

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Workshop Meeting held on Tuesday, December 6th, here is what you missed:

Dr. Labbe began the presentation by asking Ms. Barbara Loftus, from the Rutgers University Admission Department, to give a brief presentation on the qualifications and characteristics Rutgers is seeking in potential students. According to Ms. Loftus, 82% of the students that applied to Rutgers University last year were admitted and of those students, 44 attended the University. She credited the high admission percentage to the Sayreville War Memorial Guidance Department and faculty. In addition, she reported that while colleges, like Rutgers, utilize standardized testing scores to select candidates, they primarily focus on student grade point average and course rigor. Finally, she informed the Board and public that based on 6-year cohort graduation and freshman retention rates, metrics that are commonly used to evaluate colleges and universities, Rutgers is ranked 43rd in the world. To see her presentation, click [here](#).

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

The Board then 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 District 2017-18 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, accepted the Clean Communities Grant from the Borough of Sayreville in the amount of \$300 for Eisenhower Elementary School, and approved several nonpublic school security expenditure requests. The BOE also approved the receipt of tuition contracts, including one for home instruction, for students from South Amboy, Perth Amboy, and Union. Furthermore, it approved the amendment of the 2016-17 contract with Tiny Tots Therapy for related services from the previously approved amount of \$2,500 to \$24,000; 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 a contract with Acacia Financial Group, Inc. to serve as Financial Advisors on a bond refunding opportunity, retained the law firm of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC to provide specialized legal services necessary in connection with the capital program and the authorization and the issuance of bonds, and authorized the BOE to refund all or a portion of the outstanding callable refunding school bonds. Finally, the Board of Education approved bedside tutoring for two students who are currently hospitalized, and nursing services for a student participating in winter sports practices at SWMHS.

On the Vision 2030 Student Achievement portion of the agenda the Board retroactively approved the admission of a Kindergarten student to Eisenhower Elementary School. In addition, it approved several co-curricular activities.

On the Vision 2030 Governance portion of the agenda the BOE approved the November 2016 HIB Report, including any investigations and/or recommendations for action provided by the Superintendent. It also approved several revised policies and regulations for a First Reading.

On the Vision 2030 Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education approved several leave of absences. It also approved a volunteer or unpaid SWMHS Boys Basketball coach for the 2016-17 school year. Additionally, the Board approved one certified and one non certified substitute staff members for the 2016-17 school year and professional days. Finally, it approved the suspension and termination of a custodian.

During the public comment portion of the agenda a community member asked for clarification on whether or not the district was required to fund Sayreville resident student tuitions for charter schools. The BOE attorney affirmed that the district is responsible and Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, provided the approximate cost to the district for such. Another community member then asked the Board their opinion on the effectiveness of charter schools.

During open discussion Mr. Macagnone expressed his disappointment in being misquoted by a local newspaper in an article that was recently published. In addition, Mr. Balka reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Finance and Infrastructure Meeting. Likewise, Mr. Walsh did the same with regard to the most recent BOE Personnel Committee Meeting. Finally, Mr. Ciak and Mrs. Batko offered suggestions on how to decrease the volume of meeting agendas without limiting community transparency.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 20, 2016. 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, December 16th. In addition, a complete copy of these minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next Agenda/Business Meeting on December 20, 2016.