

Superintendent's Report
Orange Board of Education
October 11, 2011

The following is a report of the Superintendent of Schools for the October 11, 2011 Board of Education meeting:

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- **Great American Spell-check:**

Orange Public Schools participated in THE GREAT AMERICAN SPELLCHECK PROJECT (G.A.S.P) on Friday, September 30, 2011. This competition encouraged students to become better spellers and as a result will increase word recognition and subsequently fluency and comprehension. Students received a list of words, by grade level, that they were required to study this summer, and again in the fall, to prepare for the Great American Spell-check. Students and parents then solicited pledges from friends and family for each word spelled correctly. The schools used this as a fundraiser and the proceeds will be used to support curricular initiatives at the building level. In the interim, grade level and school spelling bees will be implemented and the grade level winners will represent their schools in **The Spelling Bee of Champions will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at the Orange Preparatory Academy at 12 P.M.**

- **25 Book Challenge:**

The Orange School district will be challenging all students to read 25 books of their choice. The Kick-off was Friday, October 7, 2011. While students in K-1 will read (first half of the books will be READ TO Kindergarten students), students in grades 2-12 are expected to read chapter books and novels. Students will select books from literary genres currently taught in our Language Arts classes. Books read will be logged into a district database that will allow us to celebrate gains with the challenge quickly. Readers are encouraged to share their books with their classes through multi-media projects, presentations, etc. The challenge will work in conjunction with the school-based literacy projects that require students to read, log their books, and report out on the literary details. This initiative is intended to foster the love of reading and we intend to encourage them with the enticement of incentives that will foster academic achievement.

CURRICULUM AND TESTING

WRITER'S FEST 2011

- The district will host a Writer's Fest in March 2012. Similar to the district science fair, student writing will be recognized across the district. Student authors will be featured and exemplary samples will be displayed in each school and in a district wide presentation. Plans to invite professional authors to the Writer's Fest are underway.

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

- The Mathematics and Science Department is running a three week trial of weekly 5 minute math content assessments that provide teachers with 24 hour feedback of student performance. Analysis of resulting student data will indicate proficiency levels of student performance by teacher, class level, and grade level. These weekly analyses also provide critical diagnostic indicators for previously disseminated content that requires re-teaching, as well as what students know well. After the trial period for streamlining the data collection/analysis process, all math and science teachers in grades 3-12 will administer weekly math content assessments. These student data will be used to help drive classroom instruction.
- The Mathematics and Science Department will represent the district in it's partnership with NJIT to provide students with technology rich learning. This is a continuation of the effort to develop a BSTEAM (Business, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) focused high school in Orange Township Public Schools which will combine a rigorous academic curricula along with Project Based Learning. Starting in October, students will have the opportunity to participate in hands on learning through Robotics, Architecture, Music Therapy, Phone Apps, Film Making, Biomedical Engineering and Computer Forensics. Students will be attending the program afterschool at Orange High School and at NJIT on Saturdays. There is an Open House scheduled for teachers on October 12, 2011 and an Open House scheduled for students on October 19, 2011.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The district is actively working with a variety of partners to enhance student learning. The following are initiatives active in the district:

