



Allamuchy Township School

THE BOARD REPORT



Mountain Villa School

Volume 9, Issue 2

January 2015

Board Message

One of the primary functions of the Board of Education and each member of the Board is to serve as the conduit for information between the school district and the community. That conduit delivers a dialogue, not a monologue. So, here follows information on matters of importance which have been the focus of discussion by the Board of Education at recent meetings.

Fiscal Matters. Since the late summer, the district has encountered unexpected fiscal challenges. Since the Board adopted the 2014-2015 budget in April 2014, a budget that was reviewed by the NJ Department of Education, circumstances have changed significantly. Two items are especially operative in creating the challenges we now face. At the time, the district was finalizing an agreement with a nearby school district to share chief school administrator services. We were going to share Dr. Cohen. Such an arrangement allowed us to budget for that line item at one-half the total cost. We did not anticipate that Dr. Cohen would resign soon after we adopted the budget. Normally that would not present a difficulty. However, in the second half of August, new enrollments in the district required us to find approximately \$250,000 which we could not have anticipated for special education costs for students with Individualized Education Plans mandated under federal law. This development has created a challenge. Another factor is our growth in student population, and concomitantly tuition, at Hackettstown High School. The effects of these two fiscal issues are felt throughout the district. As a result, class sizes in some grades and some special subjects are larger than what we have typically had and certainly than what we prefer. We could not hire additional teaching staff to address this issue. The status of the chief school administrator position remains unresolved in part because of the fiscal situation. We have addressed the Hackettstown tuition matter with an agreement to phase in our tuition increase over several years. But the fiscal effects of the August enrollments will continue for the foreseeable future. These challenges are exacerbated by the increasingly constricting effect of the tax levy cap. Accordingly, the Board must explore all viable options, including shared services. On the positive side, Rutherford Hall produced a modest positive net revenue for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and we anticipate that it will grow for this current year. The district continues to explore other creative methods either to trim expenditures or to generate income. For instance, the Board has just entered into an agreement for the construction of a solar energy system that will significantly reduce the cost of energy for the Allamuchy Township School beginning in 2016. We are confident that in both the short term and the long term, the administration will continue to propose and implement educationally sound and fiscally responsible solutions.

Chief School Administrator Position. When Dr. Cohen submitted his resignation, the Board resolved to fill the vacancy by December 31. The Board crafted a plan to advertise for the position, to conduct a series of public discussion sessions with stakeholders, to interview qualified candidates and then to retain the best qualified and most suitable candidate by the deadline. The Board proceeded on that plan, getting to the point of interviewing five qualified candidates. At that time, the effects of the unexpected special education costs began to manifest themselves. The Board suspended the search in order to consider the fiscal challenges and their effect on the search. In the meantime, the Board has extended the contract with the interim CSA, Dr. Frederiks, who served as our CSA for seven years from 2005 to 2012. More fully informed decisions can be made as the Board and the district proceed through the budget development process. The goal to have a long term resolution of the CSA vacancy as soon as is practicable still remains. *(continued on page 2)*

Did You Know???—Gifted and Talented Options!!!

Allamuchy is offering Virtual High School (VHS) courses to qualifying students. Students who are currently part of G&T, and have a recommendation from their literature teacher are candidates for the program. We currently have three students enrolled and participating in courses like the Teenage Brain and Creative Writing. In addition, the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth also offers courses to provide enrichment for our students. We currently have one student enrolled through the school and participating in Honors Algebra I.

