



The HIGHLANDS Report

Northern Highlands Regional High School District • Allendale, Upper Saddle River, Ho-Ho-Kus, Saddle River • December 2008

Superintendent's Message

As you may be aware, on December 9th residents of Allendale and Upper Saddle River will be asked to support a referendum to replace our boilers which are 40 years old, and to install an emergency generator with the capacity to support the following:

- Emergency lighting
- Boilers
- Full power to auditorium and gym
- Phone system
- Public address system
- Computer networks
- Toilets

While these functions are vital to the maintenance of our school program, they are also of importance to the community at large because we are designated as a facility for use in emergencies that we hope will never materialize.

The total cost of the project is \$1,397,080. If we did not go to the referendum, it would have to be paid completely by taxpayers. However, under existing laws if we conduct a successful referendum the state

will pay for 40% of debt service or \$558,832. In addition, the district will apply \$400,000 from our 2002 bond, further reducing the cost.

The bottom line is that the average Allendale household will pay \$8.30 the first year and \$10.60 each year for the next nine years. Similarly, average Upper Saddle River households will pay \$9.12 the first year and \$11.64 for the next nine years. Since this is a ten year bond, that is the entire burden. It is less than one dollar a month for ten years.

Polls will be open from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM at your usual polling place, except for voters in District 3 in Upper Saddle River who will vote at the Reynolds School.

You have always supported us in the past, and we hope that you will help us with these vital items.

Robert M. McGuire, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Quad-District Curriculum and Instruction Initiatives

The Regional Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, Jill Mortimer, and the regional superintendents have curriculum projects planned for the school year that feature research-based, progressive initiatives. Following are the highlights of our goals:

Social Studies and World Language

The regional K-8 Social Studies and World Language curricula are being updated and mapped using our Atlas curriculum mapping software. The regional Principals worked together to establish the content for each grade level, and now the teachers are outlining their teaching activities, assessments, technology integration, and resources on a chart that runs from September to June. The mapping project ensures each district is spending about the same amount of time on each unit, and it provides clear information for all of the grade-level teachers so that even implementation is ensured.

Members of these regional committees were exposed to the latest research on teaching these subjects, as reports prepared for Superintendents and Principals by the Regional Supervisor were turned into PowerPoint presentations. In addition, teachers on the Regional K-8 Social Studies Committee were given an opportunity to review textbooks and teaching materials that are endorsed by the American Textbook Council. The content of that curriculum is changing significantly, as more global knowledge and geography will be taught. Finally, middle/high school teachers of both subjects visited each other's classrooms throughout the month of October in order to get a complete understanding of what instruction in these subjects looks like in other grades. This was followed by a grades 6-12 articulation meeting in both subjects in which teachers discussed common areas of interest and the transition from 8th grade to 9th.

SMART Board Workshop

Middle and high school Algebra I teachers had a full day of training on ways to use the SMART Board in their classrooms. All of the regional districts have invested in Smart Boards, and there is a quad-district commitment to infusing meaningful technology into all curricula. Participants were given time for hands-on exploration of the technology.

Literature Circles Training

Consultant Vicki Vinton returned to Northern Highlands this fall to work with English Department teachers on ways to incorporate literature circles in their classrooms. Vinton helped the department revise the English curricula last spring and over the summer, and then she moved on to the instructional aspects of the well-respected Columbia University Teachers College reading and writing workshop model. This is a skill-based model, in that transferable reading and writing skills are at the forefront of the instruction, not the literature being read in the classroom.

NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS NAMED...

Northern Highlands is most proud to announce that five of our seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists as a result of achieving a selection index of 220 or higher on their junior year PSAT, the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The selection index is the sum of all three parts of the PSAT: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. As a result of this outstanding achievement they will now be considered for a National Merit Finalist nomination. Semi-finalists are the highest scorers in each of the 50 states and

represent less than one percent of each state's high-school seniors. This one percent is approximately 16,000 semi-finalists. Sometime in February 2009, the school will receive notification of those selected to become National Merit Finalists. Those who become finalists will compete for 2,500 single-payment National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Warmest congratulations to:

WOO CHANG CHUNG

ANNA KOSHELEVA

MADISON LOEW

RICHARD MEDINA

MATTHEW YEATON

**THIS ACHIEVEMENT REPRESENTS ONE OF THOSE
OUTSTANDING MOMENTS IN YOUR LIFE
WHEN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHOULD BE MOST PROUD.**



Highlands Captures State Championship!

On Saturday November 15th, The Northern Highlands Girls Volleyball team won the Group 3 State Championship by defeating West Morris Central in a best of three game match 17-25, 25-22, 25-19. This is the Highlanders first ever state title in girl's volleyball and the school district's first state team title since 1993.

The Highlanders enjoyed their best season in school history. Their record currently stands at 24-4 and they advanced to play in the State Tournament of Champions. Congratulations to Head Coach: Caryn Schanstine, Assistant Coaches: Dana Hansen, Brennan Heffernan and to all of the players: Allison Dench, Kelly Forst, Allie O'Brien, Rachel Scanzillo, Laura Zysk, Caroline Baratz, Kaitlyn Dormer, Hannah Mayer, Sarah Pfund, Jen Forhecz and Nicole Scardino.

GO HIGHLANDS!



Northern Highlands Regional High School District

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

DATE: Monday, December 8, 2008

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

The Board of Education invites you to attend a
critical issues input session

to gather information to be used to set criteria for the background, training and experience necessary for the new superintendent of schools. Our search consultant, Joanne Borin, New Jersey School Boards Association, will explain the search procedure, the roles played by the Board, the staff and the public in the process, and the calendar for the actual search. Discussion will center on the strengths, concerns, on-going issues and future initiatives which will face the new superintendent. Information gathered, together with input from other focus groups, will be used to shape a variety of candidate review documents and the interview questions.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008 • Time: 7:30 p.m. • Place: High School Auditorium

**Postal Patron
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458**

*James Davis,
Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

*Robert M. McGuire, Ed. D.,
Superintendent of Schools*

Gail Trumbetti

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Board of Education

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