- MSU/Americore Financial Literacy Project: For 8 week periods, Americore volunteers from MSU will work in sixth grade Social Studies classrooms offering a course in financial literacy developed by Jr. Achievers. Students will be exposed to real life situations while learning the foundations for financial literacy.
- Pan Asia Grant with Newark Museum: Social Studies and World language teachers from the district were invited to participate with 2 other districts to jointly write an interactive on-line curriculum for schools to use exploring the Pan-Asian exhibit at the Newark Museum. As part of the process students will visit the museum and artifacts from the exhibit will be on loan to the district.
- All Stars: The district is partnering with the All Star Program. All Stars work to promote real world connections for students. They offer the *Talent Show Network*. People ages 5-25 compete in a professional talent show with a grand prize of \$300. The talent show presents an opportunity for children and adults to learn teamwork and to promote their abilities. All are welcome to audition. The next talent show is at Montclair Art Museum Saturday, October 29th at 3:00pm. Doors will open at 2:30pm. All Stars also offers the *Development School for Youth*. OHS students who are accepted participate in 9 weeks of Saturday Programming at corporations exposing them to job place readiness skills and training. They are then placed in a summer paid internship at major corporations. The All Stars Program also participated in the *Teen Summit* at Lincoln.
- Rising Tide: Rising Tide Capital is a non-profit organization partnering with the district to provide entrepreneur training for adults who want to start small businesses. Their first class began at Rosa parks school. The classes are in 8-week sessions with on-going follow-up as graduates begin to form their businesses. This first session is completely full and recruitment for the next session of classes will begin shortly. Look for announcements of dates and times through the school system and public access channel 35. RTC is also celebrating the national *Week of the Entrepreneur* in November by working with OHS students. They will bring in guest speakers and provide informational sessions.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Orange Township Public Schools in conjunction with the State of New Jersey held its first "Week of Respect" as mandated by the state's new anti-bullying law. Public schools across New Jersey taught about preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying during the week. The state's anti-bullying law, signed in January 2011, is considered the toughest in the country. New Jersey had previously recommended schools have anti-bullying policies, but now they're required. The law was adopted after the suicide last year of Tyler Clementi, a Rutgers University freshman whose roommate is accused of using a webcam to spy on Clementi's intimate encounter with another man.
- Orange Township Public Schools participated in various activities at each school and Wednesday, October 5th marked the first "Unity Day" in the schools. "Unity Day" signified **Make It ORANGE and Make It END! Unite against bullying!** *adapted from PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center.*
- All of the students and the staff of Orange Township Public Schools were encouraged to wear Orange to demonstrate solidarity against bullying. The movement exists itself far beyond just Orange Township, it's a grassroots movement that says, "Everyone can link together—in schools, communities and online—and send one large, **ORANGE** message of support to students who have experienced bullying.





Novartis National Disability Mentoring Day

- Novartis Pharmaceuticals will hold their National Mentoring Disability Mentoring Day. Novartis has partnered with the American Association of People with Disabilities to take part in their 13th Annual Disability Mentoring Day. Twenty-five students with disabilities from Orange High School under the supervision of Mrs. Lorri Risbrook-Olivera, Transition Coordinator will join with 10 school districts from around the state of New Jersey to connect academic learning to employment. The students will participate in one-on-one job shadowing, job-readiness work shops, interviewing skills, career fair and other activities.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Facility Committee Meeting was held on 10/03/2011 @ 2:30 PM at the Board of Education administration building, 451 Lincoln Avenue Orange.

Discussion and updates were presented on the following items:

- Construction of a Link between OHS and OPA, to include an elevator system that would provide ADA accessibility to both schools buildings
- Renovation of the current OHS Home Economy room to a standard Culinary Arts Program
- 123 Cleveland Street building renovation project to house the Alternative School Program
- Renovation of Orange High School Science Labs
- Renovation of Cleveland Street school smoke stack (emergent need)
- Renovation of Orange Preparatory Academy (OPA) roof parapets (emergent need)
- Renovation of Orange High School (OHS) HVAC system (98% completion)
- Renovation of OPA gym lights (final approval letter to proceed was received from NJSDA)

Finance:

- The district received and revised State aid revenue, which includes an increase of approximately \$7 million, for the 2011-2012 school year. The Business Office is working with

the Superintendent to complete a revised budget with all necessary adjustments that will efficiently benefit the entire district student instructional and facility needs. A resolution to approve the amended budget is being presented to the board for approval and to be forwarded to the Essex County Office of Executive County Superintendent.

Awards:

- Congratulations the Business Office staff and its leadership for receiving its second Association of School Business Official (**ASBO**) International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. Congratulations Business Office!

