

## Superintendent's Report December, 2016



### Introduction:

I am pleased to advise the Board that throughout my report, Board members will be encouraged to explore several links provided that will connect the reader to some interesting websites. As Internet Web Resources continue to expand and become more accessible, this expansion provides the opportunity to share valuable information with the Board.

NTV is now actively accessing YouTube resources to share video productions about NB programs. For example, in this report, I have provided the link to a YouTube video on NB's AF JROTC. In addition, I have shared an NTV production of our 'News Roundup.' Please take some time to review and enjoy these resources. Also, I am proud to advise the Board that these informative videos are showing on NB's cable channel. I am most proud to advise the Board that these information videos are also being shared with our public via @NBCSuper and NB's Facebook page.

### Board of Education Calendar of Events:

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| <b>Policy Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>                  | <b>Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>6:15 PM</b> |
| <b>Public Board Meeting</b><br><i>High School Media Center</i>                      | <b>Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>7:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Public Board/Reorganization Meeting</b><br><i>High School Media Center</i>       | <b>Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>7:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i> | <b>Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>5:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Curriculum Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>              | <b>Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>6:15 PM</b> |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| <b>Personnel Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i> | <b>Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>5:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Policy Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>    | <b>Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>6:15 PM</b> |
| <b>Board Work Session</b><br><i>High School Media Center</i>          | <b>Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>7:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Finance Committee</b><br><i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>   | <b>Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>6:15 PM</b> |
| <b>Public Board Meeting</b><br><i>High School Media Center</i>        | <b>Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>7:30 PM</b> |

### **Correspondence/Attachments**

- *November 21, 2016 from Mr. Kaz to the NB association leaders regarding the Rx Change.*
- *November 22, 2016 e-mail from a parent to Dr. Sarruda regarding "Thank you" to our bus drivers for the great work they do.*
- *December 6, 2016 from Mrs. Marie Goodwin regarding her resignation from the Board of Education.*

### **Standing Committees**

Please note that in the December BA's report to the Board, Mr. Kaz has provided the annual committee interest survey for each Board member to complete and return. Please complete your preference sheets at your earliest convenience.

I will review each Board member's committee interest survey response sheets that indicate Board Member Committee preferences and review preferences with Mr. Zimmer, Board President. Please note that committees cannot be completed until the Board has reorganized in January. Therefore, the intention is to complete all committee recommendations immediately after reorganization in January and have the committees set for the February Board meetings. Until then, committees will remain the same through reorganization and January.

### **Business and Financial**

Take a moment to review Mr. Kaz's December report. There is an update on the bond refinancing. Mr. Kaz and I participated in a conference call on December 1<sup>st</sup> with bond council and market specialists. The 'bottom line' is that council has determined it appropriate not to purchase the bonds on December 1<sup>st</sup> and to allow the market to 'settle' as the rates and indicators were simply not beneficial to the Board. Hence, we will continue to monitor the market and be in a position to act as soon as the market offers an incentive.

**It is also important to note that NB has received its Preliminary Eligibility Costs (PEC) Letter from the Department of Education (DOE). However, there are some data points being questioned by the Architect and Mr. Kaz so we don't have final numbers at this time. It seems quite reasonable to believe that this process will be resolved for the January reorganization meeting.**

## **Buildings and Grounds**

**The Bus access road repair project is still under review. At this time the engineer is planning to do a temporary repair to the access road with the cost to be covered by the engineer. The plan is to have this in place by the end of December. Next, the engineer is recommending that we plan for a final, permanent, repair in the spring, during the spring break or perhaps at the start of summer vacation. The motivation to delay the project is aided by the fact that the engineer would like to study how the road performs these next few months before a final strategy outlining more permanent remediation is decided. We have notified the Board's solicitor of the matter and we will keep him apprised of any issues as they develop.**

**As Superintendent, I am not disappointed in the delay of the access road repair. Busses and trucks have full access of the road and it's reported that the degree of damage is not increasing. Therefore, the option to avoid the tremendous inconvenience of shutting down the road for two weeks while school is open is one that I will certainly recommend.**

## **Negotiations**

**In November, the New Jersey Acting Commissioner presented a strategy to 'adjust' the Superintendent's Salary Caps in New Jersey. In recent weeks, the Burlington County Times has run several stories on the salary caps. In fact, the October 2, 2016 BCT featured me along with several other Superintendents in Burlington County who are currently 'under the cap. FYI, here is a link to the October 2, 2016 BCT story <https://goo.gl/SIBg2c>**

## **Personnel**

**As noted in November, the Director of Student Personnel Services has resigned her position to take an administrative post in Moorestown. A 'transition plan' is being prepared until the position can be filled. The job opening is posted and applications have started to arrive via Applitrack, a state and national search management tool in which NB actively participates.**

**In addition, please note that the private secretary to the Director of Counseling has resigned her position due to personal reasons. The combination of losing both the director and the private secretary in this area is going to create challenges as this administration looks to fill these positions. I have confidence in the resilience of the administrative team.**

**Next, the high school Assistant Principal resigned her position in November and I am pleased to report that her replacement is on the December Board agenda for consideration.**

I appreciate the good work of the search committee that included both principals, an assistant principal, director, and faculty member.

Finally, please note that there is a personnel committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the annual committee meeting. At this meeting, NB's building principals will review all non-tenured teachers and discuss any personnel concerns. In addition, they will prepare initial recommendations for renewals scheduled in May. Moreover, the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Administrator will present performance reviews of NB's Directors, Principals, and Assistant Principals.

