

INTERIM REPORT ON DISTRICT GOALS 2008-2009
February 2, 2009

1. To maintain quality programs in a fiscally responsible manner that would be supported by the community

Status: The district administration and board established budget parameters for 2009-2010 at the September board meeting. Information regarding grant opportunities, both discretionary and entitlement, have been prepared and reviewed by the Research Assistant and Business Administrator. Information was provided to the Board Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board as a whole regarding energy management initiatives. The district is in the process of getting proposals for a lighting project as well as a project to conserve energy at the district pool. These should be ready for Board action in March. The facilities committee reviewed capital improvement projects and it was agreed that projects would be prioritized and placed in the budget for 2009-2010. The district administration and Personnel Committee reviewed staffing configurations, enrollments and program needs, and this was discussed at a public meeting. It was agreed that there would be no personnel additions for the upcoming school year. The initial preliminary budget was presented at the January 12, 2009 meeting, at which time various reductions in the proposed appropriations budget were discussed. The Business Administrator is in the process of developing additional proposals for energy management initiatives, which will be presented later in the school year. All of the budget discussions have been conducted in public throughout the fall at various Board meetings.

2. To maintain a focus on increasing student achievement on standardized assessments including sub-groups

Status: During the summer and fall, district principals, supervisors and teachers reviewed student performance on standardized assessments. School level goals, action plans and staff professional growth plans were all developed with a focus on addressing needs to increase student achievement in various areas. The report on student achievement was provided to the Board and the public at the October Board Meeting. During the month of September, professional growth plans and administrative professional plans were developed and finalized. The high school science supervisor and science department have reviewed the secondary level science program and prepared a preliminary recommendation for a new lab facility at the high school to be in place for September 2010. An in-depth detailed analysis of the performance of special education students was prepared and reviewed by the child study team director and the principals. This longitudinal study indicates that progress is being made by this sub-group in improving their performance on the standardized assessments. This data will continue to inform decisions that are made regarding program and curriculum modifications. All staff members have been continually updated on the changes in assessments formats and the changes in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. A number of curriculum guides have been reviewed, revised, and approved by the Board, including the development of curriculum maps for all content areas. Benchmark assessments are being incorporated into the math and world language programs at the eighth grade level. NJASK 8 and HSPA review sessions for identified students at risk have been scheduled and began in January 2009.

3. To develop and implement effective methods that share the district's vision and enhance community support

Status: The district's mission statement was reviewed at a public meeting in September 2008 by the Board President. The vision for the school district was highlighted in the October 2008 district newsletter. Outreach to the community was highlighted in the December 2008 district newsletter for public dissemination. The Alert Now parent notification system was tested and implemented in fall 2008. Student and staff accomplishments have been recognized at board meetings throughout the fall. The superintendent has attended the PT Council meetings as scheduled. To date, two district newsletters have been published, with a third scheduled for February. This is an increase of one newsletter for the year. In addition, the special education newsletter has been distributed as scheduled. The superintendent is in the process of finalizing the first in a series of reports for broadcast on cable television. At monthly board meetings, legislative issues related to school governance and administration have been reviewed by the board members who have attended a variety of meetings, including a community meeting on the development in the Meadowlands. Most of the areas in terms of the community outreach are on an on-going basis. Meetings have also been conducted regarding the inclusion of district information on a planned revision of the Borough of Rutherford website, and outreach has been made to provide for the broadcast of the school district's meetings on Verizon FIOS.