



North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

“Providing Success for all Students”

Winter 2010

District Looks to Save Energy and Reduce Costs

Catching the “green” wave, the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District recently completed an energy audit of its facilities and is looking forward to researching projects to help the district become more energy efficient.

The audit presented an examination of the energy usage throughout the district and offered recommendations on how the district can go “green”. Recommendations included solar panels on the high schools’ roofs, lighting upgrades, air handler replacements and contracting with a third party electric supplier (this last recommendation has already been implemented).

The energy audit was conducted by Camp, Dresser and McKee. The company examined all district facilities in June 2009 and reviewed the district’s utility bills over the last three years. Its findings and recommendations were presented to the Board of Education during the November 17th meeting.

The audit was also approved by the New Jersey Clean Energy Program. As an incentive for public and private entities to conduct an energy audit, the New Jersey Clean Energy Program offered partial reimbursement for the cost of the audit once completed. The Program has reimbursed the North Hunterdon-Voorhees District \$50,186.25, which is 75% of the cost of the audit. The district has the opportunity to apply for the additional 25% if it implements certain recommendations from the audit.

With the energy audit completed, the district’s next step was to issue a Request for Proposal for qualified energy services companies. The Board’s Buildings & Grounds Committee reviewed submitted proposals from five

companies. At the time this newsletter was being printed, the committee was set to recommend one company to the full Board for approval at its February 23rd meeting.

The chosen energy services company will work with the Board’s Buildings and Grounds Committee, School Business Administrator, and Facilities Supervisor to develop an energy savings plan for the district that incorporates recommendations from the energy audit as well any additional projects that it believes would be beneficial to the district. These energy conservation projects would then go before the full Board for a vote. The Board can vote to move forward with some or all of the projects. The projects in the energy savings plan would be paid for through the resulting energy savings. Therefore, no money would be needed from local taxes.

Though the district hopes to institute as many projects as it can while staying within the resulting energy savings, a referendum is still needed to complete other urgent projects that do not fall under this energy conservation initiative.

The list of projects in the referendum can be found on page two of this newsletter. Presentations of the referendum will be held in early April.

Referendum information will be posted on the district’s website, www.nhvweb.net/budget.

Inside this issue:

- Referendum Projects..... 2**
- Board of Education News...3**
- Lifelines Curriculum.....4**
- Haiti Relief.....7**

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Referendum Projects Up for Vote in April 2010

The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District needs to address several serious facilities needs, which will require a referendum vote from our taxpayers on April 20, 2010 - the same day as Annual School Elections.

The Board of Education and the administration have spent a great deal of time narrowing down a long list of projects, eliminating the simple “wants” to only focus on the “needs”. From those “needs”, the projects were narrowed down further to identify only the projects that the district could no longer postpone.

“The Board would not put forth a referendum to our taxpayers in this poor economy unless it was absolutely necessary. The good news is that it is our understanding that all of the projects in the referendum qualified for 40% funding from the state,” said Board President Barbara Walter.

The projects that were approved in November 2009 by the Board of Education for a referendum vote are listed below, with estimated costs.

As North Hunterdon High School is the old-

est of the two schools in the district, it is requiring more repairs at this time than Voorhees. North Hunterdon was constructed in 1950, with additional wings constructed in 1957, 1968 and 2002. Most of the projects listed for North Hunterdon have exceeded their life expectancy and can no longer be delayed. Voorhees High School was built in 1974 and was considered an outstanding structure for its time. The infrastructure at Voorhees is still in excellent shape even 35 years later.

“While we always aim for equity between our two high schools, I hope our residents understand that for this referendum the facility needs at North Hunterdon outnumber and outweigh the needs at Voorhees. Possibly ten years down the road, the roles will be reversed and Voorhees will need repairs and not North,” said Superintendent Dr. Charles M. Shaddow.

