

Superintendent's Report
Orange Board of Education
February 14, 2012

The following is a report of the Superintendent of Schools for the February 14, 2012 Board of Education meeting:

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

- The Mathematics and Science Department continues to administer, collect and analyze weekly student data. This effort has provided teachers and administrators with valuable insights regarding areas of strengths and weaknesses in student performance. The department has now begun to produce comparable student performance data and is using it to compare school proficiency levels across the district.
- The Mathematics and Science Department has entered a partnership with NJIT's Center for Pre-College Programs Department to submit a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. The proposal, once funded, will focus on increasing our knowledge of how students are instructed and how they learn mathematics with a particular focus on Algebra. This program will allow NJIT staff to work with our students on various projects to increase their interest and academic achievement in mathematics. This working relationship will also contribute to the professional development of our teachers in STEM education.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- The Department of Special Services has begun conversations with America's Job Corps. Job Corps is a **free** education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible young people at least 16 years of age that qualify as low income, Job Corps provides the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- The district is proud to announce the opening of our newly formed Scholars Academy. Letters are being sent out informing parents if their child was nominated for the gifted and talented program.
- The district is subsidizing tuition for students in grades 4 through 12 to attend NJIT summer program. Information and applications are available through your child's school.

Curriculum and Testing

- January 27, 2012 District Professional Development Day: Sixty-one (61) workshops were scheduled, and preliminary data results show 93% extremely positive evaluations. The majority of the workshops were facilitated by OBE faculty members and administrators. The other workshops were presented by program consultants for implementation fidelity of new programs.
- District Data Team: The second district (Study Island) benchmark results were presented. Next steps were discussed, including master teacher discussions about what is happening in fourth grade reading second marking period that would have caused a decrease in student proficiency, the correlation between the ASK Math benchmark and the Common Core benchmarks, and the sixth grade positive results. Members of the District Data Team returned to their schools to have the School Data Teams unpack the individual student and grade level data from the second benchmark. Additionally, the information was presented to the principals and central office administrators for a discussion about trends and outliers/
- The District in Need of Improvement Plan was submitted to the NJDOE after being favorably reviewed by Bloomfield and New Milford School Districts. The DINI plan mirrors the QSAC plan, the Data Team Plan, and the district's Professional Development Plan. The original OBE resolution (D11-009) accepting the plan was approved in October 2011.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

- Updated district website and prepared star ledger ads for vacant positions.
- Visited all elementary schools to meet with teachers who need to verify their highly qualified status.
- Met with all prospective certificated and non-certificated candidates who were recommended for the January and February agenda in order to negotiate salary and review district benefits and employment paperwork.
- Prepared various documents and certifications for attorneys representing the Orange Board of Education in litigations.
- Prepared information for the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Workshop held on January 27th.
- Participated in negotiations with the Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association.
- Participated in the Walk-Through at Cleveland Elementary School.
- Met with teachers to review tuition reimbursement requests.
- Met with principals and supervisors to log in second cycle non-tenured staff observations and half of the tenured staff observations.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Facilities:

Facility Committee Meeting was held on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Administration Building, 451 Lincoln Avenue Orange.

Discussions and updates were presented on the following items:

- The plan to remodel the current Home Economic classroom at Orange High School was presented by Mr. Yezzi (district architect of record), Ms. Baddruddin, OHS Home Economic Teacher and Ms. Faith Alcantara, OHS Principal attended the meeting and they both made recommendations for minor changes to the plan.
- The district plan to renovate all the Science Labs at OHS, the demolition and renovation plans were presented by Mr. Yezzi. He presented a phase in plan for the renovation.
- Renovation of OHS HVAC system is at 98% completion, additional funds were received from SDA and the contractor will be completing the final phase of the renovation this week.
- The basement area of OPA is being renovated to provide well needed storage spaces. The project has been awarded and work should commence during the winter break.
- Bids are being sort for the re-pointing and re-attachment of OPA building parapets project. The bid opening day is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.
- The Gym Light replacement project at Orange Preparatory Academy was discussed and a update was presented by Ms. Karen Nichols of KNTM architect. It was noted that the contractor has agreed to finally sign a project contract with the Board. Ms. Nichols also informed the committee that the NJSDA has received all documentations needed for the project funding.
- The Orange Preparatory Academy court yard drainage system renovation project has been awarded and work should start during the district winter break.
- At the Alternative School, a Science Lab is being constructed; Mr. Yezzi presented the room demolition and renovation plans at the facility's meeting. A bid spec is being developed for the project.

Other Projects:

- The business office is coordinating the purchase of an additional district school bus that will accommodate handicap accessibility.
- The business office is coordinating the retrofit and furniture layout of Mt. Carmel School building for the district's Scholars Academy program.
- The business office is coordinating the construction of out door green house at Forest Street School, Heywood Avenue School and Orange High School.

Finance:

The business office is currently coordinating the preparation of the district's 2012-13 school year budget.

Upcoming Events

City Hall

- The Diversity Youth Theater – THE MOVEMENT Play held at Orange Preparatory Academy February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

District:

- **Feed the READ Book Buffet Month of February 2012 at neighborhood schools**
Each school has been asked to host 6 hours of reading for students as an extension of the 25 Book challenge. Students will attend the All you can read book buffet and select books from titles that were donated by Barnes and Noble Patrons of Livingston NJ as well as register hours for a complimentary admission ticket to Six Flags Great Adventure through their Read to Succeed initiative.
- **“Do the Write Thing”; Writer’s Festival is March 3, 2012 11 am to 4:00 pm at The Scholars Academy (formerly Mount Carmel)**
Students will have progressive writing samples displayed, published authors will host writer’s workshops, Read aloud and storytellers will be available for early learners, and mother of actor and Comedian Chris Rock will be present for parents with copies of her book: Mama Rock’s Rules. OHS’ Speak Write students have been invited to participate.
- **Barnes and Noble Booksellers** will host a book fair wherein Orange Public schools will receive 20% of the sales.
- **TRYMathlon 2012 on April 21, 2012 at 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Bell Stadium**
Student teams grades 1-7 will represent their schools in several events that involve both athletic and mathematic challenge. Each event will be steeped in critical skills such as number sense, data analysis, geometry and measurement, algebraic thinking, patterns and functions, etc. It will be an Olympic styled event replete with medal winners, mathletic teams, and cheering fans. Erica Stewart is looking for volunteers to assist with the coordination of activities, set up, and Judging.

