

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Workshop Meeting held on Tuesday, March 7th, here is what you missed.

Since there were no presentations during this meeting, the Board immediately moved action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda.

Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board approved the preliminary School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and agreed to hold the public hearing for it on May 2, 2017, in the Sayreville War Memorial High School Cafeteria. The BOE also approved several building permits, some of which include facility usage fees in accordance with the district's fee schedule, along with several student trips with transportation costs. Additionally, the Board approved the use a BOE bus on Saturday, March 11, 2017, to transport approximately fifteen bus drivers and aides to Northern Burlington Regional Middle School in Columbus, NJ to attend the School Bus Driver Safety 2017 seminar, and it approved several student trips with transportation costs. Finally, the Board of Education approved an amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Grant application, bedside tutoring for three hospitalized students, and for the translation of three foreign language evaluations.

On the Vision 2030 Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board approved the formation of a Criminal Justice Club at SWMHS for the 2016-17 school year. In addition, it approved a co-curricular trip and activity.

On the Vision 2030 Governance portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the February 2017 HIB Report, including any investigations and/or recommendations for action provided by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Board approved a resolution to intervene in the Abbott v. Burke matter and a judicial order from the Supreme Court to, *inter alia*, compel the State of New Jersey to provide all public school districts in New Jersey with school funding which is consistent with the funding formula enacted in the School Funding Reform Act of 2008. Finally, it approved the first reading of Policy/Exhibit 5141.21 and Regulation R5141.21, Administering Medication.

On the Vision 2030 Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of Margarita Caro, Manager/Cook at the Samsel Upper Elementary School. In addition, the Board approved several leave of absences for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years and appointed a paraprofessional and lunchroom/playground aide. Likewise, it also appointed two volunteer or unpaid softball coaches at SWMHS for the 2016-17 school year. Furthermore, the Board approved the hiring of 15 substitute teachers, a substitute nurse, and a substitute secretary. Finally, it approved compensation for a teacher to work in the middle school Title I Math Academy, several special education teachers to work in the Sayreville Middle School ELA and Math Special Education Academies, two Adult School preschool teachers to conduct kindergarten screenings on an as needed basis, as well as several staff members, who will be compensated directly by the New Jersey Special Olympics, to work in the Sayreville Special Olympics Unified Sports Program from March 9, 2017 until March 30, 2017.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a community member asked why the students from the French Honor Society were not approved to go on a trip to the United Nations in New York City. In addition, another community member expressed her concern about the new Administering Medication BOE Regulation, particularly because it does not specifically address Epilepsy. Mr. Ciak reviewed the process for the reading and adoption of policies and regulations by the Board of Education and invited the parent to share any information that she would like considered for the regulation prior to its 2nd reading and possible adoption on March 21st.

During Open Discussion Mr. Balka reviewed the highlights of the tentative 2017-18 School District Budget. When he was finished, Mr. Ciak asked the Board to thoroughly examine it and make any final recommendations for additions and deletions to Mr. Balka by April 12th. Ms. DePinto then reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Student Achievement Committee Meeting, particularly that the high school block scheduling committee decided to abandon the idea of implementing block scheduling at the high school in the future. Likewise, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Ciak briefly reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Personnel and Governance Committee Meetings. Mr. Biesiada explained to the Board how, based upon his conversation with its Mayor, Woodbridge Township is utilizing its property in lieu of taxes (PILOT) project revenue to fund school bonds that are being used to pay for new school construction. He also inquired with Mr. Macagnone, who is on the Sayreville Planning Board, about any new residential development projects recommended to the Planning Board. Mr. Macagnone stated that several are under consideration and mentioned that based on the passing of new legislation, school districts can now apply for Green Acres or Open Space Act funding for the new construction of recreational facilities. In addition, Mrs. Batko inquired about the status of the Blue Ribbon Committee. Finally, Mrs. Bloom commended Mr. Ciak for the work he put into preparing the 2016-17 Middlesex County School Boards Association and Association of School Administrators Student Recognition Dinner, which took place on March 1st at Old Bridge High School, and also noted that Bianca Kuzma and Christopher Colucci, students at SWMHS, were recognized and honored during it.

If you would like to view the meeting PowerPoint presentation, click [here](#). Likewise, to see the video of this meeting, click [here](#).

The next meeting will be a workshop meeting. It is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**. Since this is the annual “**Let the Children Lead**” BOE meeting, during it 5th grade students from the Samsel Upper Elementary School will act in the place of each BOE member and administrator. If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, please visit the BOE Agenda page on our website when it is posted in the evening on **Friday, March 17th**. In addition, a complete copy of the March 7th meeting minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next Business Meeting on **March 21, 2017**.