

Superintendent's Report November 14, 2016



Board of Education Calendar of Events:

Finance Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, November 7th	6:15 PM
Board Work Session <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, November 7th	7:30 PM
Finance Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, November 14th	6:15 PM
Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, November 14th	7:30 PM
Policy Committee (Tentative) <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, December 5th	5:30 PM
Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, December 12th	7:30 PM

Correspondence/Attachments

- *Article published in the October 2016 issue of "High School Today", co-authored by Dr. Daniel Uszaki, Director of Athletics and Assistant Middle School Principal.*

Standing Committees

Please note that the finance committee has several meetings scheduled this month. Furthermore, there is a tentative meeting scheduled for the Policy Committee in December.

Business and Financial

I am pleased to note that the district has received a \$5,000 donation from the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (Agenda item #7.08) in recognition of Ms. Amy Stella's service to PSA as the President and Past President of the association. This service required Ms. Stella to be away from the district throughout the school year as she served in this leadership capacity and PSA presents this financial donation as a small compensation for her time.

The finance committee will meet twice in November. The first meeting will be on Monday evening, November 7th and the second will be Monday evening, November 14th. During these meetings the committee will discuss several proposals under consideration. Included in the discussions will be a review of the 'Budget Assumptions' being proposed to help guide the budget development process. Once developed, the assumptions will be presented to the full board for review and approval. Next, please note that the committee will be discussing a change to the Health Care provider. This will require a move from the School Employees' Health Benefits Program to a private carrier. Any such change must include a change to a 'comparable program' and Mr. Kaz has been meeting with the association representatives to keep them fully apprised of the change and the parameters of the change. The Board committee will meet with our consultants on Monday evening to discuss the specifics of the change. The committee will report to the full board at the work session.

Finally, at the committee meeting on the 17th, the auditor will be present to review the FY'16 Audit. Again, the committee will present the conclusions and any recommendations with the full Board at the Public Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

The Bus access road repair is still under review. Please be reminded that the Buildings and Grounds committee did meet to review the concerns identified in the September 23rd correspondence to Dr. Sarruda from the engineer, Herbert Seeburger. These concerns focus on two areas of the bus access road that are 'failing' and will need repair. A final plan has not been determined as the engineer continues to work with the contractor to determine a resolution.

Negotiations

The committee will be considering FY'18 contracts for all non-unit personnel. These contracts are single year contracts and are renewed on an annual basis. A proposal is being developed in conjunction with the development of the FY'18 district spending plan. A recommendation will be prepared for a January 2017 committee meeting.

Personnel

Please note that there is a recommendation to approve a resource period assignment to a high school teacher. The purpose of this recommendation is to provide time for the teacher to organize and manage students in the production of the many school awards and

recognition plaques that are presented throughout the school year. Over the years, NB has purchased these items out-of-district and we have produced them 'in house' as well. After careful review of the process, it is being recommended that we manage the process 'in house' and consolidate the process as well. Therefore, this resolution will allow for the district to concentrate all the production in-house with our students. This resolution will be retroactive to October 1st as this is when the process began. Administration will monitor the process throughout the school year and in the spring, if necessary, prepare recommendations to revise the process.

Next, please note that in October, an assistant principal in the high school announced she would be resigning her position (Agenda Item #13.01) with NB to take a new position in another district. This is a move for professional advancement.

Programs

NB Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Proposed

It is that time of year again when the AHOF committee selects its inductees for the year. This year the following inductees have been nominated:

Athletes

Michael Haynes – Class of 98

Amy Hoyer Joy – Class of 04

Joseph Lynch – Class of 86

Lindsay Mouse Gadbury – Class of 05

Honorary

Antron Brown – Northern Burlington Graduate and 3 time NHRA Top Fuel Champion

Team

1972 Boys Basketball

Coach

Christine Haines

I would like to thank the committee and a special thanks to Mr. Spence for his good work on the committee. Also, please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 8, 2017. This is the date the AHOF awards dinner will take place at Old York County Club. The social hour begins at 5:00 PM and dinner and ceremonies follow at 6:00 PM. All Board members are invited and the AHOF committee will cover their dinners. If you bring a guest, you will have to pay for the guest. Please let Mr. Kaz know if you plan to attend.

