



**High School students observe a Senate budgetary hearing in Trenton.**

**Meet and greet with the Acting Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet.**



- 12 students, 2 coaches (Ms. Riordan and Mr. Van Hise), and an administrator (Mr. Bonner) from Lakewood High School were extremely lucky to witness a New Jersey Senate budgetary hearing today.
- We arrived at the New Jersey State House a little before noon, where we were directed to wait in the cafeteria until a meeting in committee room four ended. The meeting ended, and we were directed to move to committee room four at about 12:30.
- The New Jersey commissioner of education stopped to say hello to Lakewood upon entering the room. He told the Lakewood students that he liked the color of their shirts, as it was the same color as his fraternity colors. The hearing, which was supposed to begin at 1:30, actually began at approximately 1 PM.
- The students intently listened to the proceedings, and were extremely well behaved. At one point, two students were asked to answer questions in an interview for Senator Steven Sweeney's website. They explained that they were there to make sure that more programs and teachers did not get cut. The hearing ended after two hours, at approximately 3 o'clock.
- Commissioner Repollet stopped by to say goodbye as he left. While we were exiting the Statehouse, we saw the commissioner and asked if he would take a picture with us. He gladly accepted, and stayed to chitchat for a few moments. He said that he would be touring a few schools in each county in the state over the next few months, and that Lakewood was a definite stop on his tour.