

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools

Questions and Answers –September 24, 2015

Questions:

What is happening with next year's middle school schedule? *As of now, it is anticipated that next year's middle school schedule will be a 9 period/40 minutes per period day.*

While Dr. Gigante is Acting Superintendent, who is doing curriculum? *Dr. Gigante is still carrying out the responsibilities of Assistant Superintendent / Chief Academic Officer.*

Will middle school students be expected make up days? *No*

Will curriculum be modified? If so, what are those modifications? *Teachers and supervisors are working to make any adjustments that have become necessary—e.g. classes that have changed from three days a week to five days a week.*

As to the Security Consultant that was hired and paid \$30,000, was this through bid or recommended and hired? *Recommended and hired.*

How was the security consultant chosen? *Referred to us and references checked*

How many students are in are in the band/chorus classes? *381 at BMS / 357 at CMS / 119 at PHS / 173 at PHHS in Band and Chorus classes*

What will happen when Mr. Rixford returns? *The Board has accepted Mr. Rixford's resignation effective January 26, 2016*

When will you come speak to the students at CMS/BMS? *Dr. Gigante and Mrs. Orthwein spoke to all students on October 5th and 6th.*

Should curricular modifications be necessary, what is the impact of that on IEP's?

Any question regarding curricular modifications within the IEP should be asked to the students case manager

As in Rixford's contract there were clear goals defined. Have those organizational goals been rescinded? Who is defining the new goals for the organization? How will those goals be measured and by whom? Who evaluated Rixford's goals and what data was used to measure completeness?

Mr. Rixford's contract did not contain goals they were set separately. The organizational goals (i.e., Board goals) have not been rescinded. The Board and Executive County Superintendent approved the Superintendent's goals and subsequently approved the completion. That information was also sent to the Executive County Superintendent for approval. The Board of Education will set the Board goals for 15-16 and then the Superintendent's goals are derivative of them.

There was much talk about a third-party investigation of the issues, when will the decision be finalized? How will it be managed? *The Critical Issues Committee will report out on this topic.*

What is the detailed process for hiring a new Superintendent? Will there be parent engagement with the process? What is the timeline? Who is defining the job description and goals and responsibilities? If you answer this last part just remember that Superintendent's responsibilities, in addition to what the Board sets, are statutorily driven.

The Board of Education will be holding a special Meeting to discuss the permanent Superintendent Search and timelines. As always the District Associations and PTA's will be included in the process.

Has the Board read the state investigation report? The report details: "During the course of the summer scheduling process, the master scheduler worked exclusively with the Superintendent of Schools to create the middle school schedules. While designing the schedule, there were many additional scheduling qualifiers that were added, such as scheduling music electives only during certain periods of the day. Similar qualifiers made the middle school schedule much more complicated than predicted. At the time the other district administrators, e.g. Assistant Superintendent, Executive Director of Human Resource, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel and the district supervisors, were unaware of the scheduling difficulties. The middle school principals were advised of scheduling problems at the administrative retreat on or about August 18th by the Superintendent. The Executive Director of Pupil Personnel became aware of the concerns when the guidance counselors emailed him on August 21, 2015." Are we to truly believe that the other high level administrators were unaware? If they weren't, isn't there an inherent problem? Most certainly, wouldn't the Assistant Superintendent / "Chief Academic Officer" [Gigante] be aware? Seems opportunistic that it's being pinned only on Rixford?

There was no investigative report, there was an internal document from the County that we received today (10-8-15) at 2:30 pm which the Board has not yet seen.

11. When will the outstanding questions submitted to prior to the September 24, 2015 be answered? What should our expectation be?

All questions prior to September 24 that could be answered have been answered. If you have outstanding questions please submit them for consideration.