



School Board Update



Summaries of School Board Committee Meetings for **November 2011**

Visit www.tesd.net and click on 'School Board' for meeting dates, agendas and minutes.
The public is warmly invited to all Committee meetings.

Education Committee, Chair: Betsy Fadem

Prepared by: Committee Chair

The Education Committee met on November 15, 2011 and received a report from the T/E administration on the proposed modifications to the middle school social studies program. The administration noted that the revisions to the middle school program were prompted by revisions to the high school curriculum that were initially instituted in response to the Keystone Exam implementation. The new model will include a regional approach to global studies in the 5th and 6th grades and each region will be studied through four different lenses: geography, history, culture and modern issues. These changes will be phased in during the next couple of school years.

Continuing on a related topic, the administration presented an update to the Education Committee on the 7th and 8th grade social studies programs. With U.S. History studies the focus in these two grades, the administration reviewed the phased in course implementation plan.

With the 2012-2013 school calendar approved last month by the School Board, the administration noted that there was one minor correction to the 2012-2013 calendar. The adjustment involved removing one make up day (June 21) and replacing it with another (March 28.) This was necessary so that the end of the year teacher inservice days would be completed before the end of June, in the event of significant make up days. The administration noted that these changes, once approved by the full Board, will be posted with our calendar on the website.

The final item of business for the Committee was a detailed review of delayed educational programming expenditures. The Committee approved expenditures for textbooks, student learning tools, improved student assessment, staff development in curriculum, replacement learning pilots and mobile learning pilots. The original list included expenditures of \$519,850 and the Committee approved items totaling \$387,850.

The next Education Committee is January 10, 2012 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the T/E Administrative Offices on West Valley Road. All are welcome.

Facilities Committee, Chair: Pete Motel

The Facilities Committee met on Friday, November 18 at the TEAO building. The Committee heard a report on the District's 2010-2011 summer construction projects. All of the projects have been completed as scheduled. The Committee was also updated on the status of radon and lead water testing in the school buildings.

The Committee heard a report on the enrollment projections for next year and discussed classroom inventories. The Committee was informed that District has adequate space for this year's enrollment of 6,465 students but has exposure to increased enrollment in the future due to the possibility of Catholic school closings next year. The Committee also discussed converting applied technology rooms to regular classrooms in the elementary schools to address possible enrollment increases in the future. It was noted that the District should consider moving the students living in home properties from Devon to Beaumont Elementary as a possible response to equalize the enrollment between the two elementary schools if needed in the future. Space availability and needs at the middle schools and at the High School were also discussed and will be studied by the District Architect.

The Committee reviewed the District's infrastructure report prepared by the District Architect and approved the proposed fees for services to be provided for the 2012-2013 District's construction projects. The Committee agreed to send the fees to the full Board for their approval. The Committee also agreed with the administration's recommendation to use the District Architect as a contracted clerk of the works, on a per unit basis, if needed during these construction projects.

Finally the Committee reviewed the capital sources and uses report that shows the current balance of funds available to pay for future capital and deferred maintenance projects. The Committee noted that there has been a significant reduction in capital spending over the past few years which has created a longer list of deferred maintenance projects.

Finance Committee, Chair: Kevin Mahoney

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Finance Committee met on November 14 in the Conestoga High School Cafeteria. A representative from Maillie, Falconiero & Company, LLP, presented the draft audit for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. He noted that the audit report contains a clean opinion on the statements with no audit findings. In addition, the representative also discussed the new fund balance presentation requirements and answered questions concerning fund balance commitments. The Committee asked that the audit be sent to the full Board to be accepted.

The Board Treasurer presented the results of the October Treasurer's report. According to the report, all revenues and expenditures are within budgeted amounts except for the reinstated \$1.3 million in State subsidies that will be received during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The Committee reviewed the 2012-2013 budget calendar and was informed that a preliminary estimate of the 2012-2013 Act 1 referendum exceptions is approximately \$1.425 million.

Finally the Committee had a discussion concerning the District's budget strategy to produce new revenue through a marketing services RFP and agreement. The Committee supported an agreement with Masterpiece Multimedia and asked that it be sent to the full Board for their approval.

Policy Committee, Chair: Kevin Buraks

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Policy Committee began with a detailed discussion of **Policy and Regulation 5405: Student Substance Abuse**. Minor, non-substantive changes were made to the policy language and a review date was added.

The Committee turned its attention to **Policy 1121: Video and Audio Recording of School Board Meetings by the Public**. Following a brief review, the policy was recommended for a first reading before the Board of School Directors at their November 21, 2011 meeting.

