

Superintendent's Report April 10, 2017



Alissa Barkalow of NB clears the bar during the Don Danser Track and Field Relays



Thespians at 2017 Festival

Board of Education Calendar of Events:

Negotiation Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, April 10 th	6:15 PM
Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, April 10 th	7:30 PM
Finance Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, April 24 th	5:30 PM
Dr. Sarruda & Mr. Kaz Mansfield Board of Education Meeting	Monday, April 24 th	6:30 PM
Personnel Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, May 8 th	6:15 PM
Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, May 8 th	7:30 PM
Negotiation Committee <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday May 15 th	6:15 PM
Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, May 15 th	7:30 PM

Standing Committee Reports

Since the last Board meeting, the negotiations committee met and a report from the committee chairperson will be shared. The agenda focused on non-unit contracts for the

2017-2018 school year. Non-unit employees are all employees that are not represented by an association including the Superintendent, Business Administrator, Directors of Facilities, Transportation, and Technology, Bus Mechanics, Publications Clerk, Payroll & Benefits Specialist and etc.

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

Business and Financial

Mr. Kaz has reported on the district’s proposed spending plan for FY’18. Be reminded that there is a public hearing scheduled to present the final budget to the public. This hearing will take place during the Board’s work session on Monday, May 8th.

Buildings and Grounds

Bus Access Road Update

The Bus access road repair is still under review. Mr. Kaz and I have attended several meetings with the contractor and engineer to discuss the process and the plans moving forward. It is clear that both parties have the desire to resolve the matter. The plan is to implement the final remedial action plan over the summer of 2017. There was conversation to consider doing this work over spring break but we are trying to avoid any problems that would result from weather delays at this time.

Track and Field Facilities Update

Next, I am pleased to share with the Board the article from the Burlington County Times

Boys Track And Field · Girls Track And Field

From Penn to Northern Burlington: 15 track and field storylines for 2017



regarding the 2017 Track and Field Season.

Notice that the title of the article announces “Northern Burlington.” This is because NB will be hosting the Meet of Champions this June. This is the final meet of the season and it brings the top athletes from across the state together to compete for championships in all events. NB was selected from a group of districts that applied for consideration to host the event. I am most pleased with the state-wide recognition NB has received and will receive as a result of this event. Also, NB will be hosting several refreshment stations and anticipates generating approximately \$8,000 for its programs.

Building Plan/Referendum Update

Please take a moment to review Mr. Kaz’s report and note the resolutions in place to approve the application for our facilities project. These resolutions reflect the decision to

NOT include the media center and the gymnasium as part of the referendum. Instead, as per the committee's presentation and the Board's decision in March, the Board will proceed with the 'base plan' that addresses all curriculum needs, emergency facility needs, and security concerns. Once this resolution is approved by the Board, the applications will be processed and we'll be looking for a final "Preliminary Eligible Cost" letter from the Department of Education. It is believed that the Board will be targeting a December 2017 referendum.

Negotiations

At the negotiations committee meeting on April 10th, I will review the non-unit contract proposals as per the past practice in the district. The goal is to have recommendations presented to the Board for approval in June.

As in the past, NB traditionally offers contract increases consistent with the settlements of the various associations in district. For example, several non-unit positions are aligned with the secretaries association so these non-unit personnel are offered contracts with the settled increase of the secretaries. This process has been working well and is considered fair and equitable by the personnel involved as well as this administration and Board.

Also, as I discussed in the late fall, please be reminded that the acting commissioner has proposed revised salary caps for the Superintendent. I have discussed this with the Executive County Superintendent and it appears that official notice of any changes is anticipated in May. Depending on the guidelines established by the Department of Education, there may be a recommendation made to the Board in June.

Personnel

New Hires

During the spring, the administration has been actively involved with a variety of interviews to fill anticipated openings for September 2017. Please note the recommendations on the agenda include: AF JROTC Non-commissioned Officer appointment, Agriscience Teacher, and Special Area Substitute.

Summer Planning

Once again, the summer assignments are being processed and prepared for Board consideration. Please take some time to review the recommendations for review. These recommendations all reflect budgeted positions.

Transition Planning

To briefly review the transition that's been underway here at NB, I remind the Board that in the early winter, one High School Assistant Principal and one Director gave notice and the administration has been actively planning for their replacements. In early February the new assistant principal, Ms. Jamie Mungo, started. At this time, I am pleased to remind the Board that our new Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Caitlin Mallory, will begin in District on May 1, 2017. This completes our transition for these two positions.

However, with Dr. McCormick's retirement effective May 1, 2017, the administration will continue to manage the transition of responsibilities until this position is filled as well.

In an organization as dynamic as NB, it's not uncommon to have turnover and change in personnel. In fact, change happens most every year at all levels of the organization. My philosophy has been to experience the change as an opportunity and seek strategies to grow and strengthen the organizational capacity of the leadership team. Certainly, one must consider instances when the loss of experience and expertise simply will not be replaced, and the retirement of Dr. McCormick will clearly be one such instance.

Change requires and assessment of the current roles and responsibilities of the entire administrative team and this spring, I will be taking a closer look at the strengths and weaknesses of all to better prepare a plan to 'reorganize.' Again, such reorganization is not uncommon and the recommendations developed will be made in collaboration with the administrative team and presented during the administrative retreat in July. The goal is to be fully staffed and prepared for the opening of school in September.

Programs

NAFIS Spring Conference March 2017

This year, the NAFIS spring conference marked a special moment in my NAFIS journey. On Sunday, March 12th I was honored to be nominated to the position of President of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and subsequently elected to the position from the general membership.

I accept this challenge at a critical time in our Nation's history. One need only to look to the most recent headlines to discover the many topics of uncertainty that captures our attention and brings a sense of uncertainty to the future of Federal Impact Aid. The goal of the conference was to provide the information and tools needed to empower members to work through this uncertainty and advocate of Impact Aid on the Hill.