District Goals. The Board of Education, in consultation with the administration, adopts goals annually. Every year, one or more of the goals are the product of analysis of the testing data for the district. Board and administrative decisions occur in the context of these annual goals. This year's goals, which were adopted on November 4, 2014, are: 1) to increase the use and student understanding of informational text across the curriculum in grades 2-8; 2) to increase the use and student understanding of numbers operations/fractions in grades 3-5; 3) to increase average daily student attendance in school; 4) to create a focus on district plant needs at Allamuchy Township School, Mountain Villa School and Rutherford Hall; 5) to develop and adopt policy related to the total operations of Rutherford Hall; and 6) to develop and deliver two rounds of pilot field-based educational experiences, based on student competencies listed in the Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS), delivered on the grounds of Rutherford Hall and the larger Allamuchy Farms campus and to package these trips and market them to local Warren/Sussex and Morris County school districts. The full description of these goals is published on the district's website: <http://www.aes.k12.nj.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1343&dataid=1635&FileName=2014-2015%20District%20Goals.pdf>

Technology. The Board of Education adopts periodically a technology plan for the district. The plan is formulated by the administration with policy based input from the Board of Education. Our technology plan addresses the identified technological needs of the district. One of the most pressing technology concerns was the district's preparedness for PARCC testing. Accordingly, the plan specifically targeted necessary technological infrastructure improvements and bandwidth growth. With the assistance of the Allamuchy Township Education Foundation we were able to purchase additional Chromebooks. As a result, we are rather well prepared for the State tests as was demonstrated during Allamuchy's participation in the field test last spring. Aside from testing, the district utilizes technology to supplement learning. With the assistance of the PTO the district has been able to acquire tablets to assist the special education teachers. The technology plan and the progress of the district in implementing that plan are the object of at least annual reflection. The plan is revised periodically to take into account changing circumstances. Technology is important in the education of our children, but it is just a supplemental tool in their development.

PARCC. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Elsewhere in the *Board Report* is information about the administration of the PARCC in Allamuchy and what it means for our children. This is the State's replacement for the NJ ASK tests. The assessments must be taken on computers. There are two administrations, a formative assessment in March and a summative assessment in late April and early May. It will displace a significant amount of instructional time. Students in grades 2 through 8 will take the assessment. The PARCC assessments are the source of a great deal of controversy including: the advisability of testing elementary school students as early as 2nd grade for college and career readiness, the loss of significant amount of instructional time, the emphasis on non-fiction reading, the relationship of the tests to the controversial Core Curriculum Content Standards, the inclusion of test scores as an element of teacher evaluation and the resulting teaching to the test. The district will be administering these tests. We expect our students will do well overall on them. If there is information to be mined from the results related to systemic delivery of instruction or program, the district will mine and process that information and make systemic and programmatic adjustments accordingly. Take a moment to see how our children will be tested by going to the PARCC website and trying the practice tests: <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

The Allamuchy Township Board of Education meets monthly on the fourth Monday at the Allamuchy Township School. All are invited to learn more about our excellent school district.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) represents a fundamental shift in how we think about testing, state to state. PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should not be a process to penalize educators and districts, but rather a tool for enhancing teaching and learning. The PARCC assessments in English Language Arts (ELA/Literacy) and Mathematics are carefully crafted to give teachers, schools, students and parents better and more useful information on how we're preparing our kids for careers and college — and life. Looking ahead, PARCC will be:

A useful tool for teachers. Computer-based assessments deliver real-time information on student knowledge that teachers can use to help inform instruction. No longer will teachers, students and families be waiting for results that don't arrive until it's too late to use the information to help kids.

More engaging for students. Times have changed. In the digital age, students process and relate information differently than they did in the past. It's time to retire the old pencil-and-paper bubble tests and replace them with online tools that will accelerate and enhance student learning.

An economic opportunity for states. For the first time, states and local communities will know how their students stack up against their peers in neighboring states and cities. This is a crucial shift that gives educators, policymakers and community leaders better information on how to plan for and develop the workforce of the future.

Testing Windows

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) March 2 – March 22, 2015 (75%)

ELA - writing effectively when analyzing text.

Math - applying skills, concepts, and understandings to solve multi-step problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools.

End-of-Year Assessment (EOY) April 22 – May 22, 2015 (90%)

ELA - reading comprehension.

Math - demonstrate further conceptual understanding of the Major Content and Additional and Supporting Content of the grade/course.