The next item of business was a discussion of a possible **new advertising policy** since the District has been examining the feasibility of advertising as a strategy to increase revenues to close projected budget gaps for 2011-12 and beyond. The Committee received a report from the Business Manager on the response from Masterpiece Multimedia, LLC to the District's Request for Proposal

(RFP) for marketing revenue services. The Committee decided that it would proceed with advertising as a budget strategy and craft a related policy accordingly, as more information becomes available during implementation. The Committee also directed the administration to bring the marketing revenue services agreement to the November 14, 2011 Finance Committee meeting for further discussion.

The Policy Committee continued its review of **Policy 3100: Budget Development Process**. The Committee reviewed revisions made to the policy since its September meeting. Following a brief discussion, the policy was recommended for a first reading at the November 21, 2011 Board meeting.

The next item of business was a review of **Regulation 7040: Use of Facilities**. The District solicitor presented to the Committee proposed additional language to the regulation. The new language stipulates that outside vendors are prohibited from using District schools to tutor students during school hours.

The Committee also returned to **Policy 6111: School Calendar**. Following a brief review, the policy was recommended for a first reading at the November 21, 2011 Board meeting.

The Committee heard a report from the administration concerning policies that govern anonymous complaints: **Policies 1120, 1122 and 6136**. After a detailed discussion, the Committee recommended revisiting District policies governing anonymous complaints, in addition to **Policy 4022: Addressing Employee Concerns and Criticism**, at its December 15, 2011 meeting.

The Committee then considered the need for a new policy for **Campaigning on District Property**. The Committee identified elements of such a policy in **Policy 7040: Use of Facilities** and in a letter that is sent to candidates for School Board election who must notify the District of their intent to run for office. The Committee instructed the administration to craft a policy from this existing language. The Committee will review a draft policy in December.

The Policy Committee continued with **Policy 9311: Order of Business for Monthly Board Meeting**. Following a brief review and discussion about reducing the number of paper attachments to the agenda, the policy was not recommended for change.

The next item of business was a review of **Policy and Regulation 4041: Obligation to Report Criminal Offenses**. After a brief review and minor editing, the policy and regulation were recommended for a second reading before the Board at their November 21, 2011 meeting.

The Committee also returned to **Policy and Regulation 5401: Student Discipline** and **Policy 1400: Relations with Other Governmental and Educational Agencies**.

Following a brief review and minor editing, the Committee recommended Policy and Regulation 5401: Student Discipline for a second reading at their November meeting. The repeal of Policy 4100: Relations with Other Governmental and Educational Agencies was recommended for a second reading at the November Board meeting.

As an information item, the Committee received comments from the District solicitor concerning changes to **Regulation 4220-4422: Family and Medical Leaves of Absence** to ensure consistency with law. The Committee then heard from the administration on **Policy 1124: Distribution of Promotional Information**. The focus of his discussion was the placement of advertising signage for school-, district-, and community-sponsored events on school district property. The Committee decided that signage for a school event may be placed on that school's property. Additional advertising for school events shall occur through media outlets such as the webpage and newsletters.

Continuing with information items, the Committee discussed the establishment of an education foundation. The administration was asked to gather and organize information on the development of an education foundation in preparation for follow-up discussion at the December meeting of the Committee. Finally, the Committee discussed **Policy 9140: Board Committees**. The discussion centered on a proposal to dissolve the Public Information Committee since each Board committee, in theory and in practice, engages in public information work. A public information segment would be placed on the Regular School Board Meeting agenda under Other Information. The deletion of the Public Information Committee was recommended for a first reading at the November 21, 2011 Board meeting.

**Public Information Committee,
Chair: Debbie Bookstaber**

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Committee reviewed open records requests from Tredyffrin/Easttown residents. There was no action taken following this review. Next, The Committee continued its discussion on reducing the size of the printed School Board meeting agenda to conserve resources. As a result, the Committee recommended a number of changes to the printed School Board meeting agenda beginning in January 2012. The Committee recommended having three shorter packets of information available at the meeting: a highlights packet, the agenda and priority discussion/other recommended action items. All other informational

materials will not be printed as part of the agenda and will continue to be available on the T/E School District web site and in the printed review copy of the agenda at the meeting. The correspondence list, student of the month and honor roll will no longer be included in the agenda. The correspondence list is available from the Business Office by request and the student of the month and honor roll lists are available in the school buildings.

Lastly, the administration reviewed the topics for the upcoming *T/E Insight* community newsletter. Topics include a recap of the Tax Study Group report and the School Board's decision regarding putting an earned income tax referendum question on the April 2012 ballot, the District goals and a number of student items.