

# Wharton Board of Education Newsletter

*In partnership with the community, the Wharton School District is committed to educational excellence and guarantees challenging learning opportunities for all students to become life-long learners and productive and responsible members of society.*

## Superintendent's Message

**MRSA:** Out of concern for the health and well-being of students and staff members, the district has been proactively working with the Board of Health. In addition to routine daily cleaning . . . floors, fixtures, and surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned with a hospital grade disinfectant on a periodic basis. A letter has been sent home from the school nurse outlining pertinent information for parents. Additionally, the district will be encouraging and reinforcing frequent and thorough hand washing, proper personal hygiene, and the bandaging of wounds.

**School Messenger:** We conducted our first test of *School Messenger* on the evening of October 2nd to remind families about International Walk to School Day. For the purpose of the test, automated calls were made only to primary telephone numbers (usually home land lines). The first call was received at 6:01 PM and 470 families were effectively contacted by 6:22 PM. A letter will be sent home shortly requesting confirmation of your home phone number, cell phone number and email address. Once we ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of our data base, a second *School Messenger* test will be conducted. I am confident that we will have all the kinks worked out before the winter weather hits so that we can place a strong reliance on the communication system. However, it is important to note that the reliability of *School Messenger* will be heavily dependent upon accurate and regularly updated information provided by our families.

**Capacity Study:** The Morris Hills Regional School District has contracted with Dr. Harry Stein for a capacity study of its high schools. This is in response to a request from Rockaway Township that all of its students attend only one high school. Historically, Rockaway Township students have been split between Morris Hills and Morris Knolls based upon the geographic locations of their homes. Dr. Stein will be conducting focus groups in Wharton on the afternoon of Monday, November 5. The focus group for parents is scheduled for 5:00 PM in the MacKinnon Technology Library Center. Your participation, your comments, and your questions are strongly encouraged.

**NJ School Report Card:** In the previous Board of Education Newsletter, I shared information regarding state testing. This data will appear on the 2006-2007 NJ School Report Card, which will become available sometime after January 1, 2008. Previous testing data, along with other pertinent information about each school and the district, can be readily accessed by visiting the NJ Department of Education website at [www.state.nj.us/education/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)

## *Board Highlights*

The following are highlights of the September Board of Education Meetings.

Minutes from the following Board of Education Meetings were approved: July 26, 2007 Closed Session; August 23, 2007 Combined Work Session and Business Meeting and Closed Session

### Curriculum

The following curricula and entitlement applications were approved:

Integrated Language Arts – Grades 4 to 8

Project UpGrade – Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

Student Athlete Handbook

No Child Left Behind for Fiscal Year 2008

- ◇ Title I, Basic Part A – Improving Basic Programs
- ◇ Title II, Part A – Principal & Teacher Training & Recruiting Fund
- ◇ Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology
- ◇ Title III – English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement
- ◇ Title IV – Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities Act
- ◇ Title V – Innovative Programs

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act [IDEIA] for Fiscal Year 2008 – Basic and Preschool

### Personnel

The Board approved:

Advancement on the salary guide of fourth-grade teacher, Christine Stierch

Resignation of an LDTC and two instructional aides

Maternity Leave for a teacher in accordance with the agreement between the WEA and the Wharton Board of Education and the Family Leave Act

Employment of a maternity leave replacement teacher, an instructional aide, four substitute aides and a home program provider

Placement of a guidance counselor intern

Assignment of TASC Advisors for grades 5 through 8

### District Operations

The Board voted to approve:

Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2007 – 2008 school year

The following contracts for the 2007-2008 school year were Board approved:

Rapid Pump & Meter Service Company – Duffy School boiler room repairs

Douglass Outreach – Home Based Applied Behavior Analysis Program [ABA] – [transition program only]

The Board authorized the submission of the Design Resources Group, AIA project application to the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of School Facilities, for the replacement of exterior windows and doors in the MacKinnon North wing and the southern side of Duffy Elementary School.

### Finance

The Board approved:

Payment of Bills – July

Budget Transfers – June & July 2007

Payroll – July & August 2007

Board Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports for June 2007

Capital Projects Progress Payments – Duffy School Lavatory Renovation

*Have a safe and happy  
Halloween!*





### Important dates to remember!

- Oct 12      Municipal Alliance Activity  
Night 6:30 – 9PM
- Oct 16      Tech Committee 7 PM TLC
- Oct 19      Wharton Kids First  
Foundation Casino Night at  
the American Legion 7-11  
PM
- Oct 18      BOE Meeting 7 PM TLC
- Oct 23      Early Childhood Advisory  
Council 7 PM TLC
- Oct 30      BOE Meeting 7 PM TLC
- Oct 31      Annual Duffy Halloween  
Parade