

**INTERIM REPORT ON DISTRICT AND BOARD GOALS
JANUARY 30, 2008**

District Goals

1. To improve student achievement on standardized assessments with special focus on HSPA math and special education.

The report on student achievement was presented to the Board and to the public at the August 2007 regular meeting. Based upon this information, school level goals were developed which addressed activities to increase student performance levels on all assessments. Action plans were also created to address identified needs. These were all reviewed with faculty and staff at the opening of school faculty meetings. A review of the secondary level math sequence and program was conducted during the fall. Based upon these meetings, a recommendation was made to increase the graduation requirements in the area of mathematics to four years and to add an additional course in the area of college prep mathematics. This was approved by the Board of Education and will be implemented in September 2008. An additional writing course was added at the senior level for implementation in September 2008 to address some writing deficiencies.

An analysis of data on the performance of special education students was concluded by the Child Study Team Director and shared with members of the child study team and the principals. Additional grade level and subject area meetings were conducted monthly in all school buildings with a particular focus on improving student performance on assessments. The Child Study Team Director monitored IEP requirements in order to assure that all students were receiving appropriate instruction and appropriate accommodations for the testing program. Principals and supervisors were continually monitoring resource center and special education classes to be sure that they are adhering to regular curriculum and the infusion of test taking strategies.

Beginning in January 2008, the HSPA review program for at risk students began. This program is by invitation and is directed to at risk students providing them with additional preparation for the HSPA that will be administered in March.

2. To review and consider recommendations for school safety and security.

In summer 2007, Stone Gate Security Associates reviewed their completed security audit with district administrators. Following this, the audit was reviewed with building administrators. Stone Gate conducted initial staff training in the week preceding, and the day before, the opening of school. This training included all employees of the Board of Education. In September 2007, Stone Gate reviewed the security audit with the Board of Education and recommendations were prepared for facility improvements in the security area. At this point, we are still awaiting information from the local police department regarding grant funding that will support these security recommendations.

Throughout the fall, Stone Gate and administrators worked to revise and update district and building security plans. In December 2007, Stone Gate met and conducted a review of the new plans with the district level administrators and building principals. A NIMS training for administrators and members of the building crisis management teams was conducted and a meeting with the parent groups was held on January 29, 2008. Tabletop exercises with local emergency management, police and fire officials, is scheduled for later in the winter.

3. To provide activities and programs that support student wellness

Throughout the fall, school nurses, the principals, and the supervisors of physical education, health and technology reviewed curriculum programs and activities. In the area of Internet safety, additional lessons on Internet safety are being provided throughout the grades and across the curriculum. In particular, our middle grades computer specialists and the district technology director have been involved in attending state-mandated training in the area of Internet safety. Once this is completed, they will bring this information back and incorporate it into instructional areas.

In the area of physical education and health, the revisions in the middle grades program are having a desired effect. It has been well received by students and will continue throughout the spring. Additional fitness equipment has been budgeted for and plans are being developed for the addition of fitness circuits' construction at both middle schools. The school nurses, in collaboration with the building principals, undertook the review of activities and initiatives in the buildings and it appears that significant numbers of activities and initiatives are already underway throughout the district. A copy of this is attached to this document.

Board Goals for 2007-2008

- 1. To review and, if necessary, revise the district mission statement in accordance with NJQSAC**

The existing mission statement, which appears in district policy #6010 was reviewed by administrators and supervisors and the proposed revision was presented to the Board Policy Committee on Monday, January 28th. The Policy Committee Chair will present these in February.

- 2. To complete a Board self-evaluation and develop a Board professional development plan in accordance with NJQSAC**

The Board of Education completed the Board self-evaluation as facilitated by NJSBA Field Representative Cathie Sousa. The results of the self-evaluation were reviewed at the Board's public meeting on January 14, 2008 and recommendations for a professional development plan were considered. This would be further discussed by the Board in March 2008.

- 3. To develop a financially responsible and develop community support**

In September 2007 the Board, acting as a committee of the whole, established budget parameters for 2008-2009. Considering the local community tax burden and economic climate, the Board established a goal of having no budget increase for 2008-2009. In November the Board, acting as a committee of the whole, reviewed facility needs including capital improvements. They also reviewed staffing configurations, enrollments, and program needs. Throughout the same time period, district budget managers prepared budget appropriations requests for consideration. The initial preliminary budget was presented to the Board of Education and the public at the meeting on January 14, 2008 by the Superintendent and Business Administrator. This initial budget contains increases of seven-tenths of one percent, which is close to the target of no increase that was directed by the Board. Information on state aid and other revenues is still not available and the final preliminary budget will be presented to the Board in March. At this time, the Superintendent will be reviewing with the Board President the budget campaign agenda for garnering further community support for the election scheduled for April 15, 2008.