

## Superintendent's Report February, 2017



### Board of Education Calendar of Events:

<b>Policy Committee</b> <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	<b>Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Board Work Session</b> <i>High School Media Center</i>	<b>Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b> <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	<b>Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Public Board Meeting</b> <i>High School Media Center</i>	<b>Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>Negotiations Committee (Tentative)</b> <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	<b>Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Board Work Session</b> <i>High School Media Center</i>	<b>Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>Finance Committee (Tentative)</b> <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	<b>Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Public Board Meeting</b> <i>High School Media Center</i>	<b>Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>

### Correspondence/Attachments

- *January 19, 2017 from Paul Drayton, President Rowan College at Burlington County, congratulating NB on the increase in graduation rates.*
- *January 23, 2017 from Dr. Kathy McCormick, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, notifying the BOE of her May 1, 2017 retirement.*

- *2017/2018 Proposed School Calendar*

### **Standing Committee Reports**

In January, the following committees did meet and there will be reports from each committee chairperson:

- Buildings & Grounds
- Curriculum
- Personnel
- Finance

Also, please be reminded that the agendas for the committee meetings are kept in the “Library” section in Boarddocs.

### **Business and Financial**

#### **Budget Development 2018**

During the month of January, NB has organized various committees to review and consider planning recommendations in support of the 2018 spending plan. To this end, personnel, curriculum, and buildings & grounds committees did meet and each is prepared to report to the full Board at Monday’s work session. As the committees met in January to consider proposal for the next school year, feedback and ideas from committee members helped the administration build and adjust the spending plan.

Currently, we are waiting for the Department of Education to announce the State Aid figures to support our general education program budget. Once received, Mr. Kaz can complete the revenue projections and subsequently, complete the district’s balance sheets. We anticipate the figures to be shared towards the end of February so that will work nicely for a March budget review.

#### **Local Official’s Correspondence Regarding Financing NB’s Referendum**

Attached please note the correspondence received from the Mayors of each of the constituent communities. I did call and speak with Mr. McDaniel and suggested that I meet with the mayors to discuss their concerns and ideas. My conversations with Mayor McDaniel have been very positive and supportive. I believe he and the other mayors can play a supportive role in this effort and I am confident that a meeting with the mayors will be informative. I have briefly discussed this Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Kaz and the three of us will meet with the Mayors in March.

Moreover, I explained to Mr. McDaniel that it will be important for me to update the mayors as to the progress that I have made in this regard. Mr. McDaniel has been aware of the NB effort underway with New Jersey Congressmen and Senators. Please review the “Referendum Planning Update” in my August 25<sup>th</sup> “Central Office Bulletin” for a more complete review of this process. Furthermore, I’ve attached correspondence dated August 17, 2016 from Dr. Sarruda to Congressmen MacArthur that served as a follow-up to this

meeting. This will serve as a reminder to the Board of the process that is currently underway.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

The committee met on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss summer 2017 projects and receive an update on the progress being made toward the next referendum. The architect was present to review the summer projects being planned and to answer questions.

There was much discussion regarding the summer projects and how any decisions to work on facilities during the summer will impact the pending referendum project. Many ideas were shared. Then, on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Kaz and I met with the Architect in Trenton at the Department of Education's Bureau of Facilities Planning. The purpose of this meeting was to review the PEC (Preliminary Eligibility Cost) letter. Frankly, we were there to dispute some of the projections.

Mr. Kaz and I will report to the Board on the outcome of the meeting. We were pleased that we were able to have the DOE adjust some of the PEC numbers and we are now waiting for some decision on some of the other areas we questioned. The trip was well worth the time and effort.

## **Negotiations**

I am always pleased to remind the Board that all our contracts are settled and there is no need for a negotiation session. However, we will be scheduling a committee meeting in March to review the non-unit contracts for FY'18. Non-unit personnel are full time employees that are not represented by an association.

## **Personnel**

### **New Hires**

The personnel committee met on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to review a variety of issues that are being managed in the district. The meeting was quite productive and as a result, there are several items on the February Board agenda for consideration.

