

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Workshop Meeting held on Tuesday, September 2nd, here is some of what you missed:

Mr. Ciak, Board of Education President, invited Dr. Labbe to introduce several staff members who prepared presentations for the meeting. Hence, Dr. Labbe began by introducing Shannon Johnson, the District Mentoring Coordinator, who along Dara Nalven and Melissa Onuska, coordinated and implemented this year's New Teacher Orientation and Meet Your Mentor Day that took place on August 26th and 27th respectively. According to Ms. Johnson, the goals for New Teacher Orientation are to educate the new faculty members on the culture of the community, share with them district goals and expectations, and to provide them with "hands on activities" to assist them with the first days of school. Similarly, she identified the following objectives for the Meet Your Mentor Day: provide an opportunity for new teachers to meet and begin developing a relationship with their mentor, to give them an opportunity to develop a classroom management plan for the first several days of school, to share with them all the district technology tools available to them, as well as how to incorporate them into their lesson planning; and to educate them on grade level and school specific details.

After that, Dr. Labbe asked Dr. Shediak, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, to give a presentation on the new K-5 Writers' Workshop Curriculum that the board would be asked to approve and adopt later in the meeting. Dr. Shediak explained that Writers' Workshop is a curriculum and instructional methodology that will play a key role in enhancing literacy development and ultimately increase student achievement through a workshop model and curriculum that begins with the end in mind. She also expressed that instruction within Writers' Workshop will model important writing skills through *reading/studying* mentor texts and that students will practice writing every day. In addition, she explained that students will conference individually with their teacher and peers throughout units to learn new skills, as well as continuing to work on teaching skills specific to student needs. In fact she stated that Writers' Workshop provides extensive opportunities for the differentiation of literacy instruction.

Dr. Labbe concluded the presentation portion of the meeting by asking Eric Glock-Molloy, Director of Special Projects/Technology, and Sandra Paul, Chief Technology Officer, to present to the Board and public their efforts to increase parent participation in the use of the Power School Parent Portal. In his presentation Mr. Glock-Molloy noted that prior to the summer only about half the parents in Sayreville had registered for a Parent Portal Account. However, he then proudly indicated that, due to the efforts of Ms. Paul and the entire Technology Department team, by the end of the summer, nearly 90% of the parents had opened an account. Dr. Labbe commended Mr. Glock-Molloy, Ms. Paul, and their staff for their outstanding effort and demonstration of teamwork, and stated that the goal is to have 100% of the parents signed up to obtain information about their children via the parent Portal by the end of this school.

If you would like to see the meeting and each of the above mentioned PowerPoint presentations, please click [here](#) or find them below.

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 contract with Signal Electric Corporation for security upgrades, the Teamsters' Contract, a contract with the Busch Law Group LLC , who will now serve as the Board's law firm, and several 2014-15 special education extended school year and regular school year tuition contracts.

On the Vision 2030 Student Achievement portion of the agenda, along with other motions, the Board approved and adopted new curriculum, such as the aforementioned K-5 Writers' Workshop Curriculum, as well as several revised curriculum guides. Additionally, the BOE approved the appointment each school's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Specialist.

On the Vision 2030 Governance portion of the agenda the board approved the 2014-15 BOE and District Goals, and adopted the following new and revised policies: Code of Student Conduct, Management of Life Threatening Allergies in Schools, Photographs of Pupils, and Independent Educational Evaluations.

On the Vision 2030 Personnel/Negotiations portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the BOE approved Principal salaries, certified staff member leaves of absence, the hiring of three non-certified and eleven certified staff members for either permanent or long term substitute positions, certified and non-certified substitute appointments, and the Superintendent's Merit Bonus Goals.

The next meeting, which will be a Business Meeting, will be held on Tuesday, September 16th. During that meeting we will recognize and celebrate the 2013-14 Teachers of the Year and Education Support Professionals of the Year.

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 September 16, 2014.