

# **OLD BRIDGE BOARD BRIEFS**

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

### **Oct. 21, 2014**

#### ***RECOGNITION***

##### ***The Board***

- recognized Nicholas Brana, seventh grade student at Jonas Salk Middle School, for winning first place in the Middlesex County Environmental Essay Contest.
- recognized the Parent Teacher Association and school leaders and educators of the William A. Miller Elementary School, for being recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence for their achievements in building effective family school partnerships.
- recognized the Parent Teacher Association and school leaders and educators of the Jonas Salk Middle School, for being recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence for their achievements in building effective family school partnerships.

#### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

##### ***David Cittadino***

- offered an update on iPads utilized in the district He said, since Sept. 19, 2013 when administration introduced the premise of a large scale iPad deployment to today, the district utilizes 3,806 iPads.
- said professional development occurred in various platforms and during multiple times of deployment.
- said maintenance has included 43 cracked screens repaired under Apple Care; five cracked screens were repaired onsite by our technicians; 19 were returned to Apple for repair after use by students for home button or charger port repairs; and zero were defective “out of the box”.
- cited the benefits of the Apple iPad, including the breadth and quality of Apple’s app market; the three hours more battery life than the Chrome Book, which is essential for testing environment; and iPads are not subject to viruses.
- said the drawbacks we found with the iPad include the fact they are costly in comparison to products other than the surface; there is no USB and memory card report; no split screen for multi-tasking; and you can’t plug in keyboard and charge simultaneously.
- said a district-wide survey of teachers revealed that participation has increased because of the iPads; use of the iPads increased collaboration in the classroom; and because students are more actively engaged, disciplinary incidents have decreased.

#### ***PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS***

##### ***Jeffrey Caulfield, supervisor of assessments and guidance***

- presented SAT longitudinal data. He said the SAT results revealed increased scores in all three areas from 2012 to 2014. Overall mathematics scores rose eight points; writing scores jumped 24 points; and critical reading scores increased 15 points.
- said last year’s scores represented the highest average SAT scores in Old Bridge High School history.
- offered the district’s annual testing report. He said 2,061 students took the PSAT Readistep at Old Bridge High School on Oct. 15.
- said Old Bridge Public Schools are “ahead of the curve” as we transition to CCSS and PARCC.
- said factors contributing to growth and improvement include: ISIP’s (Individual Student Improvement Plans); School Analysis Template; Writing Handbook and Responses; Optimal Testing Conditions; and PSAT, College Board, and the CCSS
- said the PARCC Performance Based Assessment will take place March 2 through March 27 and the End of Year Assessment will take place April 27 through May 22.

- said OBPS has a highly effective instructional leadership team combined with a highly qualified teaching and support staff. This combination will lead us through the transition to the CCSS and PARCC.

## ***FINANCE***

### ***The Board***

- approved the acceptance of \$10,000 Confucius Classroom funding for 2014-2015 which was allocated to the Old Bridge School District as recipient for being selected into the global network of Confucius Classroom Schools. The Old Bridge School District applied for and was awarded Confucius Classroom status based on potential, promise, and growth of the Mandarin Chinese program. Old Bridge Schools' Confucius Classroom is sponsored by Confucius Institute at Rutgers University.

## ***CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL***

### ***The Board***

- approved the retirement of Thomas Knowles, OBHS, special education, with deep appreciation for his 36 years of dedicated service to the district, effective March 1, 2015.

## ***MISCELLANEOUS***

### ***The Board***

- approved the following meetings: agenda session, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11, in the Patrick Torre Administration Building; and regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in the TV Studio at OBHS Main Building.
- acknowledged Bruce Heyman, Fabricland & Metropolitan Window Fashions, North Plainfield, for the donation of 75 pounds of fabric to the Old Bridge High School Family and Consumer Science Clothing and Design classes for curriculum fulfillment.
- acknowledged Talarisha Nelson, for the donation of 50 pounds of fabric to the Old Bridge High School Family and Consumer Science Clothing and Design classes for curriculum fulfillment.