



April 2014

GMRSD Board Of Education

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Superintendent News

At the February and March public Board of Education meetings, the Great Meadows Board of Education approved Ms. Nadia Inskeep to the shared services position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Ron Marinelli in the shared services position of Facilities Supervisor. This is the first time in the history of the Great Meadows Regional School District, in conjunction with the Superintendent's office, that positions of this magnitude have been shared. In doing so, the Great Meadows Regional School district will realize a streamlined approach focusing on function and utility in Central Office and our students' successful transition into Hackettstown High School.

A shared service assists our school district with an opportunity to make programmatic and instructional changes in accordance with district goals and the Department of Education's Statewide initiatives. The position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction will serve our district by facilitating professional development with teachers in Great Meadows and Hackettstown. Last year Nadia Inskeep began the process of bringing the elementary and middle school staff together to discuss curricular and instructional needs. During the past two years the administration and staff have worked to discuss teaching materials, assessments and the implementation of the Common Core Content Standards. Ms. Inskeep has already developed a shared inter-district professional development calendar, assessment schedule and coordinated professional development for teacher in-service days at no cost to the GMRSD. As a member of the Great Meadows administrative team, Ms. Inskeep will be able to assist the administration and staff with the implementation of inter-district initiatives with a focus on curriculum and achieving a common language for our teachers.

Ms. Inskeep has 19 years of experience in education. She started her career as a special education teacher with 17 years of high school experience. After earning her Education Specialist Degree from Seton Hall University, she served as the assistant principal of Stanhope Public Schools, a pre-K through 8 district, as part of a shared services agreement with Lenape Valley Regional High School.

Mr. Marinelli comes to GMRSD with 9 years of experience as a facilities manager, in both Lopatcong and Hackettstown School districts. During this time, Mr. Marinelli has been the facilitator for several major building projects and grant approvals. He has presented at four National Energy conferences on behalf of the association of Energy Engineers on energy efficiency in schools and he is a monthly contributor to Buildings Magazine. He has also been the recipient of several awards. Under his management, the Lopatcong School District was recognized by Buildings Magazine's "Who's Who in the Energy Market" as one of the top 43 facilities in the nation. In addition, Mr. Marinelli was recognized by North America Power Partners as the only facility in the nation to have sold back over 1000 hours to a wholesale grid.

It is the District's goal, in line with strategic planning, that the previous experiences of Ms. Inskeep and Mr. Marinelli bring value and a shared perspective to our District.

David C. Mango



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Strategic Plan Update

The GMRSD Strategic Action Plan is up for approval at the June 17, 2014 Board meeting. Thank you to all who participated in the planning process. Your time, vision and input are greatly appreciated and will be reflected in the action plan.

CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Looking Forward to the 2014-2015 School Year:

***Entering Kindergarten is an exciting time for a child as well as for parents.** However these times also raise many questions through the course of the school year. Families need guidance. Central School will be establishing the Parent Resource Center – which will consist of a series of parent workshops, speakers, and trainings, geared towards helping parents work with their children through the school year. Conversations will include academic, social, and behavioral topics, better parenting strategies, as well as discussing trends in education and learning relative to our school and district.

***Join us every month for a Mug & Muffin get-together for parents and guardians.** These informal evening discussions will provide families with the latest of what's happening in the school and the district. Light refreshments will be served. Busy at night? Consider joining our Parent Advisory Group that meets monthly during the school day. A sign-up sheet will be going home with First Day packets.

***New for the 2014-2015 school will be the Journeys Language Arts and Reading series being adopted by GMR.** The new program will be replacing the Open Court Reading program that has been used by the district for over a decade. Journeys is a Common Core aligned program that provides a comprehensive and thorough approach to helping students learn phonemic concepts and reading strategies necessary in literacy development. Look for the parent workshop this May!

LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Journeys

Liberty School is excited to join the K-5 English Language Arts initiative in September 2014 with the addition of resources from the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt program Journeys. The resources from Journeys are completely aligned to the Common Core State Standards and offer technology rich experiences for our students to prepare for the PARCC assessment in spring 2015. The staff development has already begun with regards to the implementation of the new materials and the faculty is very excited. We will be holding a Parent University on May 20th at 7pm in the Liberty School hosted by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to give all our parents a thorough overview of the resources and to answer any questions you may have. Please mark your calendars and join us!

Second Step

As discussed at the April 8th Liberty School Principal Forum, beginning in September 2014 Mrs. Ackerman will have a rotating schedule of guidance lessons with all Liberty School classes using the Second Step Program. The Second Step Program teaches the students the skills necessary to succeed socially and academically. Each grade level features developmentally appropriate ways to teach core social-emotional skills such as empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. This instructional piece is one more way by which the district fulfills our goal of educating the whole child and addressing the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights in a positive way!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Good bye winter.....hello spring! With warmer weather upon us, the middle school is heating up. We are now in the fourth and final marking period and our school calendar is filled with a lot going on, such as NJ ASK State testing, 6th and 7th grade field trips, Hoops for Heart, the



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Warren County Solar Car Race Off, the Spring Concert, and the 8th grade trip to DC. The next 10 weeks will be extremely busy.

NJ ASK testing for the 7th and 8th grade will occur April 29th through May 2nd. The 6th grade will be tested May 5th through the 8th. Please make sure your child is well rested and eats a healthy breakfast before coming to school.

