

# **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. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum content standards at all grade levels.*

## **Superintendent's Message:**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another school year!

As an educator for over 35 years, I have found the best formula for success is to create an institutional culture of effort rather than entitlement, dynamism rather than doldrums and accountability rather than acquiescence.

When we all internalize a sense of ownership, the entire institution becomes more responsive to the educational and social needs of the school community.

The Wharton School District takes pride in the success of our students and what our students bring to the community at large. With new programs and a great staff, we look forward to working with you to help your children achieve and enjoy their education.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Back-To-School Nights, which are scheduled for Monday, September 26 (Duffy Elementary School) and Tuesday, September 27 (MacKinnon Middle School) beginning at 6:30 PM in the gym.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you this year!

Sincerely,

*Dennis Mack*

### *Board Highlights*

The following are highlights of the Summer 2011 Board of Education Meetings. Official minutes can be accessed on the district's website, [www.wbps.org](http://www.wbps.org).

Minutes from the following meetings were approved: May 26, 2011 (Business Meeting & Closed Session) and June 30, 2011 (Combined Meeting & Closed Session).

---

### **Curriculum & Student Activities**

The following were approved:

- Student services
- Submission of amendment to the 2011 NCLB Grant Application
- Submission of 2012 NCLB Grant Application
- Out of district placements
- Tuition placements for students from other districts
- Title I Parental Involvement Policy
- Revised K-2 Math Curriculum
- **Policy & Regulation #2440** – Summer Session (Revised)
- **Policy #5350** – Pupil Suicide Prevention (Revised)
- **Policy & Regulation #5512** – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (Revised)
- **Policy & Regulation #5600** – Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct (Revised)

### **Personnel**

The following were approved:

- Employment of teachers **Renee Shalhoub** (PRIDE2) and **Meghan Carey** (Grades 4/5 Self-Contained)
- Employment of long-term substitute/ maternity leave replacement **Sonia Simpson-Haughton** (Grade 2 In-Class Support)
- Employment of instructional aides **Sarah Brackin, Shawn Capell** and **Meena Varghese**
- Employment of substitute teachers, aides and nurses
- Salary adjustments and changes in assignments
- Declination of appointments
- Resignation of six staff members
- Leaves of absence for two staff members
- Separation Agreement with one staff member
- **Interlocal Services Agreement** with Mine Hill Township Board of Education for No Child Left Behind Grant Director
- Salaries for non-bargaining unit staff
- Coaches, advisors and special assignments for 2011-2012
- Summer employment
- Staffing Plan for Teachers and Position Control Roster
- Staffing Plan for Aides
- Student Practicum placements
- District Professional Development Plan
- **Policy #3125.2** – Employment of Substitute Teachers (New)
- **Policy #4433** – Vacations (Revised)

## District Operations

The following were approved:

- Use of district facilities
- 2011-2012 contracts
- Preliminary Nursing Plan
- Reimbursement for cost of criminal history background check for Board Members
- Award of Request for Proposal (RFP) to **S. Winter Associates** for Energy Audit Services
- Authorization to join the Educational Risk Insurance Consortium-West (ERIC WEST) for workers compensation and supplemental insurance coverage
- Food Service Biosecurity Management Plan
- Fall 2011 Interscholastic Athletics Schedule
- Child Study Team Specialists
- Use of Wharton Public School Bus for Wharton Canal Day Festival
- **Metlife** as provider of a 457(b) with Roth option for district employees
- **Bylaw #0144** – Board Member Orientation and Training (Revised)
- **Policy & Regulation #8461** – Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (Revised)

- Board Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports – May and June 2011
- Change Order for Corridor Wainscot Repair at Marie V. Duffy Elementary School
- Transfer of current year surplus to reserve
- Section 125 plan for future contributions of health benefits
- Continuation of the **MacKinnon School Interscholastic Athletics Program**

## Important Dates

- Sept. 20 12:40 Dismissal Staff Development**
- Sept. 23 PTA Back-To-School Picnic (3:00 to 5:00 PM)**
- Sept. 26 Duffy Back-To-School Night (6:30 PM - Gym)**
- Sept. 27 MacKinnon Back-To-School Night (6:30 PM – Gym)**
- Sept. 29 Board of Education Business Meeting (7 PM TLC)**

## Finance

The following were approved:

- Payment of bills – June, July & August
- Payroll distribution – June, July & August
- Staff expenses for professional development and travel
- Budget transfers