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

- During the month of September, the Human Resources/Operations Department continued to recruit, interview and place applicants in vacant positions. Seventeen applicants for certificated and non-certificated positions were interviewed. The September personnel agenda was prepared, reviewed by the Board Personnel Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Education at their September meeting. The agenda included leaves of absences, appointments, resignations, stipend appointments and other personnel actions. Five district staff members were counseled on various issues brought to the HR department, inclusive of tuition reimbursement and salary guide placement.
- The Human Resources Administrator assisted in facilitating the Professional Development workshop to district clerical staff on the Professional Development Day. The workshop included an intensive review of the Federal Family Educational Privacy Act (FEPA), as well as the reporting data requirements for the state Report Card.
- The Human Resources Administrator continued to update the observation and evaluation matrix for administrators in order to make sure all employees were in the proper location in order to be observed by a certified administrator during the 2011-2012 school year.
- The HR Department staff is preparing to comply with the new state mandate to provide demographic and certified staff assignment data in a new state system called NJSMART-SID (Staff Information Data.) Not only will data be required for staff but for all district vendors, consultants and coaches. We hope that all staff and vendors will comply with the responses for data that will be required to the New Jersey SMART-SID.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Forest Street School

- October 11th - Progress Reports go home
- October 17th - Afterschool programs begin
- October 17th - Staff meeting 3:00-4:30
- October 24th - SMT meeting
- October 27th - Starry Story Night 5:00-8:00
- October 28th - Assembly 7th grade presents
- October 28th - 12:30 dismissal OEA meeting
- October 31st - Character day Pre-K-4

Heywood Avenue School

- October 17th - Coffee with the Principal
- October 18th - 6:30 pm - on Sweet Treat Social with the PTA
- October 27th - 6:30 - PTA Harvest Festival
- October 31st - at 1:30 - Halloween Parade

Lincoln Avenue School

- October 14th 6-8pm - Hispanic Celebration
- October 24th 3-4:30pm - SMT Meeting
- October 28th 6-8pm - Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- November 13th 6pm - Family Math Night

Orange Preparatory Academy

- Orange Preparatory Academy PTSO would like to extend an opportunity for the community to attend our 8th and 9th grade parent meeting scheduled for October 12, 2011 @ 6:00 pm. The students are encouraged to attend this meeting as well. In addition, the scheduled PTSO meeting is on October 19, 2011 @ 6:00 pm. This is a themed meeting and serves as OPA's 1st fundraiser of the year. It is family game night and we are playing Let's Make A Deal. It is a \$5.00 donation to attend and refreshments are available for purchase. We are seeking volunteers to assist for the evening. If you can volunteer, please let the PTO know. Come on out and bring a friend and a neighbor. Looking forward to a continued partnership.
- October 12, 2011 - Unity Day Assembly
- October 14, 2011 - 25 Book Challenge Kick-Off
- October 19, 2011 - NJIT Open House
- November 1, 2011 - Spanish Heritage Assembly

Orange Athletics

- Friday, October 21, 2011 will serve as the official district wide "pink day". On this day we hope to see all district personnel wearing a pink OHS athletic shirt in support of Cancer Awareness. We are asking all students and staff members to participate with a show of support by purchasing a pink athletic t-shirt \$8 or students donate \$1 and teachers/staff donate \$2 dollars. Pink athletic shirts purchased last year can be worn as well. To purchase a t-shirt please visit your building principal or school secretary who has pink shirts ranging in sizes small to double XXL.

- On Saturday, October 22, 2011 - **Homecoming Parade begins 12:00 and the Game begins at 3:00 p.m.**
- The Orange Tornadoes football team will suit up in pink jerseys, against Cedar Grove High School, as part of Cancer Awareness Recognition Day. The game, which kicks-off Saturday Oct. 22nd 3:00 p.m. at Bell Stadium, culminates a larger cancer awareness month and fundraising effort spearheaded by Jason Green, Assistant Principal for Orange High School. Proclaiming that “Pink is the new Orange,”