

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Workshop Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3rd, here is what you missed:

Dr. Labbe began the presentation portion of the meeting by introducing Debra Shedlock, Transportation Director, who made a presentation on the proposed 2015-16 Transportation Budget. During her presentation Ms. Shedlock stated that the goal of her department is to provide the safest and most efficient pupil transportation services to our students, our schools, and to our community. In addition, she reported that the Sayreville Public Schools Transportation efficiency rating is nearly a 1.6% and well above the 1.2% target mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education. After that, she reported to the Board and public that for several reasons, the District was proposing a new three tiered bus route system for the 2015-16 school year. She explained that the District currently employs a two tiered bus route system, which basically means that it transports all middle and high school students at the same time, and then transports elementary school students. In doing so, the District has to use at least 20 sub contracted busses from several different vendors, which can be quite costly. Furthermore, because the middle school and high school are located feet away from one another, by starting and ending the school day for each at the same time it has historically resulted in major congestion and traffic delays on Washington and Earnston Roads. Therefore, by staggering the arrival and dismissal times for the high school, middle school, and elementary schools respectively into three tiers, as opposed to two, the District will be able to save approximately \$185,000, take at least 20 subcontracted buses off of Sayreville streets and roads, and significantly reduce the traffic on Washington and Earnston Roads in the morning and afternoon. However, in order to do this, the District will need to start and end the high school day about 20 minutes earlier, start and end the middle school day about 30 minutes later, and start and end the elementary school day about 20 minutes later. Ms. Shedlock concluded her presentation by indicating that even with the estimated \$185,000 cost savings from a three tiered route system, the district is projecting a \$48,060 increase in this budget.

After this presentation several members of the public voiced their opposition to the three tiered bus route system, primarily because it would result in high school students starting and ending school 15 minutes earlier, middle school students starting and ending school about 30 minutes later, and elementary school students starting and ending school 20 minutes later. The Board recognized the cost and traffic relief advantages to the proposed route system but also expressed concern about the time changes. It was decided that when the Finance Committee meets with Dr. Labbe and Mr. D'Andrea to finalize the preliminary budget, which will be voted on by the Board for approval during the March 17, 2015 BOE Business Meeting, they will determine whether or not to include the new route system in it. Thus, if the preliminary budget is approved on the 17th, the district will inform the community of the new time changes for the 2015-16 school year.

After that, Dr. Labbe presented the proposed 2015-16 Extra-Curricular Activities and Athletics Budget. During his presentation, he reported that extracurricular activities are activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. They are conducted outside the regular school day, available to pupils who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by pupil participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing and execution and shall ordinarily include band, clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, and intramural and interscholastic sports. In addition, he communicated that the safety and well-being of students,

including during extracurricular and athletic activities, is the district's highest priority and thus the district's primary goal with such activities is to ensure that all programs, resources, and physical facilities involved in them shall be adequate, safe, and sanitary. Finally, he reported that expenditures for the combined 2015-16 Extra-Curricular and Athletics Budgets will decrease by nearly \$85,000.

If you would like to see the meeting and each of the above mentioned PowerPoint presentations, please 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 a resolution to address the capital project needs of New Jersey school districts. Additionally, it approved two building permits, including one for the use of the middle and high school parking lots, as well as to use busses to shuttle people parking there to the Dwarkadhis Temple. Lastly, the BOE approved several student trips with transportation costs, and retroactively amended a previous motion to place a student with a disability into the Somerset County Educational Services Commission Career Center to placement of that student in the Somerset Secondary Academy of the Somerset County Educational Services Commission.

On the Vision 2030 Student Achievement portion of the agenda the Board approved a Family Fun Night at Dwight D. Eisenhower School on Friday, March 27, 2015. Additionally, the BOE approved the formation of a "Film Club" under the direction of Danielle Proscia, a LAL teacher at Sayreville War Memorial High School. Finally, it approved the High School's Peer Leadership group to hold a Winter Retreat at Camp Bernie in Port Murray, N.J. on March 8-9, 2015.

On the Vision 2030 Governance portion of the agenda the BOE approved the second and final reading of the following Policies: Policy 6145 Extracurricular Activities and Policy 6145.1 Intramural Competitions//6145.2 Interscholastic Competitions.

On the Vision 2030 Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirements of the following employees: Jennie Borusovic, Cafeteria Worker at Arleth Elementary School and Paul Meyer, Custodian for the Samsel Upper Elementary School. In addition the Board approved the transfer of a Grade 2 inclusion teacher to Grade 2 general education teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, effective February 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2015, and a custodian at Arleth Elementary School to grounds worker for the District effective March 4, 2015 thru June 30, 2015. It also approved several leaves of absence, professional days, and the retroactive suspension and termination of a bus driver. Finally, the BOE approved the appointment of several certified and non-certified employees, including Christopher Beagan as a physical education teacher and the new Head Football Coach at SWMHS for the 2015-16 school year.

The next meeting will be business meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, March 17th. During this meeting Ms. Tamika Reese, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Operation, and

Compliance, will present the 2015-16 Proposed Personnel Budget and Dr. Labbe will make a presentation on the proposed 2015-16 special education budgetary needs.

If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, please visit the BOE Agenda page on our website. 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 March 17, 2014.