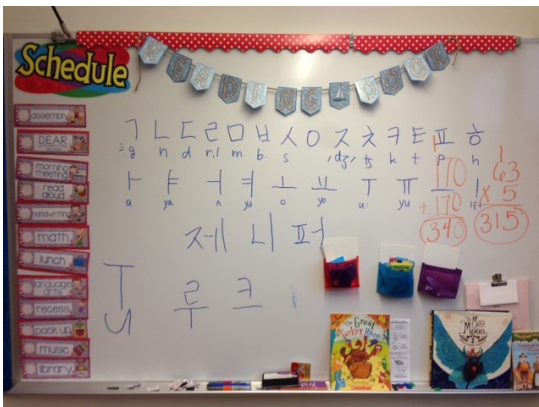
Veterans Day



Through the hard work of our staff and students, especially Mrs. Ashley Van Haste and Mrs. Andrea Aussems, our district salutes our veterans every year with an incredible assembly. This year's event featured guests from our area who served in many conflicts and in peace time. Our staff is always stressing the importance of service to community and country! According to one special guest from Picatinny, this event was the "best tribute she has ever witnessed!"

**Congratulations to
Robbie Donnelly
2015 Allamuchy Township School
Spelling Bee Champion!**

Korean Teacher Exchange



Did you know that Allamuchy has a special relationship with Centenary College? As part of the Professional Development School Network, the district is able to take advantage of many wonderful opportunities that enrich the experiences of our students and staff. In October, we hosted six visiting Korean educators for two weeks. They came to experience American education first hand and to share their language and customs with our students—what a great opportunity!



Congratulations to our 2014-15 Educators of the Year!

Mountain Villa School

Mrs. Gina Davey, Pre-School Disabilities Teacher

Mrs. Danielle Pulver, School Nurse

Allamuchy Township School

Mr. Rob White, Fifth and Sixth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Lauren Boden, Speech Therapist

WELCOME, ALEX GUARNASCHELLI!

IRON CHEF/“CHOPPED” JUDGE COMING TO *TASTE OF THE TOWN!*

April Fundraiser also to feature “Jersey Bites”
Artisan Food Market



Food Network personality and restaurateur Alex Guarnaschelli will be making a guest appearance at the **4th Annual Skyland Region Taste of the Town Food & Wine Tasting on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club**. This is the Allamuchy Township Education Foundation’s fourth fundraising extravaganza at the now Mattar Family-owned club. The first such event in this part of New Jersey, the Taste of the Town promises to enrich your taste buds and educate your palate with food and beverage pairings of the region—all in the interest of enriching technology education in the Allamuchy school district.

Founded in 2008, the Allamuchy Township Education Foundation is a community-based, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a conduit for corporate and individual donors to fund innovative and challenging programs and events in support of the Allamuchy Township School District, which includes Rutherford Hall and the greater community. The Taste of the Town supports one singular mission, the technology initiative of the school district. This fundraiser has allowed for the donations for technology at our schools, including a most recent donation of \$7,500 for Chrome-books.

TASTE OF THE TOWN General Admission Tickets remain at \$60 per person. This year, consider the new VIP option to mingle with Alex Guarnaschelli, receive a photo and her cookbook. Check our website for details and ticket information: <http://www.foodandwinetasting.net>

5:30-7:00 p.m. Exclusive meet and greet with Alex Guarnaschelli
Limited number of tickets available

7:00-10 p.m. Food and beverage tasting (it's not just wine!) and book signing

10 p.m.-1:00 a.m. "After Taste" Party with music by nationally recognized Jimmy Buffet cover band
Jimmy and the Parrots
Check them out at <http://www.jimmyandtheparrots.com>



In keeping with the vision to provide the best “food-and-wine+” experience in the region, the Skyland Region Taste of the Town is excited to announce that the online marketplace **Jersey Bites** will be presenting an Artisan Market at this year’s event.

