EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

October 26, 2026
Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Paulo Lopes, Chair
Linda Rad ABS, David Rizza, Justina Ryan, Beth Fiore Alt

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary
Dr. Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services
Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor
Katie DaQuisto, Early Childhood Supervisor
Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor
Dr. Anthony Tumolo, Special Projects Supervisor
Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

Agenda

1. **Board Goals:** Academic Achievement: The committee reviewed language regarding academic achievement. Following discussion on a board member's concern, the committee agreed to retain the phrase "Highest Priority" within the goal. Additionally, in response to feedback regarding staff retention, Dr. Hart will refine the wording to explicitly incorporate administrative support into retention efforts. Board members discussed Board Governance and Culture goals. A link was added for the Civility toolkit. After some discussion, the board agreed to retain and focus on three specific development areas: civility, governance, and financial training. Referendum and safety goal, no comments across committee.
2. **NJSLA Results** (AR) Ms Pauch and Dr Brown presented. A New adaptive assessment was used this year; state says results represent a new baseline, not directly comparable to prior fixed-form tests. New extended testing times: math 150 min, ELA 150 min, with a break at 75 min, writing 90 min, science 45 min. Stamina was a concern, especially for younger students. New reports include Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) for grades 4-7. SGPs compare students to peers with similar achievement histories, so growth is measurable even across different assessments. The presentation included NJSLA-A assessment results for math and ELA along with science scores. The presentation also reported subpopulation data as well. The committee asked clarifying questions and the results will be presented at the November 10 BOE meeting.

   Subpopulation Data Reported: at district level (grades 3-8); groups under 10 students suppressed for confidentiality. Math and ELA by race: large percentages in passing range across all reported groups.

Hispanic ELA proficiency is lower, partly attributed to language-based test. Request made by board member to add student counts to race charts in final public presentation. Math and ELA by gender: male and female performing nearly identically, bucking the typical female math gap trend. By program (economically disadvantaged, ELL, IEP, 504): Steady trends across groups. ELL group lower in ELA, expected given language demands.

3. **English/Language Arts 6-8 Curricular Pilot** (AR). The district has launched Unit 1 of its Grade 6 Literacy Curriculum Pilot (*"The Hero's Path: Ancient Myths and Modern Journeys"*), developed alongside consultant Dr. Riley using a train-the-trainer model. Moving from genre-based to theme-based instruction, the new 25-lesson curriculum integrates reading and writing, leveraging Greek myths, *Percy Jackson*, and a play to analyze what defines a hero. Student interest and teacher engagement are strong as the rollout continues: two additional Grade 6 units remain to be written, with Grade 8 curriculum planning up next and Grade 7 planned for next summer. Students opting out of the fantasy components are successfully accommodated, students stay involved in-class for as much as possible.

4. **Preschool Program Plan Overview:** Ms. DaQuisto. Preschool plan (for 2026-27): Currently 17 classrooms; seeking state approval for an 18th. Plan: move one classroom from White House Elementary back to White House Prep (restoring 4 classrooms there). If 18th not approved: shift one from Global Pioneer to White House Prep instead; Global Pioneer has been informed.

5. **Mental Health Tiers**, Mr. Tumolo, the district's mental health framework is structured by grade band (PreK, K-5, 6-8) with specified referral leads, offering Tier 2 short-term interventions. Tier 3 offers virtual services via Hazel Health. All tiers require parent consent and data-sharing authorization. While tier referrals stem from counselor observation rather than formal testing, recent DOE guidance mandates prior parental consent and full survey access for any student assessments.

Quarterly Technology Update (FP) tabled

Access to Reading Logs in Genesis, tabled

Teacher Resources Landing Page (HC&B) tabled

Fall Teacher Academy Catalog (AR, HC&B) tabled

Next Meeting: Nov 3rd, 8:30am