

Around 50 qualified students may have a chance to participate in a new 4 year Allied Health Academy proposed for the High School next year. Mr. Rodney Velardi, Supervisor of Science, along with the High School Principal, Mr. Charleston , gave a presentation based on around 5 years of research at the November 23, 2010 Board of Education meeting. The proposed program is geared for students who are considering careers in health care, will not require additional staff and not only gives the participating students the math and science skills to advance in health care but also provides shadowing in a real world setting their senior year.

The EVVRS or Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System was also presented that night. The 09-10 year was compared to the prior two school years; overall violence and vandalism incidents remained approximately the same while the weapons category decreased and substance abuse increased. Steps are being taken to investigate and correct the rise in substance abuse. The complete report can be obtained by going to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2010/1027vandy.htm> or by contacting the business office at 646-7911.

***Public Portion:***

- A representative from the Education Association asked for a review on how the Energy Education program is to work. Dr. McCartney explained the company will show the district how to utilize and increase energy efficiency and they will be paid from part of the savings incurred. If the company does not provide the savings contracted, then they will issue a check to the district. An Energy Manager, someone in district or hired for the position, will be trained by Energy Education and will be the only new position. Again, the cost of this manager will be covered by the savings.
- Several area residents expressed concern about the introduction of Ordinance 32 and the impact on the school district of possibly 1100 new students. The township originally turned down a proposal to build 572 homes on the land known as English Creek Manor and was then taken to court. The NJ courts ruled in favor of the proposal.

***Personnel for 11/23/2010 and 12/14/2010 BOE meeting:***

New Hires:

- Shannan Harris – Sign Language Interpreter for Swift from 12/1/10 to 6/30/2011. This is a new position funded through Monroe Twp. Board of Education.
- Seyedeth Shahed Hasheminejad – High School Psychologist 12/7/10-4/6/2011, replacing M.Rush on maternity leave.

Leave of Absence:

- Lisa Hart revised her maternity and child rearing leave from 12/13/2010-4/1/2011 to 12/22/2010-4/4/2011.
- Melissa Newhall – Teacher at Swift – Maternity/childrearing leave 3/1-9/1/11.
- Natalie McCullen – Alder Ave. Middle School teacher – maternity/childrearing leave 3/14-5/16/11.
- Harold Cohen – High School Supervisor of English – medical leave 11/18/10-1/7/11.

- Kristiane Erdo - Teacher at the High School, revised medical leave from 9/27-12/17/10 to 9/27/10-1/3/11.

The annual audit by Mr. Robert Swartz was presented at the December 14, 2010 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Swartz stated his audit was later than normal due to the new audit requirements mandated by the state. He continued to say the audit went extremely well with no problems or issues found in the district and that the district received the best possible rating. As in the past, Mr. Swartz expressed concerns about the financial difficulties the Board will be facing in the coming years due to the state partaking our 3 million dollar surplus and imposing the 2% budget cap.

Next on the agenda came the presentation of the mini-grants given by the Education Foundation. It is the 21<sup>st</sup> year for handing these grants out and came to just under \$10,000 this year. Visit the school web site [www.eht.k12.nj.us](http://www.eht.k12.nj.us), scroll to the bottom of the page and click on mini-grant recipients at the bottom of the middle column. Unfortunately, how these grants are to be applied is not listed nor the number of students reached; it is impressive how creative most of these grants are and how they really are for our students.

Dr. McCartney reported on attending the Open Meeting with Governor Christie in Livingston. The Governor indicated that he is well aware of the problems with the SCC(School Construction Corp) which is now the SDA(School Development Agency) and said there will be a new CEO soon who will overall haul the system. Funds should be release in the next 2-3 weeks. Superintendent McCartney said there has been an increase in activity at the High School, the new cafeteria should be open 1/7/11 and hopefully, this will be the first deadline met!

Dr. McCartney ended his report by wishing everyone Happy Holidays.

The winners of the Project Graduation Raffle are as follows:

First Prize - \$5000 – Ted and Denise Housel

Second Prize - \$3000 – Michelle Stauffer

Third Prize - \$2000 – Gene Bitsco

Our appreciation and Thanks go to all who purchased tickets. Financially, Project Graduation for the 2011 senior can happen and as always, there is a but; Volunteers are needed to make it happen. Don't wait until your student is a senior; call or email me at [SRfromEHT@aol.com](mailto:SRfromEHT@aol.com) or 653-2009 now. Make it a New Year Resolution to be involved; it can be as little or as much as you want. A lot of the work occurs way before June, and can often be done in the comfort of your home on your schedule.

The next BOE meeting will be January 11, 2011 at 8 PM in the Board of Education meeting room of the Alder Ave Middle School.

What ever your beliefs, religion, or tradition, on behalf of the EHT Home and School Association, may your holiday season be filled with special memories and may the wonderful times continue in the coming new year.