



School Board Update



Summary of School Board Committee Meetings Provided by Committee Members

May 2008

Education Committee

submitted by DEBBIE ROLLINS

The Education Committee met on May 13th. The administration presented an update on the District Strategic Plan. The Committee recommended the Strategic Plan for approval by the Board at the June 16th meeting. The plan is available on the District web site and at libraries and township buildings.

Next, the administration presented the draft Teacher Induction Report, Report on Professional Education and the Academic Standards and Assessment Report, which are components of the e-Strategic Plan. The Committee recommended all three reports for approval by the Board at its June 16th meeting.

The administration then presented an update on the status of the Literacy Intervention Program and information on the implications of State proposed caseload modifications for special education teachers.

Next, the administration presented information on the Classrooms for the Future (CFF) grant proposal submitted by the District to the state in the amount of \$1,400,000. The grant would support the acquisition of technology and related teaching skills. Should the District be offered the grant, it would be required to meet state requirements and also pay for installation, maintenance and replacement of technology as needed.

Finally, the Committee heard a report from the Conestoga High School administration on a proposed change in scheduling practices.

Facilities Committee

submitted by PETE MOTEL

The Facilities Committee met on Friday, May 9th. The Committee heard an update on the move of the administrative offices to the West Valley Business Center. The tentative move date is July 11, 2008.

Next, District architects presented revised plans for the renovation of the Old Tredyffrin High School to

provide office space for the maintenance and information technology departments.

The Committee reviewed air conditioning projects within the District over the past 15 years, including temperature data from 2007 and the cost of providing full air conditioning at the elementary schools. The administration has begun a systematic review of all the air handling equipment currently operating in the elementary schools and will also collect temperature data in the fall of 2008. The Committee also asked the architects to provide a cost estimate for decentralized air conditioning units for school classrooms.

Next the Committee evaluated preliminary design solutions to address parking issues at several school buildings including TEMS, Hillside, Devon, Valley Forge and New Eagle. The architects will revise several of the plans for the June Facilities meeting.

Finally, the Committee evaluated potential uses of the current ESC. The Committee concluded that the ESC would be best as a potential school site, should the need arise. The Committee asked for a cost estimate to tear down the ESC and an estimate to keep the building in its current condition for another year. The Committee also agreed to a request from the Berwyn Fire Company to relocate equipment to the ESC site, if possible, during a renovation of the firehouse.

Finance Committee

submitted by BETSY FADEM

The Finance Committee meeting began with a discussion on the Pennsylvania State Gaming Revenue that is available for property tax relief. The T/ School District, like all other PA school districts, must decide whether or not to accept the gaming revenue. T/E's property tax reduction allocation for 2008-09 is \$2,099,813.81, resulting in a tax reduction of approximately \$181 for each eligible homestead. The Committee recommended that the full Board adopt a resolution to accept the T/E property tax reduction allocation for 2008-09.

Next the Committee reviewed the monthly financial reports and information. The Committee asked the administration to investigate the Amusement taxes within the District. This will be followed up at upcoming Finance Meetings.

The After School Activity Program was the next topic on the agenda. The program will be communicated to the middle school families and will be available in the fall of 2008. An update on this program and the level of student participation will be presented to the Committee in the November.

The Committee reviewed an updated version of the Fund Balance Policy. The Committee expressed a desire to see the accompanying regulation at the next meeting. The goal is to complete the Finance Committee's input on the policy at the next meeting and send it to the Policy Committee for their review.

In light of the recent rise in food and fuel costs, the preliminary budget for Food Services was studied. No change in food prices for the students is recommended at this time; however, if further projections over the summer warrant food price increases, the Finance Committee will be advised and it will be discussed.

Policy Committee

submitted by LIANE DAVIS

The Policy Committee met on May 8th. The Committee recommended Policy 5116, Nonresident Students, for a second reading by the full Board at its May meeting.

Next the Committee discussed Policy 9131, Nomination Process and Election Process for Board Officers. The Committee recommended the policy for a first reading by the Board at their May meeting. The policy defines the School Board election procedures for Board offices, including the naming of a temporary president at the annual reorganization meeting, nomination of Board officers, and the provision for written ballots that will then be read aloud and tabulated by the Board Secretary. The District solicitor will create a regulation with draft "scripts" to guide the Board through the process described in the policy.

The Committee discussed Policy 1100, School District Communications with the Public, Policy 1120, Communication with the School Board and Policy 5115, School Attendance Areas and recommended all three policies for a first reading by the Board. In all three policies, the changes reflect current practice.

Finally, the Committee reviewed Policy 5421, Hazing, and determined that the policy is broad and inclusive enough to meet the needs of all members of the school community. The Committee affirmed that it believes this policy to be a zero tolerance policy regarding hazing. The Committee discussed Policy 5422, Student Accident or Injuries, and decided that it will be discussed further by the Committee on June 17th.

Public Information Committee

submitted by PAT WOOD

The primary topic of discussion was the State proposal for Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs). The citizen comment window begins on May 17 for 30 days. The T/E resolution in opposition is on the www.tesd.net web site, along with a video that has been recognized across the State. Contact information will be shared at the ISC meeting, PTO meetings, through email communication and on the web site.

The administration presented the proposed 2008-09 tax bill which will include the addition of a section for the homestead exclusion. The State now has sufficient gambling money to provide an amount of real estate reduction to all property owners who applied for and were granted an exclusion. Any questions by community members should be directed to Chester County. Anyone who did not apply for homestead property tax relief may call the County for the appropriate forms applicable for next year.

The Committee discussed a proposal to reduce the number of fliers included in school newsletters or sent home with students by posting approved non-profit, student-oriented fliers on a special page of the District web site. Paper copies would no longer be sent home. T/E School District fliers would still be included in school newsletters and sent home with students as appropriate. The Committee recognized the need for a transition period and an awareness campaign to inform parents about where to find the information.

The June T/E Board Talk program will feature segments on the 2008-09 budget, the tax bill format and the senior internship program. Tentative topics for the August T/E Board Talk program include the strategic plan, a tour of the new administrative building, and the availability next school year of after school care for middle school students.

The Committee, on behalf of the Board, asked the administration to arrange to have cakes sent to each District building during staff appreciation week.