

**CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE**  
**March 2019**

During the month of March 2019, the Chesterfield Township School District Board of Education held three board meetings. The topics below reflect the highlights of all three meetings.

**Chorus Performance**

This year, our school developed a new choral program. Under the direction of Mrs. O'Brien, the program has grown to over 80 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in just the first year! Great job Mrs. O'Brien! Mrs. O'Brien and the chorus performed two songs at the board meeting to showcase their talents.

**School Security**

At the March 11<sup>th</sup> work session meeting, the board discussed the proposals for the work to improve building security inside and outside of the building. At the March 18<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting, the board unanimously approved a vendor to complete the work.

**Board Attorney**

At the March 11<sup>th</sup> work session meeting, the board reviewed proposals from six law firms as they work through the process of selecting a new board attorney. At the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the board conducted interviews with five of the candidates. The board intends to approve a new attorney at the April meeting.

**2019-2020 School Year Budget**

Superintendent Scott Heino and Business Administrator Patrick Pisano presented the preliminary budget for the 2019-2020 School Year. The preliminary budget was initially presented at the Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and then presented again at the Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the board approved the preliminary budget with a 4-1 vote, and the budget has now been submitted to the Department of Education for review.

As highlighted last month, the major initiatives of the district for the next school year include implementing the new social studies curriculum and implementing a plan to improve school climate and culture. The 2019-2020 School Year Budget also includes a restructuring of

administration. With the retirement of Mr. Robert Carter, Director of Facilities, the current administrative team will absorb the responsibilities of the Director of Facilities position, and the district will hire a new building principal. The district is reinstating the assistant principal position which will include the responsibilities of the Director of Facilities, as well as other administrative responsibilities.

The 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget Presentations are posted on the district website. Click the “School Board” tab at the top of the page, and then click the “School Budgets” tab to access the 2019-2020 Budget Year. The Board of Education will hold the annual Budget Public Hearing on Monday, May 1, 2019 at 7:00 PM

### **NJSBA New Board Member Certification Award**

Congratulations to Board Member Amy Jablonski for receiving the New Jersey School Boards Association New Board Member Certification Award! This award recognizes the completion of trainings in critical areas of board governance.

### **2019-2020 School Year Calendar**

At the March 18<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting, the board approved the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar. The new calendar is posted on the district website.

### **Geothermal Vault**

As you know, the district has a leak in our geothermal underground vault. The vault is an underground room in the back of the school which connects the building to the underground geothermal system. The geothermal system is the system which heats and cools our building. Due to a leak in the vault, our vault completely fills with water every couple days and requires our maintenance staff to pump the water out of the vault several times each week. Due to the excessive proposals the district received (monetarily excessive), the board voted to reject the proposals and will now begin a negotiation process with potential vendors to complete the work within the projected monetary range.