

# *Glassboro Public Schools*



## **MEMO**

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Date: March 24, 2015

To: Mark Silverstein, Ed.D. Superintendent

From: Danielle Sochor, Director of Curriculum, Special Education & Personnel

Re: Board Meeting  
March 25, 2015

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Recommend Board Approval to implement Canine-Assisted Reading Program for Mrs. Cheryl Tartaglione's self-contained 4th Grade Class for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

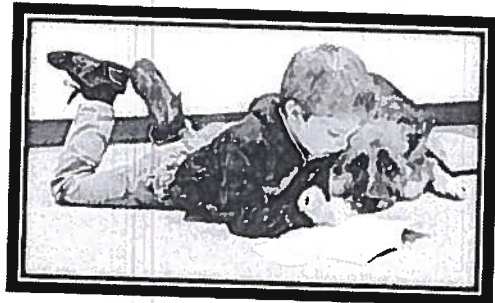
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## Proposal For a Dog Therapy Program

**Submitted by:** Cheryl Tartaglione

**School:** Thomas E. Bowe School

**Date:** March 21, 2014



Recently my class had the opportunity to have a therapy dog come to our class for Read Across America Day. My students read to Chester, a lovely sheltie dog who is a registered therapy dog with *Therapy Dogs International*. They loved it!!! The owner, Ms. Cindy Cammer, enjoyed visiting with our children as well.

There are several research articles that provide data on the benefits of using therapy dogs with children who have reading disabilities. "*When Reading Gets Ruff*" an article published in *The Reading Teacher* (International Reading Association October 2013), states that Canine-Assisted Reading is a form of animal assisted therapy (AAT). Canine therapy programs are currently used in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Please see attached article.

The benefits of these programs include increased fluency, increased motivation to read, engagement for reluctant readers and simply making reading more fun! Research has demonstrated that children involved in Canine Reading programs increase the amount of homework completion and improve student attendance. Giving a child the opportunity to read to a dog

provides a non-threatening yet socially supportive and interactive audience for reluctant readers. Psychologically, dogs provide a sense of unconditional support and love for children.

I would like to implement a Canine-Assisted Reading Program for the students in my self-contained 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Allergies are not an issue for the children in my class. My proposal would be for a dog to visit our class weekly during one of our independent reading blocks. I will call this "*BOOK BARKERS*".

I would like to begin this program in April. Thank you for your consideration.

Time Line for PAWS Visitation

Mrs. Tag's MD Class

Thomas E. Bowe School

Upon board approval it is our intention to have a therapy dog visit our class during April, May and June. If all works out with the owner's schedule we will observe the following schedule.

April 17	May 1	June 5
April 24	May 15	June 12
	May 22	