

OLD BRIDGE BOARD BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

March 15, 2016

RECOGNITION

The Board

- commended Daniel Rehorn, OBHS student, for completing a new bench area near the walker doors, as well as installing pavers to surround two of the trees at Cooper School, as part of his Eagle Scout project.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

David Cittadino

- applauded educators and parents of students in Old Bridge because the district – across all 10 sub group – did not fall below 95 percent participation rate on last year's PARCC. As a result, he said, there are no areas the district has to address.
- commended the high school regarding a recent Round Table hearing, where students and administrators met to discuss issues facing the community. The event was taped in the OBHS TV Studio and was aired on the township and district TV channels. The video is available on the district website.
- commended transportation after it got all the buses out of the yard and in time to reach students after a tragic accident on Route 9 on March 15, which left three people dead, one critically injured, and one seriously hurt. He said every student got home safely. He also said the first responders in township did a great job.
- said district goals include increasing the level of student input with the addition of a high school Round Table and meetings with student senators at the middle school and character ambassadors at the elementary schools. In addition, he said he plans to hold Sundaes with the Superintendent once a month at the Friendly's on Ferry Road. Students will be able to address issues important to them, eat ice cream, and make a sundae for the superintendent that he will eat.

FINANCE

The Board

- approved a resolution authorizing actions necessary with the sale and issuance of not to exceed \$35,825,000 to refund school bonds and authorizing the appropriate officials to do all acts necessary and advisable in connection with the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds. The refinancing of the bonds will save the district between \$4 million and \$5 million in debt service tax levy over the next 10 to 15 years. Interest rates have dropped from 4.5 percent to around 2.5 percent.
- adopted a tentative 2016-2017 budget. Expenditures total \$153,003,659. The total amount to be raised by taxes is \$96,690,239, including \$2,974,794 for repayment of debt. The proposed tentative budget represents a 2.83 percent increase over last year's budget.

Schools Superintendent David Cittadino

- said the tentative budget includes \$152,628 to pay for 12 students to attend an East Brunswick Charter School. He said originally charter schools were created to provide

safe learning environments for students. He said these students are attending a “boutique school” to learn a language as part of their education.

- said, “This is an offensive, abuse of a loop hole. This is taking money from local schools to fund private schools.” He said the money used to pay for the charter school amounts to three teacher salaries that Old Bridge loses.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

David Cittadino

- applauded educators and parents of students in Old Bridge because the district – across all 10 sub group – did not fall below 95 percent participation rate on last year’s PARCC. As a result, he said, there are no areas the district has to address.
- commended the high school regarding a recent Round Table hearing, where students and administrators met to discuss issues facing the community. The event was taped in the OBHS TV Studio and was aired on the township and district TV channels. The video is available on the district website.
- commended transportation after it got all the buses out of the yard and in time to reach students after a tragic accident on Route 9 on March 15, which left three people dead, one critically injured, and one seriously hurt. He said every student got home safely. He also said the first responders in the township did a great job.
- said district goals include increasing the level of student input with the addition of a high school Round Table and meetings with student senators at the middle school and character ambassadors at the elementary schools. In addition, he said he plans to hold Sundaes with the Superintendent once a month at the Friendly’s on Ferry Road. Students will be able to address issues important to them, eat ice cream, and make a sundae for the superintendent that he will eat.

NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL TRANSPORTATION

The Board

- approved the retirement of John Simonetti, school bus driver, with deep appreciation for his 16-1/2 years of service to the district, effective July 1.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board

- approved the following meetings: agenda session, 7:30 p.m., April 12, 2016, in the Patrick A. Torre Administration Building; regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., April 19, in the OBHS Main Building TV Studio; and public hearing on the proposed budget, 7 p.m. April 28, in the OBHS Main Building TV Studio.