



Sayreville Public Schools
Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871
Phone: 732-525-5200
Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TO: Superintendent Parent Advisory Council

FROM: Dr. Richard R. Labbe *ALL*

DATE: 9/17/18

RE: 9/12/18 Superintendent Parent Advisory Council Meeting Follow-Up

The following is a summary of the major agreements and items discussed at our first Superintendent Parent Advisory Council Meeting of the school year held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

- Those in attendance were:

Richard Labbe
Marilyn Shediack
Edward Aguiles
Eric Glock-Molloy
Richard Gluchowski
Anthony Esposito
Karen Rubio
Lucy Bloom

Carmen Davis
Greg Jegou
Rhonda Davis
Eileen Pabon
Allison Napolitano
Victoria Haney
Eloy Fernandez
Lisa Matos

Jennifer Vasquez
Zoe Katsilis
Susana Adams
Sharine Rivera
Danielle Zugcic
Mike Romanello
Tammy Edley

- After welcoming everyone back, President, Eileen Pabon, and Vice President, Allison Napolitano began the meeting by reviewing the attached **SPAC Meeting Ground Rules**.
- We then changed the public meeting originally scheduled for October 10th to December 12th. Thus, the October 10th meeting will be just for SPAC members, while the meeting on December 12th will be open to the entire public. The change was made because Dr. Labbe will be unable to attend the meeting on October 10th.
- Mr. Esposito reviewed all the school safety and security changes that the district has made for the past several years, particular the staffing of each school with armed police officers and campus security monitors, and he discussed the tentative changes to come, such as the construction of secure retention vestibules and the installation of portable metal detectors and student and staff swipe-in/out stations.
- Ms. Davis discussed the new PlayWorks recess character education program that all the elementary schools, including the SUES, have implemented this year for the purpose of structuring play. According to Ms. Davis, by structuring recess into a series of games that the students can participate in during it, we can reduce student accidents and behavioral incidences during recess. Moreover, we can prevent circumstances that may result in harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Nevertheless, due to some concerns about it that have been expressed by the parents of our elementary students, we will educate parents about it in Talk Sup and in individual school newsletters, as well as during Back to School Night presentations.

Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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- Mr. Glock-Molloy addressed concerns about student attendance in Oncourse by informing the group that the automated phone calls made to the parents of students who are absent will begin on Thursday, September 13th. He explained that the system needed at least several days of attendance records before it could begin making the automated calls. Similarly, he informed the Council that beginning on the 13th parents would be able to see the real-time attendance of their children in Oncourse Connect. By accident, this feature was only accessible to students and not parents. Lastly, a member of the Council provided positive feedback with regard to the population of student IEPs on Oncourse Connect and inquired as to whether the district would be doing the same for IEP progress reports. At the very least, she asked if a notification could be set up in Oncourse Connect alerting parents to check them in the Frontline Portal. When Mr. Glock-Molloy was finished, Dr. Shediack then reviewed the BOE grading and homework policies that were recently adopted but the BOE. Following summation of the revisions, the Council engaged in a spirited conversation about the purpose of the changes, particularly the weighting of homework and restrictions on when to assign it, the elimination of class participation grades, and the regulating of extra credit. Finally, a Council members also asked Dr. Shediack the entrance requirements for honors classes in the middle school.
- We discussed the before and after care services currently being provided by Springboard. While, some concerns were expressed about Springboard charging for the early dismissals, the council members reported that they have not heard much of any concerns expressed by parents this year. Nevertheless, they thought it would be a good idea to survey parents regarding their level of satisfaction with it. Dr. Labbe reported to the council that this year Springboard has a location at the middle school so that middle school students no longer have to receive services at Samsel and then either be bussed to and/or from the middle school there. He also noted that while he has received some complaints about Springboard, last year there were over 600 students receiving before and/or after care services from them, and over 500 of those students are receiving such on a full time basis. Nevertheless, members of the council did express that they received negative comments from parents about Springboard charging parents for the recent early dismissal on September 6th and for allegedly not providing a certified teacher to do homework with students. Dr. Labbe expressed that he would investigate the latter concern.
- We reviewed the topic for this Thursday's Parent University workshop, which will be on the new HIB policy and regulation changes that were recently approved by the BOE and that subsequently have been implemented this year. Some members expressed frustration over the fact that this date and some of the others last year conflicted with scheduled PTO/booster club meeting dates. Thus, Dr. Labbe asked that each PTO/booster club send him their meeting dates for this year so that he can share them with Ms. Obryk in the hopes that we can schedule future Parent University workshops that do not conflict with other meetings. Nevertheless, he said that the meeting will be videotaped and that a link to it, as well as the meeting handouts, will be posted on the Parent page of the district website shortly after Thursday's workshop.
- Likewise, Dr. Labbe reminded each group to invite him to a PTO/booster club meeting this year so that he can answer any questions that parents may have about anything with regard to the school district.



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- The Council members representing Sayreville PROUD informed the Council that they will be holding their second annual Resource Fair on November 1, 2018 in the Samsel Upper elementary School Cafeteria. They also expressed the need for vendors.

Thank you so much for your leadership, and commitment and dedication to ensuring the students in the Sayreville Public schools. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 10th at 7 pm in the Selover Conference Room.**

Until then, have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

RRL

CC: K. Ciak, BOE President