Orange High School

- February 3, 2012 - Voices in Harmony held a fundraising event called "Behind the Curtain: a Night of Stevie Wonder". They shut the curtain at OPA and set up the stage for an intimate concert featuring the music Stevie Wonder. This event was held to help Voices in Harmony raise money for a competition in Boston in May.
- February 11, 2012 - Senior Kristopher McCluney is performing with the North Jersey Regional Chorus at Secaucus High School. This is Kristopher's second year performing with this prestigious group. Before Kristopher was accepted last year, it had been over 20 years since Orange was represented. He is 1 of 18 tenors across all of North Jersey High School's to be selected.
- February 16, 2012 - OHS awards ceremony 6:00 to 8:00. Students will be honored for academic, athletic, community service and attendance achievement. Parents, students, and teachers will be invited. It will be a night to remember.

- O.H.S. class of 1968 recently held a multi-class reunion with alumni from classes 1965-1971. During the reunion funds were raised and on behalf of the alumni a gift of \$535 has been donated to the class of 2012. An alumni representative, Ms. Aldina Jones, will be here tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. to deliver the check. I would like to have student representation (class President) be present along with us to welcome our alumni and give thanks for the generous donation.

Heywood Avenue School

- March 1, 2012 - Middle School Presents African American Assembly
- March 6, 2012 - Family Book Club
- March 5, 2012 - Dress Up Fundraiser
- March 9, 2012 - College Day
- March 12, 2012 - Coffee with the Principal
- March 14, 2012 - PTA meeting
- March 16, 2012 - Career Day

Lincoln Avenue School

- February 14, 2012 – Love to Read Event 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- February 16, 2012 – Reading Jamboree 9:00 – 11:00 am
- February 9, 2012 - Black History Celebration 9 -11 a.m.
- March 1, 2012 – PTO Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- March 2, 2012 – Read Across America
- March 14, 2012 - The Ned Show Assembly
- March 16, 2012 – PTO Movie Nigh at 6:00 pm
- March 29, 2012 - Links to Literacy at 6:00 pm
- April 5, 2012 – PTO Meeting at 6:00 pm
- April 18, 2012 – Parent Teacher Conference at 6:00 p.m.
- April 20, 2012 – PTO Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- April 26, 2012 – Lincoln Got Talent @ 6:00 p.m.

Forest Street School

- February 6, 2012 - Staff meeting 3:00-4:30
- February 7, 2012 - Report Cards go home
- February 13, 2012 - 100th day of school
- February 13, 2012 - SMT meeting (Tentative)
- February 16, 2012 - Black history presentation 6:00-8:00
- February 17, 2012 - Flash Back Friday
- February 20, 2012 - Winter Recess- School closed
- February 27, 2012 - School re-opens
- February 27, 2012 - College Awareness Week
- February 27, 2012 - Staff meeting

Park Avenue School

- February 9, 2012 - Chuck E Cheese 13 Book Challenge Trip 3:30-8:30pm
- February 10, 2012 - Valentine's Dance, Grades 4-7, 6-8pm
- February 10, 2012 - February Family Films, 6-8pm - PTO
- February 15, 2012 - Honor Roll Ceremony, Gr. K-4, Boyd, Gallo, Widener from 9-10:30 / Gr. 5-7, Robbins, Bond from 1:30-3:00
- February 16, 2012 - Celebrity Read- Tarver
- February 17, 2012 - Schoolwide Skating Trip
- February 28, 2012 - Black History Museum from 6-8pm

Oakwood Avenue School

- February 13-17, 2012 - College Week
- February 17, 2012 - Career Day will be held at 9:00 a.m.
- February 27, 2012 - 2nd Grade Assembly will be held at 9:30 a.m.
- February 29, 2012 - Black History Program - 9:30.

Rosa Parks Central Community School

- Grades Pre K-2 - 9:30 a.m. held Central Auditorium
- Grades 5-7 - 1:15 p.m. held at Central Auditorium

Cleveland Street School

- February 9, 2012 - Middle School Valentine's Day Dance
- February 16, 2012 - Students who have read 13 or more books toward their 25 Book Challenge reading goal will have a field trip to Chuck E. Cheese with their parent from 3:30 - 8:30
- February 15, 2012 - Black History Month projects on display throughout the building
- February 28, 2012 - PTO Meeting and Reading Cafe'

OPA

- February 15, 2012 @ 7:00 pm. - Our monthly PTSO meeting is hosting a special presentation from our Health Science Community. Your support is needed and wanted. If for any reason you are unable to attend, please let us know. Looking forward to seeing you all.
- Zumba class starts immediately at 6:00 pm. \$5.00 per session. Join Us!!
- February 25, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. All Stars host Orange Auditions for Talent Show.
- February 28, 2012 at 8:30 – 1:30 a.m. – Black History Assembly Historically Blues A Line Today
- March 8, 2012 at 10: 00 a.m. – School wide Assembly Dramatization by the Peppermint Players
- March 13, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. – Honor Roll Assembly