The tax impact figures for these projects were not available at the time this newsletter was printed. For the most up to date information, please visit our website, www.nhvweb.net/budget. ■

<u>Referendum Projects</u>	<u>Cost of Project</u>	<u>40% State Funding</u>	<u>Total for Project</u>
Replacement of Roof at North Hunterdon	\$4,300,000	\$1,720,000	\$2,580,000
Replacement of Elevator at North Hunterdon	\$1,000,000	\$400,000	\$600,000
Renovation of four science labs at North Hunterdon (in 1968 wing)	\$2,000,000	\$800,000	\$1,200,000
Renovation of girls and boys bathrooms near main office at North Hunterdon	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Replacement of HVAC units at North Hunterdon	\$6,700,000	\$2,680,000	\$4,020,000
Replacement of HVAC units at Voorhees	\$2,800,000	\$1,120,000	\$1,680,000
Asbestos Abatement (necessary with HVAC projects and bathroom renovation)	\$500,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Totals	\$17,550,000	\$7,020,000	\$10,530,000

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Board of Education News

This section will provide you with an update on key news and motions, which were discussed and/or approved at each Board of Education meeting. Agendas and meeting minutes can be accessed at this link: <http://www.nhvweb.net/boeagenda/>.

→ October 20, 2009 Meeting:

- Board accepted a safety grant award in the amount of \$15,000 from the NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group. This money was used for additional exterior lighting at both high schools.

→ November 17, 2009 Meeting:

- Board approved receipt and acceptance of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Auditor's Management Report for the 2008-2009 school year. The auditor had no recommendations and therefore no corrective action plan was needed.
- In a Public Agency Review by the NJ Department of the Treasury-Division of Public Contracts/EEO Compliance, the district was found to be in compliance.
- Board approved new courses for the 2010-2011 school year - Financial Literacy 2.5 credits, Computer Essentials 2.5 credits, and Organic Chemistry 2.5 credits

→ December 15, 2009:

- Board approved a request for two students from Germany to attend Voorhees High School during the month of February 2010

→ January 12, 2010:

- Board approved appointment of coaches for the fall 2010 season.
- Board accepted the 75% reimbursement for energy audit from the NJ Clean Energy Program - reimbursement check totaled \$50,186.25.
- The Board voted to support and sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top Grant application. The grant application was submitted by the State of New Jersey to acquire federal education funding.

→ January 26, 2010:

- Meeting cancelled due to bomb threat at North Hunterdon High School. Agenda moved to Feb. 9.

→ February 9, 2010:

- Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather. Agendas for January 26 and February 9 meetings will be voted on at February 23 meeting.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

March 2, 2010: Work Session, 7PM, Voorhees Cafeteria

March 19, 2010*: Regular Session - Adopt preliminary budget, 7PM, VHS Cafeteria

March 26, 2010*: Public Budget Hearing, 7PM, North Hunterdon Media Center

April 20, 2010: Regular Session, 7PM in District Administrative Office

** Tentative based on election calendar*

Board of Education Members:

<u>District/Member</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Franklin Township/ Town of Clinton Louis Pennucci	2011
Califon/Tewksbury Deborah Close Nicholas Nacamuli	2011 2012
Union Township Monica Gondek John Kulick, Ph.D.	2012 2010
Bethlehem/Glen Gardner/Hampton Francis Goger Debra Roosen	2010 2011
Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough Sandy Seidorf Marc Shaffer Beverly Thorne (VP) Barbara Walter (Pres.)	2011 2010 2012 2011
High Bridge/Lebanon Township Carol Anne Mates Garry Peabody	2010 2012

Lifelines Curriculum Presented at Both Schools

For the Voorhees High School community, the 2008-2009 school year was shaken by the tragic loss of two students who took their own lives. As part of the school's ongoing efforts to educate students about suicide and what to do if a student suspects a friend might be thinking of suicide, Voorhees High School agreed to pilot the Lifelines curriculum.

The Lifelines curriculum was developed by the Hazelden Foundation, which specializes in the treatment of and education for addiction. Voorhees was recommended to Hazelden to pilot the curriculum by the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide (SPTS). SPTS knew firsthand what students and staff at Voorhees had experienced during the last school year as they had worked with the school's guidance counselors to help students cope with the tragedies.

