

**FINAL REPORT FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF BOARD GOALS**  
**2006-2007**

1. To complete negotiations for the new REA contract prior to the expiration of the existing contract on June 30, 2007

For the first time in over twenty years the Board of Education and the REA reached agreement on a new contract prior to the expiration of the existing contract. Utilizing a interest based bargaining approach and a facilitator, the Board negotiations committee and district administrators spent many hours in preparation and discussion with the REA negotiation's team. The settlement was reached in late March and the contract ratified by both sides in May.

2. To develop a financially responsible budget and develop community support

In a new initiative, the Board as a whole reviewed all of the different aspects of budget for the upcoming school year. Various meetings were held and discussions on the area of personnel staffing levels, buildings and grounds initiatives, and overall budget parameters. While in previous years all of the work had been done by Board committees, the involvement of the entire board throughout the process and in public session opened up the budget process for full public review.

The Board President, Superintendent, and Business Administrator established a budget campaign to conduct community education and information sessions. Outreach was made to the Rutherford Taxpayers Association, PTAs, and members of the Rutherford Education Association. An expanded community newsletter was published regarding the upcoming budget year. As a result of the concerted efforts of many people, the budget was approved.

3. To increase awareness of legislative activities that affect the school district

A monthly report on legislative actions has now been incorporated into the regular Board agenda. The Board undertook a petition campaign in the fall, which resulted in over 1,500 signatures being sent to area legislators regarding fairness in school funding. Board Trustees have attended numbers of NJSBA legislative and county meetings to keep themselves apprised of ongoing status of legislation. The Board President and other Trustees attended meetings with local area legislators to express their concern regarding the funding formulas, and Board liaisons have been presenting information on legislation to the PTAs at various meetings.

This initiative provided regular reports to the Board during a very active legislative session during which new laws were promulgated which affect the school district.

July 9, 2007