## Programs

### Northern News

Northern TV continues to expand its role in building the NB Brand in the region. Moreover, NTV has become actively involved with the incorporation of YouTube to video stream its productions. Please take a moment to review the following video recently posted <https://youtu.be/QqWrJCNa2W0> NB Students both wrote and produced the video. This link also has been shared in NB's social media accounts: Twitter and Facebook.

### IPSC Update

Recently, the Burlington County Times wrote a story on the Interdistrict Public School Choice (IPSC) Program underway in several schools in Burlington County. The following is for your information only. NB's IPSC program continues to provide life-changing experiences to students interested in the study of Agriscience. The following is from BCT:

"Last May, the Department of Education asked Choice parents to fill out an online survey to help the department understand the parent's reasons for enrolling their children in an IPSC program and their level of satisfaction with the program. The aggregated results from the survey are provided below.

#### May 2016 Choice Parent Survey Results:

- 1019 parents responded from 80% of all Choice districts.
- 96% of parents who responded to our survey stated they were either satisfied (14%) or very satisfied (82%) with their students' Choice district.
- The most important reasons parents cited for their students attending a Choice district were, in rank order:
  - Higher school performance: #1
  - More rigorous or diverse academic programs: #2
  - Better climate and culture: #3
- Parents selected the following ways in which the Choice school's climate and culture are superior to that of their child's resident school:

Answer options

Response Percent

- |                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Improved social or peer environment | 68% |
|---------------------------------------|-----|

- Fewer disciplinary problems 58%
- More personalized instruction 50%
- Smaller class sizes 49%
- Greater variety of classes 40%

## Social Media

I am pleased to update the Board on the Northern Burlington County Regional School District's official Facebook page. NB continues to break all records regarding "Weekly Total Reaches" and "Page Likes." The data to the right indicates that over four thousand people were reached during the last week in November. I congratulate both the High School Principal and the Middle School Principal for their support in this effort to post interesting stories about NB Nation. The principals e-mail me stories and I post them on the NB Facebook page. The strategy is to expand the number of personnel who can post on NB Facebook page. I'll probably take this next important step in mid-January 2017.

| Northern Burlington County Regional School District |           |               |        |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------|
| <a href="#">Promote Page</a>                        |           |               |        |
|   | LAST WEEK | PREVIOUS WEEK | TREND  |
| Page Visits   | 31        | 27            | 14.8%  |
| Weekly Total Reach                                  | 4,097     | 2,019         | 102.9% |
| People Engaged                                      | 592       | 398           | 48.7%  |
| Total Page Likes                                    | 660       | 647           | 2.0%   |

Finally, have you visited NB's Facebook page? Are you actively following administrators and advisors on Twitter? Below are just two of the photos/stories you may have missed!



NB's Athletic Trainer receives the NJSIAA Award for New Jersey Athletic Trainer



NBCMS Bands @NBC\_MSbands 8m8 minutes agoSome Wind Ensemble fireplace performances! [@nbc\\_msprincipal](#) [@Sgraternbc](#) [@EmerMatt](#) [@nbcsuper](#)

## NB's AF JROTC

Please take a moment to view the following video: <https://youtu.be/llyg1QJUmJA>. I thank Mrs. Amy Stella for her continued work on NB's AF JROTC. Administration is on pace to open the first classes in September of 2017. We anticipate initiating the hiring process for instructors in late February or early March 2017.

We are pleased with the level of interest and we are looking forward to the registration process that will begin mid winter. At this time, we are planning on two (2) instructor positions to meet the enrollment needs of the program.



Following are the results of the AFJROTC student survey:

| Grade        | Yes       | Maybe      | No         | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Grade 8      | 29        | 126        | 134        | 289        |
| Grade 9      | 34        | 64         | 109        | 207        |
| Grade 10     | 18        | 38         | 120        | 176        |
| Grade 11     | 15        | 37         | 76         | 128        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>265</b> | <b>439</b> | <b>800</b> |

## HIB Updates

Attached please find the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying report for the month of December 2016:

### Middle School

- 1 – Incident Investigations
- 1 – Confirmed HIB Reports

### High School

- 3 – Incident Investigations
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports





### **Final Thought:**

Several weeks ago, Mrs. Goodwin reached out to me to discuss her service on the Board of Education. It was clear that she needed to make the tough decision and step down from her position. Mrs. Goodwin is currently in her second term as a Board member for NB and over her six years on the Board, she has served on most all committees including, Buildings and Grounds, Curriculum, Finance, Negotiations, Policy, and Superintendent's Evaluation. In addition, she also served as committee chairperson on many of these committees. She is currently the Vice President of the Board.

Professionally, it has been my pleasure to have Marie working at my side. Her dedication and support of NB is uncompromised. Marie also has been a tremendous support to me in my role as Vice President of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. Marie's presence in Washington DC had a significant impact in our never-ending battle to maintain or increase federal appropriations of Impact Aid. Over the years, her meetings with our New Jersey Congressmen and Senators and their legislative assistants were influential in success realized and the support gained. Having a Board Member at these meetings in Washington sent a clear message to our representatives that Military Children matter and that Impact aid is a federal obligation that must not be ignored. She played a significant role in all our work on the Hill.

Personally, it has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity over the years to get to know Marie, Kevin, and her three boys. The Goodwin family represents all that is great here at Northern Burlington. I know I speak for the entire Board, this administration, and the school community when I say "Clearly, she will be deeply missed." Although her resignation will be difficult to accept, we all wish her well in her career and her personal life.