

Morris Plains educators attend state workshop

11/06/2003

MORRIS PLAINS - A number of Morris Plains educators including teachers, administrators and board members attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop in Atlantic City the week of Oct 20.

The workshop, the largest gathering of its kind in the state, is held annually and is offered to board members, school business administrators, superintendents and other district leadership.

As a special feature at this year's NJSBA Workshop, Morris Plains teachers, administrators and board member Phyllis Grant presented various public relations and Curriculum Fair workshops on innovative programming ideas that might be adapted by other school districts throughout the state. Staff members presenting at the workshop included Judy Wagenbach, Janeen Allmendinger, Ginny Hussey, Beth Gallini, Nancy Giambrone, Kenneth Knops, Phyllis Grant, Lynne Cohen, Megan Griffith and Elaine Turowski.

Board member Mike Giostra, Superintendent Kenneth Knops and Principal Nancy Giambrone attended a workshop on bullying in schools facilitated by Guardian Angel Founder Curtis Sliwa. Sliwa discussed the various forms of bullying currently going on throughout the school and the various strategies schools might utilize to eliminate bullying behaviors. The Morris Plains Schools are currently participating in an anti-bullying program through the Guardian Angels.

Throughout the workshop, district personnel were afforded the opportunity of attending various workshops of interest to the district, visiting the Curriculum Fair for the purpose of learning about cutting edge educational programs throughout the state and meeting with various vendors in light of the upcoming building project.

Board of Education Vice-President Alice Collopy, Phyllis Grant, Michael Giostra and Tony Gallerano were also in attendance at the workshop. By day the board members visited workshops and stopped by vendor booths, reserving evening to networking dinners and a chance to debrief on the day's activities.

In summing up the NJSBA Workshop, Knops commented, "It was a most productive and enlightening two day workshop. First off, it was wonderful to see how well received our teachers' programming innovations were received by the leadership of other districts. Secondly, it was a fantastic opportunity to network, attend a variety of workshops and learn about cutting edge developments in education throughout the state. Third, it was a wonderful bonding opportunity for teachers, administration and board members. Each evening's dinner and debriefing sessions were eagerly anticipated by all."