

**FINAL REPORT ON DISTRICT GOALS 2008-2009**  
**June 30, 2009**

**1. To maintain quality programs in a fiscally responsible manner that would be supported by the community**

Status: The district administration and board established budget parameters for 2009-2010 at the September board meeting. Information regarding grant opportunities, both discretionary and entitlement have been prepared and reviewed by the Research Assistant and Business Administrator. Information was provided to the Board Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board as a whole regarding energy management initiatives. The district received proposals for a lighting project, pool cover, and energy audit. The facilities committee reviewed capital improvement projects and since the budget was prepared with a limited amount of funds, the projects have been deferred waiting for other sources of funding. The district administration and Personnel Committee reviewed staffing configurations, enrollments and program needs, and this was discussed at a public meeting. There would be no personnel additions for the upcoming school year. In fact, the proposed budget included reductions of staff members in the areas of transportation, maintenance, lunch monitors, teacher assistants, and one teacher/coordinator. All discussions regarding the budget were conducted at public meetings in October through March. The public hearing on the budget was held in late March. A district newsletter was published focusing on the budget. The Superintendent and Board President presented a budget video that was broadcast on the cable networks. Meetings were held with members of the public and the business administrator to review all aspects of the budget. A copy of the budget documentation was also made available for public use. The final budget was presented was approved by the voters at the April school election.

**2. To maintain a focus on increasing student achievement on standardized assessments including sub-groups**

Status: During the summer and fall, district principals, supervisors and teachers reviewed student performance on standardized assessments. School level goals, action plans and staff professional growth plans were all developed with a focus on addressing needs to increase student achievement in various areas. The report on student achievement was provided to the Board and the public at the October Board Meeting. During the month of September, professional growth plans and administrative professional plans were developed and finalized. The high school science supervisor and science department have reviewed the secondary level science program and prepared a preliminary recommendation for a new lab facility at the high school to be in place for September 2010. This new lab has been submitted for consideration for federal funding.

An in-depth detailed analysis of the performance of special education students was prepared and reviewed by the child study team director and the principals. This longitudinal study indicates that inconsistent progress is being made by this sub-group in improving individual student's performance on the standardized assessments. This data will continue to inform decisions that are made regarding program and curriculum modifications. All staff members have been continually updated on the changes in assessments formats and the changes in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. A number of curriculum guides have been reviewed, revised, and approved by the Board, including the development of curriculum maps for all content areas. Benchmark assessments are being incorporated into the math and world language programs at the eighth grade level.

All students participated in the required state assessment programs in the spring. New assessments were piloted in algebra 1 and biology end of course tests. The results of the assessments have not yet made available by the state except for the HSPA. These results will be included in the annual report on assessment. A new format as requested by the Board has been prepared and will be presented with the most current data at the July Board meeting.

**3. To develop and implement effective methods that shares the district's vision and enhances community support**

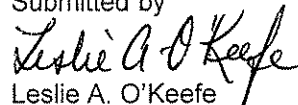
Status: The district's mission statement was reviewed at a public meeting in September 2008 by the Board President. The vision for the school district was highlighted in the October 2008 district newsletter. Outreach to the community was highlighted in the December 2008 district newsletter for public dissemination. The Alert Now parent notification system was tested and implemented in fall 2008. Student and staff accomplishments have been recognized at board meetings throughout the fall. The superintendent has attended the PT Council meetings as scheduled. Five district newsletters were published including an eight page end of year edition. This is an increase of one newsletter for the year. A newly formatted special education newsletter has been distributed quarterly. A public relations calendar has been implemented which resulted in increased local newspaper publicity from January through June. An advertisement highlighting the college acceptances of the Class of 2009 was published in June.

At monthly board meetings, legislative issues related to school governance and administration have been reviewed by the board members who have attended a variety of meetings, including a community meeting on the development in the Meadowlands. Most of the areas in terms of the community outreach are on an on-going basis. Meetings have also been conducted regarding the inclusion of district information on a planned revision of the Borough of Rutherford website. The broadcast of the school district's meetings on Verizon FIOS was accomplished in April. A new format on the district's web site provided for the easy access of the public to video broadcasts including the new "Spotlight on the Rutherford Schools."

The district has also supported PTA programs including an evening workshop for parents on gang awareness. The district's parent education program hosted several informative evening workshops at various grade levels. The high school guidance department expanded its evening programs on the college admission process including a series on preparing for the college search, financial aid, and college preparations. Workshops on reading and assessment were conducted at the elementary level as well as many evening activities highlighting students' accomplishments.

The school year concluded with three successful graduations including the march of the RHS Class of 2009 to its commencement exercises at the Williams Center.

Submitted by



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