

## **Board of Education Summary October 11, 2010**

Nick Markarian gave the Business Administrator's Report. The district is starting the budget process for 2011-12, using a zero-based approach for all accounts. The company managing the boilers at WAMS to increase energy efficiency is now looking at Ridge High's boilers.

A joint meeting between the Township Committee and the Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26 at 7 pm at the Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

Sean Siet presented the District Testing Report. (The complete PowerPoint presentation is posted on the [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com) homepage, under "Presentations" on the left side.) The presentation focused on mandated state testing: the NJASK for grades 3 through 8 and the HSPA for 11<sup>th</sup> graders, which is required for high school graduation. Students have three chances to pass the HSPA: one in March of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and two during 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The NJASK and HSPA tests are the result of the federal NCLB (No Child Left Behind) Act, which was passed in 2002. School districts must demonstrate AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for all subgroups with more than 30 students, including special education students.

On the NJASK Mathematics and Language Arts tests, more Bernards Township students in grades 3 – 6 scored in the advanced proficient range than other school districts in the J district factor group and the state as a whole. In addition, on both tests, fewer students in grades 3 – 8 scored in the partially proficient range than other school districts in the J district factor group and the state as a whole.

The state continues to change and refine the tests. For example, on the NJASK grades 3 to 8, calculators are now restricted to certain sections only. This is a major change that required revisions to the curriculum. At the high school level, the state has introduced content area tests, which are expected to eventually replace the HSPA. The End of Course Biology test will count for this year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders, as will the End of Course Algebra test.

More Ridge students are taking SAT subject tests as college admission becomes increasingly competitive. In addition, more students are taking AP courses. Some AP courses are now open to 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Finance Committee**

Susan McGowan reported that the committee has sent RFPs for health insurance to 9 brokers, and 8 have responded. The four strongest agencies will have interviews on October 27.

### **Personnel Committee**

Susan Carlsson reported that mediation with the Bernards Township teachers' union will start on October 13. The BOE and superintendent have reached agreement on a new contract, which will be presented at the October 25 meeting.

### **Community Relations Committee**

Robin McKeon reported that the Municipal Alliance's "It's 21 For a Reason" program, aimed at reducing underage drinking, will have its kickoff at the Ridge PAC on October 28 at 7 pm. This event is free and open to the public. The school district is a sponsor.

### **Report on New Jersey School Boards Legislation Meeting**

Susan Carlsson said that school districts have been instructed to bank the money received from the recently passed Education Jobs Fund Act (\$156,767 for Bernards Township). There is concern that it will be deducted from 2011-12 state aid. The New Jersey Assembly has not taken any action on Governor Christie's "Toolkit" of 33 bills to deal with the new 2% cap. Governor Christie has announced his education reform agenda, which includes changes to teacher tenure, evaluation, and pay; easing of restrictions on charter schools; and vouchers.

### **Board Forum**

Presentations on the following topics are currently planned for future BOE meetings:

Nov 8, 2010	Program changes for 2011-12 school year
Dec 20, 2010	Random drug testing
Jan 24, 2011	Special education, technology
Feb 14, 2011	Community service requirement for 10th graders