PTO NEWS

Allamuchy PTO Mad Hatter Dinner & Silent Auction

The Allamuchy PTO will be sponsoring a Mad Hatter themed dinner and silent auction on Saturday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn in Budd Lake. Please come out to support our biggest fundraiser of the year! This fun-filled evening will include a buffet dinner, cash bar, a DJ and dancing, our fabulous silent auction, a few tricky tray items, games and lots of great prizes. Wear a crazy hat to be entered into a drawing for a special prize. Tickets are \$35 per person, and will only be sold in advance. You can reserve an entire table of 10, or we can seat you at a table with others. In an effort to keep admission prices as low as possible, we are only making our profit from the auction and items being sold at the event, not on admission. We need the support of our Allamuchy families and friends to continue to provide our children with the educational opportunities that are so important to our schools. Tickets can be purchased online at www.allamuchy-pto.ticketleap.com, or by contacting Paula Waeschle at (908) 458-1597 or waeschle@optonline.net, or Lisa Strutin at (973) 332-2043 or ormom76@gmail.com.



Keep abreast of Allamuchy goings-on with our new App. The Google Play Store and Apple iTunes will be releasing the Allamuchy Township School App soon. Key features like the announcements and district headlines will appear on the main page. Parent portal access, the lunch menu, and staff directory will also be placed in the palm of your hand through your cell phone or tablet. It will even feature a scrolling banner that displays the most up-to-date, significant events and happenings. Optional push notifications can be enabled so that you can receive alerts through the App. You can locate a link to the download on our district website as soon as it is released.

Allamuchy's Special Place

Rutherford Hall



Visit us on the web:
www.rutherfordhall.org



Historic Rutherford Hall is a wonderful and unique place to hold a wedding, special event, or business meeting. The first floor of the hall offers three rooms with beautiful architecture that will delight the eye. Each room can be catered to your event. Whether you are having a buffet or sit-down dinner, a lecture style meeting, or need a dance floor, we can accommodate your needs. The grounds offer breathtaking views of the Allamuchy pond and surrounding area. Enjoy a cocktail on our newly restored patio or have an event on the lawn under the stars.



Save the Date!

The Allamuchy Board of Education is holding a **Community Forum** on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Villa School Great Room.

At this special meeting, the Board will update the community regarding future plans including the new Superintendent of Schools. The Board will be available to address questions and concerns. See our website for additional details:

<http://www.aes.k12.nj.us>



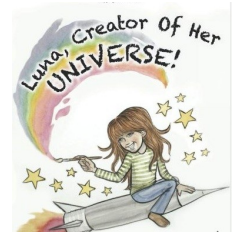
Rutherford Hall SM

You're Invited! So...Save the Dates!

Rutherford Hall is ready to WOW YOU with another year of great public programs!

Mark Your Calendars! All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Donations welcome



February 18, 2015, 6:30p.m. ~ Author and illustrator Kerri Howard reads *Luna, Creator of Her Universe*

A story about a little girl who learns to embrace her gift of being an artist. Reading and book signing. An inspirational evening for children and their parents.



February 22, 2015, 3p.m. ~ "Sound Off" with Jim Ryan and Jerry Kopychuk (of Kinderhook)

Jim and Jerry will provide some history of the pedal steel guitar and dobro while playing some examples.

March 1, 2015, 1p.m. ~ *Frozen Sing-Along and Family Movie Day with Special Guests*

Family fun with a movie, live singing, special guests and snacks—fun for the whole family! \$5.00 per person includes everything

March 22, 2015, 3p.m. ~ Big Apple Jazz Band

Dick Voigt & The Big Apple Dixieland Jazz Band perform live. More Info: www.rutherfordhall.org Tickets \$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door www.rutherfordhall.tix.com

March 29, 2015, 3p.m. ~ Tea and Talk with Linda Barth

Linda presents on the history of invention in New Jersey.

April 12, 2015, 3p.m. ~ *Sound of Music* 50th Anniversary Lecture/Book Signing with Tom Santopietro

Returning to Rutherford Hall once again, Tom will speak about the *Sound of Music* movie, celebrating it's 50th anniversary. He will have his new book about the movie available for purchase and will do a book signing.

