

The following is a summary of the June 30, 2020, Combined Conference and Regular Meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education (Virtual Meeting via Zoom):

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent of Schools, provided the following report:

Good evening. As you most likely know, the Governor released a 104-page "Road Back Report." The New Jersey plan provides broad outlines that we will use to guide us in crafting our plan and modifying our programs. The administrative team has formed committees to work through important areas and we will be reaching out to other stakeholders to participate in the process. Our goal is to announce the plan by August 3rd, and as much as possible we will provide the community with updates along the way. To help us in our planning I urge you to fill out the survey I sent out on June 17th. We have only had 334 responses. I will resend it tomorrow morning. Please make sure to fill it out. Tell your friends! I will be following up with an e-mail tomorrow to parents.

The District is excited for our graduation on July 8th. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend because I was in Florida this past week and have been caught up in the newly-announced quarantine. On July 7th (with a rain date of July 14th), we will host a Senior Picnic to celebrate our graduating seniors. It is sure to be a great day.

The Berkeley Heights School District has formed a Diversity Committee. I will read the brief specifics here:

Mission: The mission of the Berkeley Heights District Diversity Committee is to support the GLHS, CMS and Elementary Level Diversity Committees to celebrate the diversity of our community and foster inclusiveness and acceptance through a three-tiered approach: Celebration, Communication, and Education.

Structure: The District Diversity Committee will consist of the Superintendent, a member of the Board of Education, two members each from the GLHS, CMS, and Elementary Diversity Committees, and three parents.

Purpose: The Diversity Committee will serve as a forum to discuss (and where necessary coordinate) building-level initiatives, plan larger scale community-centered events, and meet to hear district-level and community concerns related to diversity, equity and inclusiveness issues. In addition, the District level committee will liaise with the Berkeley Heights Township Diversity Committee and the Board of Education.

From the District Committee mission statement, you can see that we are also adding building-level diversity committees that will oversee individual celebrations of diversity, organize the large inclusive events, coordinate speakers, roundtables, and serve as a forum to discuss curriculum and instructional practice.

Superintendent's Report (continued)

The district will also be developing new best practices for hiring in order to expand our pool of diverse candidates, adding implicit bias training for staff and administration, and doing a broad curricular review. We have taken a few small concrete steps this year (roundtables, reviewing reading lists to add diverse authors, etc.), but it is my intention that the building and district diversity committees will do much of the heavy lifting in this area. The committees at all levels include community and student voices; if you are interested in volunteering, please let me know.

I have received much feedback from the community over the past several weeks regarding diversity in the BHPS, and I want to assure you that you have been heard and that the district is committed to diversity and inclusion.

Thank you all for your support during these exceptional times. Have a great summer.

Facilities Report

Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, provided the following report:

Our custodial staff has been working during the school closure and has made great progress getting the schools cleaned and sanitized. They have also been working on regular maintenance projects.

One of the projects the custodians have undertaken is the replacement of lighting with LED lighting. We were able to take advantage of grants offered by NJCleanEnergy and the cost of the bulbs and fixtures was reimbursed. Work is also continuing on rooftop fan repairs and replacement.

Finally, the district is in the planning stages for making facility changes in response to reopening the schools.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following:

- The introduction for study and first reading of the following proposed revised district policy: Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries 2431.4
- The Memorandum of Agreement between the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and Berkeley Heights Education Association Custodians, Maintenance and Transportation Unit for the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the development of the full contractual Agreement.
- The Sidebar Agreement between the Berkeley Heights Board of Education and Berkeley Heights Education Association for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
- The submission of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grant application in the amount of \$40,036 to the New Jersey Department of Education. Funds received through this grant will be used to cover the cost of professional development efforts for district staff members as well as for supplies, materials and programs to enhance emerging district initiatives.
- The submission of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act 2020 (CARES Act) Emergency Relief Grant application in the amount of \$102,140 to the New Jersey Department of Education. Funds received through this grant will be used to purchase supplies and services to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The submission of Statements of Assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education for the District Professional Development Plan, District Mentoring Plan, and District Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The Agreement with the Morris-Union Jointure Commission for students participating in the Governor Livingston High School Community-Based Instruction program to use the Learning Labs at the MUJC's Developmental Learning Center in Warren during Summer 2020.
- The Agreement with the Morris-Union Jointure Commission for the MUJC to provide Transition Coordinator consultation services to the Governor Livingston High School teaching staff during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Agreements with Language Circle Enterprises and NextMark Foundation to provide remote professional development to district teachers and paraprofessionals during the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The successful completion of one quantitative goal, the final goal for the 2019-2020 school year, by Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent of Schools, as per New Jersey Department of Education requirements for Chief School Administrators. Dr. Varley successfully completed all five (5) goals established by the Board of Education for 2019-2020.
- The 2020-2021 fiscal year employment contracts of both Scott McKinney, Assistant Superintendent; and Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.
- The employment and salaries of district Central Office Personnel for the 2020-2021 school year.
- For additional Child Study Team staff members to be employed during the summer months of 2020 for the purposes of completing student evaluations, conducting required meetings with parents/guardians, and providing other services as required by Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) of specific district students.
- For Christina Zaun to be re-employed as District Data Analyst/Administrator and District Anti-Bullying Coordinator for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The revised 2019-2020 salaries and the employment and salaries of Custodians and Central Maintenance staff members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- The revised 2019-2020 salaries and the employment and hourly pay rates of Transportation staff members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- The employment and salaries of Custodial Supervisors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- The employment and compensation rates of Paraprofessionals and a Bus Health Aide for the 2020-2021 school year in all district schools.
- The employment of staff members, assignments, and stipends for Extra-Curricular Activities (Athletics and Band personnel) at Governor Livingston High School and Columbia Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year.
- For Daniel Guyton, Anthony Conzentino and Carmin Scuderi to serve as supervisors in the Governor Livingston High School Summer Weight Training program for 2020.
- For Gregory Biskaduros, Jack Ghannam, Brian Richards and Christopher Schaumberg to be employed as Season Custodial Assistants for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The re-employment of Debera Dwyer in the part-time position of Faculty Technical Support Person for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- The re-employment of Harold Kessler as Treasurer of School Funds for the Berkeley Heights Public Schools for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- To approve the participation of students from the Governor Livingston High School Class of 2020 in the Project Graduation Class Picnic to be held on July 7, 2020, at GLHS, with a rain date of July 14, 2020.
- To support submission, by the Township of Berkeley Heights, of an Application for the New Jersey Department of Transportation Safe Streets to Transit Grant. This project aims to continue and improve the promotion and encouragement of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety for school children and residents.

The Board of Education will conduct a Combined Conference and Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.