The last few months have been busy for the administrative team as we worked to interview candidates for the HS Assistant Principal and the District Director of Pupil Personnel Services positions that were vacated in December. I am quite pleased to report that the AP position has been filled and our new administrator will start February 14<sup>th</sup>. Moreover, the recommendation for the Director's replacement is on the February 6<sup>th</sup> work session agenda for approval on the 6<sup>th</sup>. With action taken at the work session, we will be able to have the new director start on April 3, 2017.

During the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be interviewing candidates for the two teaching positions in the NB AFJROTC program. Ms. Stella has done wonderful work coordinating the effort and her experience with the program has proven quite valuable as NB prepares to introduce the program in September 2017.

## Programs

### School Calendar 2017-2018

Please note that the 2017-2018 school calendar proposal is prepared and attached for Board review. This process begins in November with a discussion at the local level as NB building principals and directors share ideas and review current year activities. Next, the draft is shared at the regional level. During regional meetings with our constituent district superintendents, we review, discuss, and coordinate each district's calendar. Finally, a draft of the proposed calendar is shared with each of NB's associations: teachers, drivers, custodians, administrators, CST, and secretaries for suggestions. Once the calendar is through this process, the final draft is presented to the Board of Education for its review and approval. Notable changes to next year's calendar include:

- One additional afternoon Parent Conference on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. This requires an early dismissal on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- One additional early dismissal on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> for professional development.
- Graduation is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be changed as per the "make up scheduled" on the calendar, should there be emergency closings of school during the school year.

I'm pleased that the region has coordinated the start dates, spring recess, emergency day closing make-up days, graduation, and early dismissal days.

### National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

Once again I would like to thank the Board of Education for its support of the NAFIS and MISA organizations and for its continued support in our involvement with the very important work being done on behalf of all our students here at NB and across the country. Just as the political climate is gaining much attention throughout the world, the changes in Washington DC regarding education funding are once again demanding the attention of NAFIS and all its subgroups.

In January, I attended the NAFIS executive board of directors meeting in Austin Texas. Suffice it to say the agenda included all of the routine matters of the board and stretched to the current national agenda in education including the "choice" and "voucher" proposals under consideration. Clearly, there is much work to be done as the President's budget is being developed and the fight for limited federal dollars escalates. This month, NAFIS is asking and I am recommending that the NB Board of Education joins the fight to protect the Nondefense Discretionary Programs (NDD) which includes Impact Aid by adopting a resolution in support of the effort.

The new Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget requests will dramatically cut domestic discretionary spending by even more than the conservative Republican Study Committee's (RSC) budget that failed to pass the House last year. Of immediate concern is the return of sequestration in fiscal year 2018. However, the growing issues do not stop there. Conceptually, an implementation of voucher and/or choice programs could have significant

consequences to the Impact Aid communities. NAFIS and its sub groups will be preparing for a long and arduous fight against these cuts in support of Impact Aid.

### **MISA Executive Director Visits NB**

On Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> it was my pleasure to welcome Mr. Kyle Fairbarn, Executive Director of the Military Impacted Schools Association, to the NB campus. Mr Fairbarn and I met for approximately two hours. One purpose of the meeting was to inform Mr. Fairbarn of our effort here at NB to increase his awareness of my request for Federal Aid to support our facility needs. Coincidentally, this does relate to my earlier report regarding the township Mayors and the request for Federal Aid to NB for facilities projects.



To that end, Kyle and I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kaz to review some of the current issues with Impact Aid funding and we discussed the direction and priorities that MISA is considering for Impact Aid reauthorization. At the end of the afternoon, I was proud to give Kyle a tour of our amazing campus.

### **HIB Updates**

Attached please find the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying report for the month of January 2017:

#### **Middle School**

- 0 – Incident Investigations**
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports**

#### **High School**

- 0 – Incident Investigations**
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports**



### **Final Thought:**

After ten years of service to the students, faculty, administration, Board of Education, and community, Dr. McCormick has decided to retire. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Kathy for her dedication and commitment. She has always put our students first and her passion for the students has provided the energy necessary to keep the district moving forward and progressing at a champion's pace.

On behalf of the entire community, faculty, administration, and school Board, I thank Dr. McCormick for giving so very much to this district and I wish her a long, healthy, and happy retirement.