April 19, 2015, 3p.m. ~ A Tribute to Johnny Mercer, The Great American Composer

Swingadelic performs Johnny Mercer tunes. More Info: www.rutherfordhall.org Tickets \$22.50 Advance - \$27.50 Door www.rutherfordhall.tix.com

April 26, 2015, 3p.m. ~ "The History of Substance Use in the USA" - Dr. Keith Morgen

An illustrated talk documenting the sometimes surprising history of substance use in the United States.

May 3, 2015, 12 noon. ~ *Downton Abbey* Mother's Day Tea/Light Lunch

Limited seating. This very special event includes soup, salad, an assortment of gourmet tea sandwiches and delicious desert. Tours of the mansion will be available after lunch. Tickets \$45 - check our website for additional details.

And more....

May 31, 2015 ~ Warren County Preservation Day

July 2, 2015 ~ Live on the Lawn 2015 Celebration with Music and Fireworks! (Rain Date July 5th)

July (dates to be announced) - Mommy and Me Nature Art Workshops and Publish-a-Book Workshops

July 6-10 ~ Harry Potter-themed Summer Camp Level 1

July 13-17 ~ Harry Potter-themed Summer Camp Level 2

July 20-24 ~ Classic Sports and Games Summer Camp

July 27-31 ~ *Hunger Games*-themed Summer Camp

September 13, 2015 ~ Claude Bourbon (returning for a second concert at Rutherford Hall)

September 20, 2015 ~ Re-enactment old-time classic baseball game

October (date to be announced) - Acapella Fest featuring the finest high school and college acapella groups

October 24 & 25 ~ Our 4th Annual Hall of Haunts! The Medium Theatre Company returns!

December 4 ~ "Members Only" Gala - You MUST join the Friends of Rutherford Hall to attend

December 5 ~ Merry Making 2015 Party!

Visit www.rutherfordhall.org for updates!

ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT
20 JOHNSONBURG ROAD
ALLAMUCHY, NJ 07820

Allamuchy Township School
Grades 2-8
Mountain Villa School
Grades PK –1
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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President
DIANE CLARK
Vice President
JAMES BRITT
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ADMINISTRATION

DR. TIMOTHY FREDERIKS
Interim Superintendent
MS. JENN CHICKEY
Principal
MS. JANET MARTIN
Director of Special Services
MS. RITA JONES
Business Administrator

ALLAMUCHY TWP FIRE DEPARTMENT 7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

"In Memory of Chief Jim Powderley"

Friday, August 7, 2015

Lunch & Registration 11:30-1pm
Shotgun Start at 1pm
Happy Hour 5:30-6:30pm
Dinner & Awards 6:30-8pm

\$175.00 per Golfer

Lunch and Dinner, Beer & Cash Bar, 3 Hole in One Opportunities,
(2 Cars and a Harley)
Giveaway's, Silent Auction, Everything Country Club Style

A portion of proceeds to go to a scholarship in Chief Powderley's name



**Mommy and Me
Art Classes at
Rutherford Hall**



Village
Family
CLINIC

~MARCH MESSAGE EVENT~
FUNDRAISER EVENT AT
VILLAGE FAMILY CLINIC
TO BENEFIT

Rutherford Hall

VISIT VILLAGE FAMILY CLINIC DURING
THE MONTH OF MARCH FOR A MESSAGE

\$60 - One Hour Massage

**\$45 - One Hour Massage
for Allamuchy Board of
Education Teachers,
Staff, & Administration**



**\$10 WILL BE DONATED TO RUTHERFURD
HALL FOR EVERY MESSAGE GIVEN**

Appointments Available Monday through Friday
(Appointments Requested Please)

YOU MUST MENTION "RUTHERFURD HALL" WHEN MAKING YOUR
APPOINTMENT TO TAKE PART IN THE FUNDRAISER

Visit VILLAGE FAMILY CLINIC at their NEW LOCATION:

Allamuchy Corporate Center, 1500 Route 517, Allamuchy

Call for your appointment today ~ (908) 813-8200 ~ <http://villagefamilychiro.com/>

Allamuchy Township School Family Fun Night



Thursday, February 19, 2015
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Mountain Villa School



**Students must be accompanied
and monitored by an adult.*