

## **Board of Education Summary November 28, 2011**

### **Board Training in Anti-Bullying Requirements**

Board of Education Attorney Cherie Adams gave a presentation on the “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights” Act, which was signed into law on January 6, 2011 and went into effect in September 2011. The new law amends the 2002 anti-bullying law. The main changes are:

- The definition of harassment, intimidation and bullying has been expanded. It can now be a single incident, and electronic communication has been added to the list of behaviors.
- The behavior must cause substantial disruption or interference in school or of student rights.
- The incident can take place off school grounds, including cyberspace.
- Every district must have an Anti-Bullying Coordinator.
- Every school building must have a School Safety Team and an Anti-Bullying Specialist, who chairs the School Safety Team and is responsible for preventing, identifying and addressing incidents.
- There are new state reporting requirements, new training requirements, and a new grading procedure for school districts.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

NJSAC is the process for evaluating the performance of every school district in New Jersey. The Bernards Township School District received the highest designation, “High Performing District,” in the 2009-10 school year and is not scheduled to undergo QSAC during this school year. The district must complete an annual Statement of Assurance that it continues to meet all QSAC indicators. The Board approved submission of the Statement of Assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the 2011-12 Nursing Services Plan and the 2011-14 Bilingual/ESL Three Year Program Plan.

The Board approved travel and competition for the Ridge High School competitive cheerleading team. The team will compete at the 2012 NCA Senior and Junior High School National Championship in Dallas, Texas from January 6 to 9.

### **Finance Committee**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the FY2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that was prepared by the district’s auditing firm. The audit detailed several procedures in need of improvement. In response, the board approved five corrective actions proposed by the business administrator. The audit is due to the state on December 5, and it will be filed on time.

The Board accepted a donation of \$10,705 from the Oak Street School PTO for school assemblies, the yearbook, and other programs.

### **Curriculum Committee**

The Board approved changes in four World Language course titles for the 2011-12 school year. Sean Siet explained that the phrase “Pre-Advanced” was dropped from the course titles, and the change has been made on all student transcripts that were sent to colleges.

**Board Forum**

Sean Siet reported that 1900 parents and 2883 students completed the homework survey. He is compiling and categorizing 913 comments received from the parent homework survey and will present the results to the Curriculum Committee at the December 9 meeting.

The teacher homework survey went out on November 28. It has 84 questions, and teachers have one week to complete the survey.

**Public Comment**

William Annin PTO board member Elaine Edge announced that the Basking Ridge Turkey Trot 5K and Health Walk, held on November 20, was a great success, with over 140 runners participating.