

The November 9, 2010 Board of Education meeting was over in 30 minutes. Doctor Scott McCartney's superintendent's report started with an update on Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) and a request to the board to pass it that night. The documentation was reviewed by a subcommittee; an 80 is needed to "pass" and the district was given an 83, having passed in all 5 areas. The Board did pass it which means it will now go to the Atlantic County Superintendent's office and to the state by November 15, 2010. The district will be monitored every 6 months by the state to insure compliance with the submitted plans.

Construction at the High School was next. It was reported to the Superintendent only 14 workers were on site that day. This was on top of learning the state will not reimburse the district for any costs incurred by the delays. Not one of the projects approved by the voters in the 2005 referendum is a 100% completed nor has a single deadline been met by the School Construction Authority which continues to fight and disagree with firms hired over change orders and construction requests/directives. This is costing the state and the district, i.e. taxpayers, untold amounts of money. According to the referendum, the school district contributed \$12.9 millions to the \$55 million project but gave supervision of the projects to the SDA. This means the district is helpless and can not do anything but voice our frustration. Dr. McCartney and the Board need the community's help. Visit the school website, [www. Eht.k12.nj.us.](http://www.Eht.k12.nj.us), to see what administration and the Board have done regarding this mess. A petition is available to print; get your neighbors, co-workers, friends to sign it. They do not have to be EHT citizens, only New Jersey residents. These petitions are being sent to the Governor to show our outrage.

Ms. Cathy Smith, Principal at Davenport then presented a brief video "Sprucing Up Davenport Primary School" starring the special education classes of Ms. Alicia Quigley and Ms. Rachel Prakash. These students, using top soil and seeding donated by Quigley Trucking, raked, spread soil and grass seed, watered and watched a lawn grow. It was evident from their smiles that they were very proud of all their hard work.

No one spoke in the Public portion.

Under Old Business, the SHINE Program was approved by the Board.

Personnel:

Leave of Absences:

- M. Rush, High School Psychologist, revised her maternity/child rearing leave to 11/1/10-4/4/11.
- K. Biel, Swift Elementary teacher, will be on maternity leave from 2/7-2/23/11.
- H. Sachs, teacher at the High School, is on medical leave 11/15-2/16/11.

Retirement:

- L. Matthews, High School teacher, effective 7/1/2011.

Sabbatical leave for Erica Schaffer was placed on hold by the Board.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, concerned teachers, students, parents, and other community members held a rally and petition signing event at the High School hoping to get Governor Christie to understand his help is needed to make the NJ School Development Authority (SDA) honor their commitments and finish our schools without further delays. The SDA is in charge of the building projects, holds all the money, makes all the decisions on when and what will be done which has led to severely delayed school construction projects and extreme frustration for the Board, Administration, teachers and students. Dr. McCartney gave guided tours of the unfinished High School areas.

November 16, 2010 work session featured a presentation of possible funding scenarios for energy saving projects for the district using grants or the Energy Saving Improvement Program for the Board and Administration to consider.

The High School principal, Mr. Charleston, did a presentation on a new rotating schedule he hopes to implement next fall. The advantages of this new schedule increases periods to 55 minutes of more active learning time, makes the days less frenetic for students and staff, rotation of classes creates a more interesting day and less daily subjects for homework assignments, allows for tutoring, guidance to pull students during a non-subject time, enhanced socialization and co-curricular opportunities, better class sizes, full utilization of instructional spaces, and opportunities for staff office hours, professional learning and blocks of time together to access common students weakness, strengths, or problem areas and how best to work with a student. More to come on this proposed rotating schedule at a future date.

Dr. McCartney spoke about the I.T. director's position open due to the retirement of Ms. Shoemaker. He stated there were 31 applications, 19 of which made it to level 1, 6 achieved level 2 but 2 candidates dropped out, and that there were 2 late applications with outstanding credentials whom he'd like to see interviewed.

A proposed budget calendar including meetings open to the public was given to the Board for approval. Once it is approved, it will be announced.

On behalf of the EHT HSA, Happy Thanksgiving.