This is the final year for NJ ASK testing. Next year, all students will be required to take the PARCC assessment. We will be participating in the PARCC Field Test this May with two classes from the 7th grade and two classes from the 8th grade completing the assessment. Students in selected classes will become familiar with the PARCC platform during the infrastructure trial taking place the week of May 5th. The actual PARCC Field Test will take place the week of May 12th.

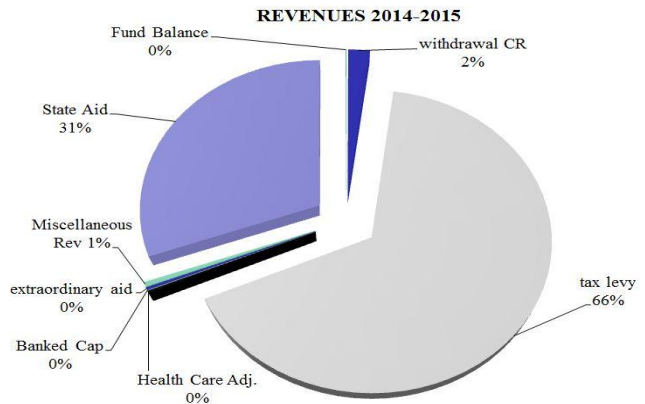
Our character education program, including Random Acts of Kindness and the Friends of Rachel Club, is in full swing. The kindness chain, in which every link is a separate act of kindness executed by our students, continues to grow. In addition, we will be recognizing a few students each month who are "Caught Being Nice". These are students who are going out of their way to be kind to someone in the school community.

Enjoy the weather and be safe,
Mr. Marmolejos & Mrs. Grigoletti



Detail of Revenues in 2014-15 Budget

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Fund Balance - Original audited amount | \$ 0 |
| additional amt. from program | <u>10,024</u> |
| | \$ 10,024 |
| Withdraw from Capital Reserve Local | 387,859 |
| Local Levy (not Debt Service) 2.00% | \$ 12,861,436 |
| Health Care Adj. | 47,401 |
| Banked Cap 13-14 | 10,326 |
| Extraordinary Aid (Spec Ed additional) | \$ 55,000 |
| Miscellaneous – Rental income – interest | \$ 96,500 |
| State Aid – (increase of \$23,600) | \$ 5,907,304 |

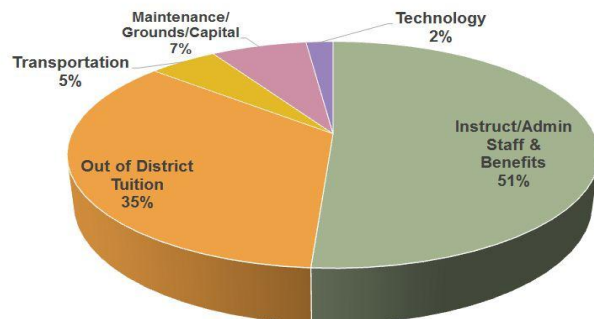


Key Budget Figures

Budget Categories

| Category | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | \$Incr | %Incr | %Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Instruction Staff | 5,082,098 | 5,035,857 | (46,241) | -1.0% | 25.6% |
| Administration Staff | 2,174,331 | 2,177,460 | 3,129 | 0.1% | 11.5% |
| Employee Benefits | 2,414,093 | 2,519,255 | 105,162 | 4.4% | 13.3% |
| Out of District Tuition | 6,314,557 | 6,679,622 | 365,064 | 5.8% | 35.2% |
| Transportation | 889,448 | 1,011,958 | 122,510 | 13.8% | 5.3% |
| Maintenance/Grounds/Capital | 1,322,127 | 1,189,968 | (132,159) | -10.0% | 7.1% |
| Technology | 419,286 | 373,871 | (45,415) | -10.8% | 2.0% |
| Budget Total | 18,615,940 | 18,987,991 | 372,051 | 1.9986% | 100.0% |

2014-2015 GMRSD Budget Distribution



Great Meadows Regional School District
P. O. Box 74* 281 Route 46
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Non Profit Org.
Standard Mail US
Postage PAID
Hackettstown, NJ
Permit No. 28

Board Members
Edward O'Melia
President

Joseph Mailloux
Vice President

William Vonder Haar
Fred Miller
David Schmitz
Agatha Wilke
Jamie Cicerelle
Susan Cullen
Lori Prymak

Postal Patron Local

Dates To Remember

| | |
|--|--|
| 5/21/14 – Spring Concert Grades 6-8 | 6/11/14 – GMR PTO Meeting |
| 5/26/14 – Closed Memorial Day | 6/13/14 – 8 th Grade Picnic |
| 5/29/14 – PATHS Meeting | 6/16/14 – Early Dismissal |
| 6/4/14 – Spring Concert Grades 4-5 | 6/17/14 – Early Dismissal |
| 6/10/14 – GATE Night | 6/18/14 - Last Day Early Dismissal |
| 6/10/14 – 4 th Marking Period Ends Grades 4-8 | 6/18/14 – 8 th Grade Promotion Ceremony |
| 6/11/14 – 3 rd Trimester Ends Grades K-3 | 6/18/14 – Report Cards Sent Home |