

Clinton Public School News



March 2014

The mission of Clinton Public School is to inspire our students to become contributing members of society who are independent, innovative, life-time learners equipped with the necessary skills to meet the demands of our ever-changing world.

Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education

Margaret Layding, Bob Moul, Patty Cooper, Brendan McIsaac, Craig Sowell

CPS Facility Plan and March 11, 2014 Referendum

In 2013, the Board updated the school's facility plan. There will be a special school election on March 11, 2014 to ask for Clinton and Glen Gardner voter approval to issue \$2.1M in 10 year bonds for facility work at CPS.

While we always budget for ongoing maintenance, we've identified 3 important projects which need to be funded through a bond issue so we can spread the cost over many years:

1. Replacement of 1996 portion of the school's roof, which is nearing the end of its useful life
2. Replacement of 1996 rooftop HVAC equipment, and the building's HVAC controls, for improved efficiency and savings
3. Replacement of the fire alarm system, much of which was installed in 1969 making repair parts difficult to find.

In Summer 2013, the State offered facility aid funding which can cover 40% of \$2.1M cost. The District applied, and will receive the State funding if the referendum passes. The remainder would be funded locally by Clinton and Glen Gardner at a cost of roughly \$30/\$100,000 in valuation, annually, for the 10 year life of the bonds.

We want to take advantage of the availability of the State funding now, since the State doesn't consistently offer this support. We also are benefitting from relatively low interest rates, which helps minimize the cost.

In Clinton, there would be no impact to taxes from this Referendum. This is because we are timing these bonds to **replace** 1996 bonds which are already part of current taxes and will soon be paid off.

In Glen Gardner, there is a tax impact since this is the first Referendum since the districts merged in 2009.

Please check the CPS website at www.cpsnj.org for more information and detailed fact sheets on the proposed projects or contact the school's business office at 735-8512 with any questions.

Vote on March 11, 2014!

Update on Superintendent Search

After 6 years at CPS, Dr. Richard Katz took another role this past summer. The Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education hired Mrs. Judy Burd as our Interim Superintendent for this school year. We have been pleased to have Mrs. Burd join us, she has brought a wealth of experience, with 30+ years in Lebanon Township Schools from which she retired in 2011.

The Board is now actively searching for a permanent Superintendent/Principal. We sought input from teachers, parents and community members and have been interviewing candidates. We expect to have a final decision announced this spring. As required by state law, we have sought candidates with Superintendent certification. The role will continue to be a combined Superintendent and Principal position, a change made several years ago to help manage costs effectively.

CPS IN THE NEWS



Ryan McKeever Wins Local School NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

On January 9, 2014, Ryan McKeever, a 6th grade student at Clinton Public School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee and a chance at a \$25,000.00 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 26th annual National Geographic Bee. This year's Bee is sponsored by Google (visit www.google.com/educators/geo). Ryan is the son of Jim and Ana McKeever of Clinton.

Along with Ryan, the following students competed in the competition held at the school: Sarah Upwood (6th), Jahir Stover (6th), Adam Lum De-Bono (7th), Jonah Lione (7th), Emily Klein (6th), Dylan Harrison (6th), Gerry Endersen (6th), Alex Endersen (7th), and Matthew Czerw (8th).

The kick-off for this year's Bee was early in January, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Ryan, will now take a written test. Up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 4, 2014.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the Bee national championship rounds May 19-21, 2014. The first-place national winner will receive a \$50,000.00 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands., courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien will moderate the national finals on May 21. The program will air on television.

CPS Debate Competition

On Thursday, November 21, 2013, four teams of two students each from Clinton Public entered a spontaneous debate competition at the Clinton Township Middle School. Although the debaters were prepared at their home schools on the rules of debating, they did not know what topic they would be debating at the competition, nor which stance (affirmative or negative) they would defend. Students were assigned a topic and stance once they arrived with some of the research materials prepared for them. They were then given an hour and a half to prepare their position and debating points. A computer was provided for the last half hour of preparation.

The initial rounds of debates were conducted in small groups and scored by two judges. Then the finalists debated in front of the whole group and were scored by a panel of judges. The CPS team of Julianne Bavaro and Ian McKillip advanced to the final round, arguing that violence in school media should not be censored.

The other CPS teams consisted of Kadie Davis and Abhay Bhatt, Chloe Boyd and Alyssa Tombs, and Lyra Tomljanovich and Izzy Nunes.

These teams debated whether saying the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional or not. Although CPS didn't win the overall competition, the students gained valuable insight into the process of debating, including preparation strategies, time management, public speaking skills, working collaboratively, and researching.

All 7th and 8th graders at CPS learn the art of debate in their social studies class.

