

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
2/24/21
GLASSBORO BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATION (5)	INSTRUCTION (6)	OPERATIONS (7)
June Longley – Chair	Elizabeth Volz – Chair	Chris Esgro – Chair
Ben Stephens	Ryan Hughes	Michele Ricci
Stacie Tattersdill	June Longley	Liz Roth

Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting or work session has been made in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Law of 1975. Advanced public notice of this meeting was given December 22, 2020 including the time, date and place of the meeting.

Said public notice has been made as follows:

Notice has been posted in the Board of Education Office, Carpenter Street and Bowe Boulevard, Glassboro, NJ

Notice has been communicated to the following newspapers:

- a. South Jersey Times
- b. Courier Post

Notice has been filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Glassboro

Flag Salute

Report

President Biden pledge to reopen most American schools within his first 100 days in office through a national response has been clouded by mixed messaging, along with the refusal of federal and state leaders to declare teachers and other school district personnel as “essential workers,” and who should be given urgent priority in receiving the COVID vaccine.

In collaboration with the New Jersey School Boards Association, I would like to make a motion to approve a resolution requesting Governor Murphy include public school personnel in the official expert vaccine allotment panel’s definition of frontline workers and urge the governor to prioritize the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all school personnel. I also applaud the collective efforts of Gloucester County Superintendents for signing onto a letter sent to Governor Murphy in support of the same. A copy of the letter is included as an attachment in the board report.

As discussed last month, during November of 2020, the board contracted the New Jersey School Boards Association to facilitate a five-year strategic plan in collaboration with key stakeholders, parents, and volunteers across the Glassboro Community. A number of meetings have been conducted and subcommittees have been formed to address community identified priorities of Curriculum & Instruction, Stakeholder Engagement, and Facilities/Finance. Tonight, as part of the superintendent’s report, Ms. Terri Lewis of the New Jersey School Board’s association will present the report for board consideration.

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As part of tonight's Administrative Committee's Report, the committee will be presenting the mid-year evaluation of the superintendent. Evaluation of a superintendent's performance is one of a school board's most important and statutorily required responsibilities. A high-quality evaluation process helps develop and maintain positive board-superintendent relationships, clarifies leadership roles, creates common understandings, and provides for accountability.

I applaud the fact that each and every BOE member participated in the evaluation and provided extensive feedback and comments to support their ratings. Even through these trying times, the CSA earned an overall commendable rating. While we have challenges, the collective voice of the board affirmed the responsiveness and dedication of the superintendent in promoting a safe and effective educational environment for staff and students, that promotes student achievement, the social/emotional wellbeing of students, and his pursuit to expand in-person learning safely and effectively. I remind conflicted board members to abstain from voting on the recommendation (item 3.E.6) in your agenda.

That concludes my report.

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1. Instruction (Elizabeth Volz, Chair)

1.F.2 Title I Basic Skills Extended Day program – I applaud the administration's efforts to utilize available Title 1 funds in support of basic skills instruction at Bullock, Bowe, GIS, and the High School to provide targeted interventions to students. Please advise the estimated number of students to be served through this effort.

1.G.5 Student Achievement Data Presentation – I want to thank the chief academic officer and building administrators across the district for presenting the Student Achievement data on benchmark assessments to the Instruction Committee on 2/17/21. The presentation (a copy was provided to all BOE members) provided valuable insight regarding student progress and growth expectations at each building. It also offered building level initiatives and interventions, such as the Title I Extended Day program, to address shortcomings. I am requesting the chief academic officer provide a summary report at our next BOE meeting to inform the board as a whole and the public. I also urge the administration to adopt more stringent district-wide efforts to address chronic absenteeism and truancy.

We appreciate the fact that Gov. Murphy announced on Feb. 19 that New Jersey is applying to the federal government for a waiver that would allow the state to cancel administration of statewide achievement tests this year. We are unclear how the federal education department or administration will respond to the waiver request but remain hopeful the federal DOE will support the waiver. I urge everyone to reach out to their congressional delegates to encourage their support.

2. Operations (Chris Esgro, Chair)

2.C.1. TransFinder Software Upgrade – I ask the Business Administrator to comment how the system will enable parents' access through PowerSchool and the benefits of anticipated for parents.

2.D Budget Recommendations – I commend the business administrator on improvements in the timeliness of presenting the financial reports. I ask the BA to provide the Board with an FY 2021-2022 budget timeline over the next few weeks. I also request a summary report on the progress of our district audit and GASB 75/CAFR filing for FY ending 6/30/20.

2.E.5 SJ Safety Group – Utica – I applaud the districts decision to opt into the South Jersey Safety Group through Utica. For the 2019-2020 policy year, I support the acceptance of \$66,519 in dividends. I ask the BA to explain to the board the difference in the 2 policies for which dividends are being received.

3. Administration (June Longley, Chair)

CSA Staffing Recommendations

3.E.5. Stand Alone Vision Plan – I appreciate the efforts of the administration to ensure employees enrolled in the Chapter 44 Health Benefits Plan to offer a standalone vision plan to help equalize ancillary benefits to staff.

3.E.6. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation – Remind conflicted members to abstain. Giving each BOE member the opportunity to comment.

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Old Business

- The GHS Sports Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for induction. The deadline is April 1, 2021. The committee is also seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. Please contact Jody Rettig or go to the district website for details.

New Business

- Tickets are available for the Glassboro High School's production of Godspell Jr., which will be streamed on Saturday, February 27 and Sunday, February 28 at 7 p.m. individual tickets are \$6 and family viewing is \$20. I encourage everyone to register for the event. You can go to the district website for more details.
- On March 15, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will release applications for \$1.2 billion in federal funds (Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund). These additional federal funds will support targeted initiatives to enhance academic enrichment and mental health interventions for all students and educators. I encourage the administration to pursue these grants.