NB Emergency Notification To Include Text Messaging

The administration is prepared to expand its emergency notification protocols to include text messaging to all parents, teachers, and support staff. Our current notification system does include the phone call option which we currently employ. The software also allows for text messaging at no extra cost. NB has a committee looking into the proper

protocols and use of texting emergency notifications and ‘important events.’ It is my intention to discuss this with our parents at the November 15th PTSC General Meeting and then bring a recommendation to the Board for the December meeting. The process will include our first gathering all the cell phone numbers and then sending out an ‘opt in’ text message to all. Anyone who wants to receive these text message notifications will have to acknowledge and confirm the request via text messaging. Those who do not wish to receive the text messages simply do not respond to the ‘opt in’ message.

Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC)

NB is moving forward with its preparation to introduce the AF JROTC in September of 2017. Course descriptions are being finalized and facility planning is underway. Furthermore, a student interest survey has been developed and should be processed on or about the week of November 14th.

Interdistrict Public School Choice (IPSC) Update

**Dr. Sarruda’s Testimony to the State Board of Education
November 2, 2016**

State Board Public Testimony
November 2, 2016

Dear State Board of Education Members:

I am pleased to present the following testimony regarding the New Jersey Interdistrict Public School Choice Program. My testimony will focus on the guidelines of tuition and justify the request to allow Interdistrict Public School Choice districts to charge tuition for non resident students and also enroll Choice students. This would require a revision to 18A:36B-21 Enrollment restrictions:

8. b. A choice district shall not be eligible to enroll students on a tuition basis pursuant to N.J.S.18A:38-3 while participating in the interdistrict public school choice program. Any student enrolled on a tuition basis prior to the establishment of the choice program shall be entitled to remain enrolled in the choice district as a choice student.

As the Superintendent of Schools for the Northern Burlington County Regional School District, I will testify that the IPSC program offered at Northern Burlington County Regional is unique from most other IPSC programs in New Jersey. This is because the program serves as a ‘magnet’ program for students interested in the study of Agriscience with the intent to pursue a career in the Agriscience field. As a result, Northern’s student enrollment should not be restricted to non-tuition paying students only.

Some History:

Prior to Northern Burlington's participation in the IPSC program, the Board of Education implemented a Board Policy that allowed the Board to accept students into the district on a tuition basis. Non-resident students would come to Northern Burlington on a tuition basis for many reasons. Some students wanted to come to Northern to participate in the Agriscience program because their home districts did not have the program. However, these students could not afford the tuition and subsequently could not study in a field of interest. When the IPSC program was initiated by the State of New Jersey, I was asked by several civic leaders to consider bringing the IPSC program to Northern Burlington for the study of Agriscience. The goal would be to 'preserve the farmers' in the region.

I had the opportunity to lead discussion for the initial strategic planning and design of the program. I also directed the processing the district's application in the Fall of 2011. After several meetings, the Board of Education approved Northern Burlington making application to the IPSC program in the fall of 2011. Subsequently, Northern Burlington County Regional limits the IPSC student enrollment to 51 total students in grades 7 – 12. As a result, there are approximately eight (8) students per grade that come to Northern via the IPSC program.

The Problem:

Northern Burlington does not accept additional IPSC students beyond the 51 student limit. However, there are families that would like their children to attend Northern on a tuition basis that cannot be enrolled as tuition students because of the limiting legislation. This is not fair and equitable for these students and families. I see no relationship between the district's IPSC

program and families that want to send their children to Northern separate from the IPSC program, separate from the Agriscience concentration of studies, but simply as a 'general education' student here at Northern. In essence, a Choice district should be allowed to maintain a district-paid tuition program and Choice status if the district meets two standards as presented below:



Lynnee Dotson & Gabrielle Kenny (IPSC Students) Present NB's Agriscience Program during NB's Open House

The Solution:

Revision 18A:36B-21 Enrollment restrictions to allow Interdistrict Public School Choice districts to charge tuition for nonresident students and also enroll Choice students under the following stipulations:

1. The district offers a specialized IPSC program such as Northern's Agriscience Program; and,
2. The district implements a Board policy that limits or 'caps' its total student enrollment in the specialized IPSC program. For example, Northern Burlington has a 'self-imposed' student enrollment cap of fifty one students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please contact me directly with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

James Sarruda

James Sarruda
Superintendent of Schools

HIB Updates

Attached please find the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying report for the month of :

Middle School

- Incident Investigations
- Confirmed HIB Reports

High School

- Incident Investigations
- Confirmed HIB Reports



Final Thought:

Alexis and I would like to thank everyone for the support and well wishes we received during this sad time in our lives. Also, the flowers received by the Board of Education were beautiful. Such expressions of support have meant a lot to us. Alexis and I have been blessed with friends and family who have been very supportive. Although my return to work was difficult, the support and expressions of sincere caring I received from our administrators, teachers, and support staff has been overwhelming. NB is a special place.