The Hazelden Foundation worked with Voorhees' Student Assistance Counselor, Jeff Hunt, to present the curriculum, which contains sections for students and parents. The objectives of the student curriculum were: 1) to increase the probability that persons who come into contact with potentially suicidal adolescents can more readily identify them, know how to respond to them, know how to rapidly obtain help for them, and be consistently inclined to take such action, and 2) to have troubled youth be aware of and have access to helping resources and that they are inclined to seek help as an alternative to suicide.

The student curriculum was divided into four session units: *When is a Friend in Trouble?*, *How Do I Help a Friend?*, *Where Can I Go to Get Help?* and *How Can I Use What I've Learned?*. These units were presented to students during their health classes over the course of one week in November 2009. Staff was trained on how to present the curriculum and initiate discussion with students by Maureen Underwood from the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide. Staff in the Health and Guidance Departments, the Child Study Team, and the administration participated in the training.



The parent portion of the Lifelines Curriculum contains a video entitled "Not My Kid: What Every Parent Should Know" and a presentation discussing the Lifelines Curriculum. The video and presentation were reviewed with parents during an evening program. If parents missed the program, the materials are still available to view on the Voorhees website, www.nhvweb.net/vhs/guidance/jhunt.

The parent presentation contained an overview of what their students would be taught, the objectives of the Lifelines Curriculum, and some alarming statistics on teen suicide. Some of the statistics included:

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens.
- It is the second leading cause of death among college students.
- 14.5% of students in grades 9-12 have thought about suicide in the last year.
- Every day there are approximately 11 youth suicides.

The "Not My Kid" video is designed to help parents recognize signs in their child that would indicate they might be thinking about suicide and, most importantly, how to talk with their child about suicide and where to go for help.

With the positive response for the Lifelines Curriculum at Voorhees in November 2009, North Hunterdon chose to institute the curriculum as well. The curriculum was taught during health classes by the health instructor and a guidance counselor, who received training beforehand. Students who had health class in the first semester were taught the Lifelines curriculum in mid-January; students in second semester health received the education the week of February 28. Parents were emailed a link to the presentation and "Not My Kid" video, which was available on the high school's website. The parent information was also reviewed with the Principal's Parent Advisory Committee who were asked to encourage other parents to view the Lifelines material and speak with their own children. ■

News From Around Voorhees

Every November, the week leading up to the traditional Milk Can Football Game is known as Spirit Week. Each grade level competes to see who has the most school spirit. Though the Voorhees senior class won overall for the Spirit Week competitions, the junior class won the competition for best decorations. This year's decorating contest had each grade level depicting a different comic book. The junior class showed their Voorhees Vikings spirit by recreating the famous Viking, Thor, along with his fellow comrades and enemies, and Mt. Valhalla (*part of the display is shown at right*). For the decorating contest, the senior class came in second for Batman, sophomores third for X-Men, and the freshmen were fourth for Spiderman.



A pie eating contest was one of the highlights of the Spirit Week pep rally. Four students and two faculty members donned garbage bags ready to place their face in a chocolate pudding pie. *Photo to left:* Athletics secretary Ann Bonavita finishes putting the whipped cream on the pies before (L-R) teacher Kathleen Bondonna and two students dive in.



The Voorhees Girls Soccer team raised \$2,500 for the Embrace Kids Foundation's PACCT program, which helps children diagnosed with cancer. The team raised the money to honor the courage and determination of one of their own, freshman Erica Buckley, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2008. The PACCT program provides a unique form of care, by allowing the same nurses who cared for the child in the hospital to make home care visits and thereby providing complete continuity of care. *Photo above:* the team gathered with their coaches to officially present the check to Erica (who's holding the check) on November 23, 2009.

"Providing Success for all Students"

News From Around North Hunterdon



The 7th Bi-Annual Global Literacies Challenge, for students taking the required Advanced Academic Literacies class, was held on January 12, 2010. As part of the challenge, three teams of finalists had to present an international trip itinerary to their fellow classmates through a PowerPoint presentation, website, and brochure. Staff and students in the audience voted to choose the winner. This semester's winner was the JELCSA team, who created a 10-day trip to areas in South America. The winning team was Laura Meyer, Jack Marchesini, CJ Rasile, and Elizabeth Witte, taught by Ms. Erin Erwin.