Cherise Imai receive he "Friend of NAFIS Award"

The conference agenda included the opportunity for sub-group and school board member meetings as well as one-on-one appointment with the Department of Education. This spring, the legislative sessions were particularly important with a Congress and Administration both operating from a platform that emphasizes vouchers and school choice initiatives. These initiatives have the attention of the NAFIS community as such changes could have a significant influence on how Impact Aid dollars are managed and appropriated.

This concern when coupled with the increased pressure to cut spending has the entire NAFIS community on high alert.

Breakout sessions included subgroup meetings and discussion on the topics such as Impact Aid Regulations and the Electronic Data Collection pilot, Tribal Consolation, and Child Nutrition. And once again, the most important day of the conference was Tuesday as membership traveled to the Hill to meet with Senate and Congressional representatives. The NAFIS message was clear. The following are a sample of the “Talking Points” developed by NAFIS for members to bring to the Hill:

Talking Points

- ***Congress must eliminate sequestration altogether to prevent future funding cuts and stagnation for programs like Impact Aid.***
- ***Sign the Dear Colleague letters in support of Impact Aid being led by:***
 - ***House: Reps Davis (D-CA), Larsen (D-WA), LoBiondo (R-NJ), Noem (R-SD), Williams (R-TX)***
 - ***Senate: Senators Inhofe (R-OK), Gillibrand (D-NY)***
- ***SUPPORT a \$74 million increase for Impact Aid over two years:***
 - ***A \$4 million increase for Federal Properties over FY17 and FY18 would provide the first programmatic increase since FY10 and cover the cost of new school districts, as the Federal government continues to acquire property.***
 - ***A \$70 million increase for Basic Support over FY17 and FY18 would provide much-needed resources and preserve the Learning Opportunity Threshold (LOT). (A \$120-million increase is needed to fund the formula proration).***

Vouchers

The NAFIS community opposes private school voucher programs that divert badly-needed resources away from the public school system, undermine school administrator’s ability to pool resources where the needs are greatest and undercut various civil rights and due process protections. In particular, NAFIS opposes specific proposals that would turn Impact Aid into a voucher program or establish voucher programs for federally connected students. These shortsighted proposals would further erode the federal government’s obligation to students, parents, and taxpayers in federally impacted communities.

Talking Point

- ***Oppose vouchers that would target the Impact Aid program, other federal education programs or use public monies for private school vouchers.***

On Saturday, it became clear that a snow storm was approaching the east coast. It was decided that Mr. Kaz would not join me in DC and he would stay in New Jersey to assist on campus as the weather event developed. I remained in DC and as it turned out, the storm once again did not match forecast expectations. Having Mr. Kaz in district made managing the issues much easier.



The more recent events have accentuated the importance of a strong message coming from the NAFIS community. For example, on Tuesday, April 3, NAFIS issued a press statement regarding Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' comments at Fort Bragg concerning vouchers for military families.

POLITICO Pro quoted NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann, saying "The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the Military Impacted Schools Association have issued a joint statement expressing 'strong concerns' about a bill by Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C), that would create a pilot program that would allow Federal funds to pay for private tuition for military families. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos praised the provision Monday during a visit to Fort Bragg, N.C. 'Secretary DeVos should be focused on investing in public schools - those in which the majority of military connected children attend - instead of praising a bill that would drain dollars away from those schools,' said Hilary Goldmann, president of National Association of Federally Impacted Schools."

The same day, the *Washington Post* also wrote an article that used a comment from the press release.

On April 5, 2017, NAFIS was again cited by *POLITICO Pro*, along with the National Military Families Association (NMFA) saying, "...all expressed concern about the [Scott] bill this week after Education Secretary Betsy DeVos praised it during a stop at Fort Bragg, N.C. The groups said they were worried about an erosion of public funding for public schools."

In a welcome letter to Secretary DeVos dated February 28, NAFIS formally requested the Secretary visit a public school, writing, "Finally, we strongly encourage you to visit a federally impacted community within six months of your tenure. We can help identify a school district and support your visit. We are proud of our schools and the leadership that school administrators and school board members provide for their diverse student bodies – with all of their challenges and opportunities. Clearly, the upcoming challenges will demand a continued focus on the importance of Impact Aid funding to our NAFIS schools.

Once final point, as President of NAFIS, I am pleased to report that all my hotel expenses will be covered by the NAFIS association. For the spring conference, the hotel bill would have come to approximately \$1,850 dollars. Because I served in the capacity of President, the association covered these costs. So for these next two years, as president of NAFIS, all my travel and hotel expenses will be covered by the association for the January and July NAFIS Board meetings and all my hotel expenses will be covered during the fall and spring conferences. Once again, I wish to express my continued gratitude for this Board's support of my involvement in this very important endeavor and in my serving in the capacity as President.

HIB Updates

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

Middle School

- 1 – Incident Investigations
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports



High School

- 6 – Incident Investigations
- 1 – Confirmed HIB Report

Final Thought:

April 10th will be Dr. McCormick's last Board meeting before she retires April 30th. She will be attending the retirement ceremonies in June so we will all see her again in a few months.

It is my pleasure to take a moment and recognize her for her outstanding commitment to the NB students and the NB community over her ten years of service to the region. We are a better organization as a result of her influence across all programs. Each day Kathy brought to her work a spirited "desire" to keep NB growing and progressing. She has been a demanding force that has demonstrated her limitless energy in our pursuit of providing opportunities that 'inspire the desire' for all our students and faculty.

We all wish Dr. McCormick a rewarding and healthy retirement and best wishes as she explores the many opportunities that await a professional of her stature.