

BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
Schools and Community – Partners in Learning
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Superintendent's Report
 August 31, 2011

- I. Our administrators and staff this summer served many of our students during summer school. Enrichment classes allowed students to learn new skills and complete wonderful projects. Extended School Year classes provided learning experiences for some of our students with special needs. Reinforcement classes for students in grades three through eight allowed students to retake and pass the final exam in language arts and/or mathematics in order to pass the course for the year. These classes also include students who did not fail the subject, but were recommended by teachers and administrators for additional academic support. A new Literacy Academy provided an intense, research-based four-hour literacy experience for identified students who read multiple levels below their target reading level. These classes were facilitated by teachers with specialized training in best practices in literacy. A High School Credit Completion Program continued to provide students with individualized opportunities to complete the work necessary to pass particular course or courses needed for HS graduation.

- II. A Professional Development Institute ran during the month of July. Teachers participated in a variety of Professional Development Workshops. Workshops included Reading A to Z, Science Curriculum, Guided Reading, Inclusion, Engaging Students in Math, Counseling Practices, ESA, Autism, Writers Workshop, Running Records SmartBoards, Wikis, Readers Workshop, and more.

- III. The school district worked closely with the Burlington Township Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, and other municipal agencies to plan for Hurricane Irene. School buildings were established as shelters and procedures set in place to activate them.

- IV. The District will implement the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights law this school year. Extensive information regarding the law is on our district website.

After an extensive search and selection process, I am pleased to enthusiastically recommend Mr. Phil Brownridge for the positions of Principal of Burlington Township High School, replacing retiring principal, Mrs. Marie Phillips, who has served the district for the past four years. Upon approval, Mr. Brownridge would assume the post of Principal of BTHS on November 1, 2011. The selection process included three rounds of interviews, including a set of "Round Robin" interviews with committees of over thirty parents, students, and staff members.

Mr. Brownridge holds a Masters Degree in Supervision, Administration, and Program Curriculum from Georgian Court University, as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Political Science from Virginia Tech University. Mr. Brownridge is currently the Principal of Keyport High School in Monmouth County. Prior to that, he served as the Principal of the Titusville Academy, was the Director of Instruction for the Northern

Burlington Regional School District, and taught Social Studies at Raritan High School in Hazlet, NJ where he was also a soccer and softball coach.

Mr. Brownridge brings to Township a deep grounding in curriculum, instruction, special education, professional development, as well as a passion for working with young people.

My impression of Phil after multiple interviews and meetings is that he is a highly ethical man with clear values, consistent with our school district's Mission. His guiding principle appears to be - students first, everything else follows." Mr. Brownridge is looking forward to becoming a part of the Burlington Township Community.

Welcome to Burlington Township Mr. Brownridge.

- V. New staff to the district participated in a New Staff Induction Program during the week of August 29th.
- VI. Our opening of school ceremony for staff and community leaders is set for September 1, 2011 in the Performing Arts Center. The staff will be treated to various student performances, new staff members will be introduced, Teachers of the Year and staff receiving academic tenure shall be honored, and I will address the staff regarding our objectives for the year, which focus on improving student achievement, improving curriculum and programs in certain areas, implementing Project Guardian and the new Anti-Bullying law, maintaining high levels of community involvement and support, and improving technology and leadership capacity. I have been informed by the Executive County Supt. for Burlington and Camden Counties that she and her staff will be attending our opening ceremonies.
- VII. To support the installation and use of security cameras throughout the district, after working with the district administration, our SRO's, and the BoE Policy Committee, I am recommending second reading and final adoption of a new Electronic Surveillance Policy on the agenda.
- VIII. A Heroes Day Recognition will be held at Fountain Woods on Monday, September 12th to honor all our local heroes, including emergency responders and military personnel.
- IX. Sports Teams and the Band have started practicing for the fall season. Our students, coaches and advisors are working hard to keep the Falcon Flying High!
- X. Our computer network was improved this summer and we installed over 250 new computer terminals. We are making real improvements over last year and getting the district back on track with technology. Students and staff will be pleased that they are returning to school to an upgraded version of Microsoft Office, the 2010 version.
- XI. Through a grant-funded project, we are undergoing major security improvements under Project Guardian, including: the installation of security cameras across the district; the reconfiguration of the entryways of all buildings to make them safer; the installation of visitor management systems that will conduct background checks on visitors and provide visitor badges; the installation of improved locking systems. Congratulations to Mrs. Bell and her team, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Finance Committee, the entire BoE on these significant accomplishments.