North students, faculty members and parents came together on December 1, 2009 to assemble care packages to send to troops overseas in time for the holidays. The initiative was called Operation Lion Pride and the group worked with Operation Shoebox to get the packages shipped before Christmas to loved ones of those in our community. Over 400 boxes were packed and over \$2,000 was raised to cover shipping costs.



Each November during the week before Thanksgiving, students in North's foods classes prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Students learn how to make stuffing, mashed potatoes, chocolate chip bars, vegetable casserole and turkey. One day is set aside for preparing the dishes and the next day is for enjoying them. Each class sits down together to partake in all the delicious dishes they have created with their own hands.

Photo to left: During the Foods and Fitness class, teacher Laura Anderson takes a peak at how well Jonathan Brito (right) is doing mashing the potatoes. Classmate Tim Heine (left) is keeping an eye out for any lumps.

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Students Pledge to Help Victims of Haiti Earthquake

After a massive earthquake destroyed many areas in Haiti on January 12, 2010, students at North Hunterdon and Voorhees High Schools immediately began to think of ways in which to help the victims.



A Haitian woman waits for customers as she sells food amidst debris in downtown Port-au-Prince on Feb. 1. Photo courtesy of MSNBC.

At North Hunterdon High School, the Amnesty International and Model UN student clubs led the fundraising efforts to help the people of Haiti. The two clubs sold puzzle pieces during lunch periods the week of January 25. The purchased and signed puzzle pieces, which said "Putting Haiti Back Together, One Piece at a Time", were hung in the senior mall area to signify the hope that the money raised will help the Haitian people begin to piece their lives back together. As of February 5, the clubs had raised \$1,500. The money will be donated to the Flem-



Haitian women pause in front of a damaged cathedral in Port-au-Prince. Photo courtesy of USA Today.

ington Chapter of the American Red Cross.

At Voorhees High School, students and staff came together in a collective effort to hold a pasta dinner that will benefit Haiti relief efforts. Organized by teacher Nancy Anne Castello and Student Activities Coordinator Brian Baumann, the pasta dinner was held on February 19 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Each grade level was responsible for a different part of the dinner. The pasta with choice of red, meat, white and cheese sauce was courtesy of the junior and senior classes, breads and salad were

bought by the freshman class, and desserts and beverages were courtesy of the sophomore class. Some of the student clubs provided the silverware and linens for the event. The cost of the dinner was \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$7 for adults, with all monies donated to Doctors Without Borders to help the victims of the earthquake. Any leftover food was donated to a shelter in Flemington. ■



North's fundraiser is half way to its goal of raising \$3,000 for Haiti relief efforts. The puzzle pieces sold surround this map of Haiti which shows the fundraising progress as of 2/5/10.

District Newsletter

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District
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8 North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Newsletter * Winter 2010

School Elections on April 20, 2010

On April 20, 2010, residents in our high school district will have the opportunity to vote on the high school's 2010-2011 school budget, referendum, and Board of Education openings. Polling hours for School Election Day will be from 7AM to 9PM. The list of polling locations throughout our district is posted on our budget webpage, www.nhvweb.net/budget.

In our next District Newsletter, you will receive the details of the high school budget for the 2010-2011 school year and tax impact figures for the budget and referendum. This information will also be posted to our budget webpage as soon as it becomes available. Please note that school districts in New Jersey will not receive state aid figures for the 2010-2011 school year until March 17 or 18. Once the state aid figures are incorporated into our budget

and the Board of Education adopts the preliminary budget, we can release the details to the community.

This year, there are four openings on the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education, including: one 4-year term for Union Township, one 4-year term for Bethlehem/Hampton/Glen Gardner, one 4-year term for Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough, and one 4-year term for High Bridge/Lebanon Township. Petitions from interested candidates were due to the School Business Administrator by March 1, 2010. The list of candidates running for these openings will be posted on our budget webpage.

Please remember to vote on April 20, 2010. We are thankful for the continued support we receive from our parents and community so that we can provide our students with the best education possible.

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