

~ Washington Township Schools ~

- SUPERINTENDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE -

Summary of Progress Meeting held on Wednesday Evening, October 2, 2019
7:00pm @ OFRS Art Room

Meeting Summary

1. Environmental Task Force Recommendations - Update!

- Short-term Infrastructure Solutions - *Dehumidifiers and Air Conditioning/Dehumidification Units continue to be in operation at OFRS to control indoor relative humidity levels.*
- Long-term Infrastructure Solutions - *The Board of Education submitted a Capital Project Application to the NJ Department of Education in April with regard to air conditioning, electrical upgrades, and a partial roof replacement at Old Farmers Road School; and a partial roof replacement at Long Valley Middle School.*
- "Tools For Schools" Protocols - *The District continues to apply the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools protocols for building cleanliness and maintenance. At the close of school last June new "pack-up" guidelines were put into place for faculty and a discarding of outdated items was conducted at each school. Cleaning checklists were posted on each classroom door as cleaning was completed during the summer months. Schools were closed to faculty during July and reopened in August beginning with a Tuesday through Thursday schedule to best support the cleaning effort.*
- Environmental Assessments - *Environmental Site Assessments were conducted at each school and the reports have now been finalized. There are no major concerns as reported by Garden State Environmental, LLC (see additional information below under Environmental Site Assessments).*

2. Capital Project Submittal - *Jeff Mohre reviewed the components of the Capital Project (referenced above) and shared that the District just received approval from the NJ Department of Education in the form of a Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC) notification. The District has 30 days to contest the PEC which it will not do as the PEC was favorable. The Department of Education will then issue a Final Eligible Cost (FEC) notification to the District. It is this final approval document that permits the Board of Education to move forward with the planned projects. The Board will take action in November as to how best to fund the projects. If the Board elects to enter into a referendum, it will receive approximately 40% of the project costs from the State in the form of a grant that does not need to be repaid. A referendum, if*

successful, would entail the issuance of short term notes which would be immediately satisfied with the State's share of the project cost and the Board's existing capital reserve funds. As a result, the project would not result in an increase in the tax levy. If the Board elects to pursue the referendum route, a January election would take place here in the Township.

3. Environmental Site Assessments: - *As shared earlier in the meeting, Environmental Site Assessments were conducted at each school and the reports have now been finalized. There are no major concerns as reported by Garden State Environmental, LLC. The recommendations were reviewed with the Task Force as facilitated by Liz George (School Business Administrator) as well as the structure of the reports issued for each school. The reports will be shared with faculty and the greater school community in the coming week.*

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m. and the Task Force will reconvene later in the fall following the Board's November meeting.

Jeff Mohre, Superintendent
Washington Township Schools