

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

## *Regular Meeting of June 20, 2011*

### **Superintendent's Report**

A PowerPoint of the end-of-the-year summary was presented by Superintendent, Tom Smith, which highlighted numerous accomplishments and changes. These included: redesigned high school and elementary school schedules, implementation of school goals, data-based decision making, Performance Matters (student-data analysis), Curriculum Framer (on-line curriculum writing), Project Lead the Way at Timberlane Middle School, a turf-field agreement with the Hopewell Valley Recreation Foundation, completion of a new strategic plan and a successful passage of the 2011-12 school budget. Smith continued with an outline of next steps which will ensure the proper implementation of the new schedules and programs as well as place a focus on the climate, culture, leadership and communication in the district. Smith also stated that the issues of bullying and student substance abuse are primary concerns which will be addressed more fully in the coming months. The update concluded with the status of the Homework Committee, the Volunteer Initiative and a breakdown of the strategic plan.

### **Central High School Teacher Lauded**

Dr. Smith shared a USA Today ad which celebrates the district's own David Angwenyi, science teacher at Central High School, as a 2011 Siemens Teachers as Researchers (STARs) Fellow. Mr. Angwenyi was selected to be part of this elite group with an opportunity to participate with 19 other educators from across the United States. The program is designed to improve student achievement in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. Mr. Angwenyi will work on short-term research projects with cutting-edge scientists and researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, TN, the nation's largest multi-purpose laboratory, and bring his knowledge back to the HVRSD.

### **HVEA Representative Addresses the Board**

The president of the Hopewell Valley Education Association (HVEA), Heidi Olson, addressed the Board regarding the status of contract negotiations; noting that the HVEA has filed for impasse. Ms. Olson thanked the Board for the respectful way in which the six negotiation meetings to date have been conducted, however, she expressed concern about fairness on the part of the district. She mentioned several funding opportunities asserting that the district was entitled to receive government monies and that the district was not being proactive in claiming these sums, and perhaps risk losing them. Board President, Lisa Wolff, responded to each of Ms. Olson's concerns and asked Rich Lang, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Human Resources to reach out to Ms. Olson to reestablish discussions. She emphasized the importance and value of teachers to the district. Leigh Ann Peterson, Board Member and Chair of the Negotiations Committee, expressed her desire to resume negotiations and said she was committed to arriving at a mutually agreeable settlement. Robert Colavita, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, described the entitlements referred to by Ms. Olson as, "monies that have already been spent". He explained how and where the monies had been allocated and the process the district is obligated to follow for these expenditures. He stressed that the district may not file for reimbursement of these expenditures until the end of the current school year and stated that filing of these forms would be completed before the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **Multiage Programs (MAPs) to be Discontinued**

Parent, Alicia Nayfield, spoke to the Board about her unhappiness with the district's decision to cancel the MAPs (offered in two elementary schools in the district) as well as the lack of communication to the parents of the students affected. Dr. Smith responded to Mrs. Nayfield stating, "Cancellation of the program was a very difficult decision to make". He cited declining enrollment and the need to offer the same programs in all four elementary schools in the district among the reasons for the discontinuation. Dr. Smith expressed regret over the way in which several parents learned of the program's cancellation

(via teacher to student disclosure) but that the district did send a communiqué to the parents/guardians of all the students affected. He assured Ms. Nayfield, and the other parents present, that the district would do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition for the children.

### **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.hvrsd.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.hvrsd.org/Parents/Pages/InfiniteCampus.aspx>. For assistance logging in, contact the help desk at [ICHelp@hvrsd.org](mailto:ICHelp@hvrsd.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.hvrsd.org](http://www.hvrsd.org) and click on Parents, Infinite Campus.

### **ATTEND A MEETING**

The Board usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.hvrsd.org](http://www.hvrsd.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.hvrsd.org/boe/Pages/MeetingVideos.aspx>

**SNAPSHOTS** is sent to subscribers of the school e-mail lists. Please do not reply directly to this e-mail. To correspond, please write to us at [snapshots@hvrsd.org](mailto:snapshots@hvrsd.org)

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