

Welcome to **SNAPSHOTS**, the e-newsletter of the Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education. **SNAPSHOTS** highlights key developments and decisions from recent Board meetings.

Reorganization and Agenda Meeting, May 9, 2011

Elected Members Sworn In

Roy Dollard officially rejoined the Board after being elected to a second 3-year term in the April 27 school election. Also returning to the Board and starting her first full 3-year term is Laura Desai. She was elected in 2010 to complete a one-year unexpired term. Sworn in as the newest member of the Board is Adam Sawicki replacing Judy Lindenberger who did not seek re-election. All three will be representing Hopewell Township. There were no seats open in either Hopewell Borough or Pennington Borough this year.

Wolff, Peterson To Lead Board

Hopewell Township Board representatives Lisa Wolff and Leigh Ann Peterson were elected president and vice president, respectively, for the coming year. This is the first Board leadership role for both members.

CHS Students Win National Acclaim

Dr. Smith reported that Central High School students Shane Moore, Agastya Mondal, Poojitha Shivaprasad, and Morgan Gruenewald, will head to Washington, DC in June to be honored as First Place National Winners of the 2011 Exploravision Awards sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association for their invention of a Bionic Auditory Prosthesis designed to cure deafness. The team was coached and mentored by CHS teachers Leif Segen and David Angwenyi. The all expenses paid trip will include congressional visits, media tours and an Awards Banquet. Dr. Smith recognized the students for this extraordinary achievement.

Veteran Teacher to Retire

Central High School Family and Consumer Science teacher Sharon Carbone will retire as of July 1. Mrs. Carbone has been a member of the faculty for 22 years.

Board Approves Professional Services

Among those selected to provide professional services to the district during the 2011-2012 school year are: financial adviser Capital Financial Advisers; auditor Holman & Frenia, PC; architect Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie; general and special education counsel Parker McCay; bond counsel McManimon & Scotland; school physician Family Health Center @ Quakerbridge; sports medicine physician Princeton Sports & Family Medicine, PC; environmental consultants Pars Environmental and Brookside Environmental; network engineers Mercury Consulting Group; and emergency VOIP/wireless consultants ePlus Technology.

Cooperative Purchasing Renewed

The Board voted to continue its membership in 10 regional purchasing cooperatives. Participation in these co-ops enables the district to take advantage of significant cost savings for numerous goods and services that can be combined and bid in higher quantities through this arrangement.

Tuition Rates Approved for 2011-2012

The Board voted to establish yearly K through Grade 12 tuition rates for students residing outside of Hopewell Valley but interested in attending district schools. Tuition rates are set based on a formula developed by the State and range from \$11,786 to \$15,812 for regular education programs and \$26,724 to \$38,250 for special education programs. The newest district program, Kindergarten Extension, entering its second year, is again being offered to district students at a cost of \$4,000. The half-day preschool "PEECH" Program for 3-5 year olds, in existence since 2005, is also available to district families at a rate of \$2,000.

Summer Facilities Projects Awarded

Bear Tavern will get a new roof, Toll Gate will get three new boilers, and an accessible lift will be installed at Hopewell Elementary over the summer months as a result of bid awards to Arista Builders and Designers, Estock Piping Co., and DeSapio Construction Company. Mr. Colavita reported that, in total, the projects came in \$53,117 under budget. These much needed projects are subsidized through State grants known as ROD (Regular Operating District) grants. The district will be responsible for 60% of the final completion cost for each project.

BE GREEN WITH US

Be sure to regularly check your school's *Virtual Backpack* so you don't miss any important announcements or notices. Paperless communications help us reduce our paper consumption and cultivate in our children the notion of social responsibility and the importance of making environmentally sensitive choices.

<http://www.hvrdsd.org/backpack/>

VISITED THE CAMPUS YET?

Be a regular visitor to *Infinite Campus*, our online student information system. The password-protected system allows you to view your student's class schedule, attendance and grades. More features will be available in the coming months. <http://www2.hvrdsd.org/Parents/Pages/InfiniteCampus.aspx>. For assistance logging in, contact the help desk at ICHelp@hvrdsd.org.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Make sure you are receiving the latest school news and information. See that your current e-mail address is on file with Infinite Campus. E-mail addresses listed there are automatically included in our school and district-based parent communications including emergency notifications which provide fast notice of weather-related cancellations, delays and other emergencies. Visit the Infinite Campus online information at www.hvrdsd.org and click on Parents, Infinite Campus.

ATTEND A MEETING

The Board usually meets the 2nd and 3rd Mondays of the month at the District Administration Building, 425 S. Main Street, Pennington. Check the website for starting times.

TUNE IN

Taped meetings of the Board are aired on HV-TV Channel 19 (Comcast) and Channel 32 (Verizon) at different times during the day to reach the widest possible audience. The broadcast schedule is available on the district website (www.hvrdsd.org) under **News > HV-TV Channels 19 & 32 > HV-TV Program Guide**.

HAVE ENOUGH SCHEDULES IN YOUR LIFE?

Watch at your convenience. Videos of board meetings are now available online. Tune in at <http://www2.hvrdsd.org/boe/Pages/MeetingVideos.aspx>

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