 300 curricula taught in the district are now posted on the district website.
3. New Teachers: New teacher orientation took place during the week of August 20, under the theme, Why Teach in Piscataway? Teacher mentors for all teachers new to the profession and/or district are assigned.
4. Student Performance Data: Student performance data was migrated from Performance Plus to Link-it. The new system will better facilitate data analysis.
5. On-line Assessment: On-line assessment for Tier 2 and 3 (at risk) students in grades 1-5 will take place during the middle of the semester, with all students taking the exam within the year.
6. NCLB-ESSA Grant: NCLB-ESSA Grant is undergoing minor revisions.
7. Summer Programs: Summer programs were attended by 1,178 students including Jump-Ahead (357), Academic Enrichment (322), and AP Summer Classes (499).

Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee

The Fiscal Planning & Operations Committee met on September 5, 2018 to review summer maintenance projects, 2019-2020 budget preparation, and other capital projects:

1. Audit: The 2017-2018 audit is underway with completion of field work expected late this month.
2. Budget: The committee reviewed the 2019-2020 budget calendar presented by Mr. Oliveira.
3. Schools Development Authority (SDA) Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Local Share Projects: All PHS bathrooms have been completed. The district continues to evaluate the need for PHS exterior metal panel replacement.
4. Facility Capital Projects: Completed PHS projects include: PHS turf field, fencing, paving, and localized concrete repairs. Soon to be completed are the PHS tennis courts and track resurfacing. The Patton Building roof repair is also complete.
5. Summer maintenance projects: The committee reviewed a number of maintenance projects at each school, including carpet removal and tile replacement, floor refinishing, classroom, hallway, and locker painting, refinishing wood bleachers, and more. The committee recommends documenting and publicizing yearly improvements.
6. Grandview Addition: The four classroom addition planned for Grandview School has been submitted to the state as a revision of our long-range facilities plan. We anticipate approval and bid award in September.
7. School Marquees: Plans to construct new electronic marquees at all K-8 schools and the administration building is pending completion of electrical work, with planning for a new marquee at PHS to begin later in the school year.
8. Transportation: The district worked collaboratively with the new bus transportation company, Layla, to successfully open schools.

Policy/Legislative Committee

The Policy Committee met on September 6, 2018 to review pending and new policies and the Strauss Esmay transition:

1. Strauss Esmay transition: The Committee continued the review of Strauss Esmay 3000 Series policies covering staff, and adopted all with minor changes to 3216 “Dress and Grooming.”
2. Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB) changes: The Committee continued discussion of Strauss Esmay policy 5512, incorporating Administration recommendations and requesting updated language for investigations.

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on August 21, 2018 to review Community Services and Brunch with the Board outreach:

1. Community Services Resource Document: The district presented a draft of the brochure, which details all community services currently offered by the District, and discussed ways to disseminate upon completion.
2. Brunch with the Board of Education: The committee discussed the planning and launch for this meeting, including the presentation format and work will begin soon on a draft. The committee also discussed videotaping the event and posting on the district’s BOE page, and providing childcare while parents attend the meeting.
3. New Business: The committee discussed a new project idea brought forth by a member of the community — to paint positive messages in school bathrooms to combat bullying and build self-esteem.