



# **PTA-PTSA PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS MEETING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

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## **Meeting Highlights: March 8, 2016**

**Welcome.** The superintendent welcomed everyone to the meeting. The superintendent noted that work continues throughout the district on the Homework Committee and the Lesson Plan Committee, along with preparation of the 2016-2017 budget. He added that WW-P will be hosting two upcoming events for parents, staff, and community members:

- March 15: Anxiety and School Avoidance: A Primer for Parents with Dr. Allen Weg
- April 14: The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups with Dr. Leonard Sax

### **Sustainable Jersey for Schools**

WW-P is participating in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, which will focus attention and efforts on matters of sustainability and will pursue initiatives to teach students about ecological, economic, and social sustainability. All schools have been registered and principals are creating “green teams”; teams can include parents as well as students and staff members. The attached information details how to become a sustainable school by focusing on solutions and not problems.

### **The College Process**

Lee McDonald, WW-P director of Guidance, offered a review of the college process and how it works. He highlighted changes in the application process, with the addition of the Coalition Application (as well as the Common Application and school-specific applications). He shared an important report from Harvard University called “Turning the Tide”; this article is attached. He noted that WW-P uses Naviance software for its college application process and through this software, middle school and high school parents can gather important information about the college selection process. Parents noted some concern about how to secure a student’s digital footprint.

### **Community Education Summer Camps**

Shannon Martin, assistant director of Community Education, offered a brief overview of the summer camps that are available. She noted that the information is on the district web site ([http://www.ww-p.org/departments/Community\\_Education/summer\\_camps](http://www.ww-p.org/departments/Community_Education/summer_camps)) and registration is now open. Parents asked if she would consider additional programs for children ages 14-16.

**Proposed Budget for 2016-2017**

Larry Shanok stated that the Board of Education will review the 2016-2017 tentative budget at tonight's Board Meeting. He added that the district is cost effective in its calculations and noted six areas of increased costs: additional teacher resource specialist positions; professional development programming; Special Education; Transportation; health benefits; and capital outlay. The Board of Education will not exceed the cap (and allowable adjustments), with an increase of 2.3 percent for the tentative 2016-2017 budget.

**Draft 2017-2018 Calendar**

The Board of Education Administration & Facilities Committee prepared a draft 2017-2018 calendar for review; this draft calendar is attached. The PTA-PTSA members had no suggested changes, and the draft calendar now will be presented to the Superintendent's Advisory Council (teacher representatives) and then go to the Administration & Facilities Committee for final review before presentation to the full Board of Education for approval.

**The next meeting is for presidents of the PTAs-PTSAs and will be held on April 19, 2016, at 321 Village Road East, at 10 a.m. to 12 noon.**