



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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For Immediate Release

The Ewing Public Schools BOE Board Briefs: December 17th, 2018

The Ewing Township Board of Education held its monthly meeting in the Fisher Middle School media center on Monday, December 17th, 2018.

Ewing High School student ambassadors to the Board of Education, Nadlie Alexis and Steven Rodriguez, updated the Board and public on events and developments at EHS during the month of December, including recent athletic results, school events, and charitable endeavors.

During the “**Superintendent’s Report**,” Chief School Administrator Michael Nitti acknowledged all the holiday concerts taking place around the district, and thanked all the district music educators and parents for their support.

Mr. Nitti was then joined by Board Vice President Anthony Messina in thanking and honoring departing Board member Maria Benedetti, who is stepping down after 13 years as a member of the Board of Education.

Several Board members thanked Ms. Benedetti for her many contributions to the school and community.

BOE and Administration Honor Maria Benedetti for Service

The administration and Board of The Ewing Public Schools honored departing longtime Board member Maria Benedetti for many years of dedicated service at the December 17th BOE meeting.

Ms. Benedetti first served as a member of the Board of Education from April of 2003 to April of 2004. She was then elected to the Board in April of 2007 and has since served the community continuously, including stints as Board President, Vice President and as a member of many important committees. Always a proud Ewing Schools parent first, as both her children graduated Ewing High School, Ms. Benedetti was a strong advocate for the children of the district, and consistently promoted a whole child educational approach that was student-centered.

“During her time on the Board, we have seen significant accomplishments, up to and including the recent passing of our bond referendum,” Superintendent Michael Nitti commented. “Mrs. Benedetti has played an important role in many of these achievements, and the school community is grateful and appreciative.”

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In the **“Superintendent Recommendations”** section of the Agenda, the following took place:

Finance and Operations

The Board approved the School District Budget Development Calendar for 2019-20. It is available on the district website.

The Board approved a resolution accepting the sale of the bonds emanating from the recently voter-approved referendum.

On November 27, 2018, at 10:30 AM, the board held the bond sale related to the referendum projects.

The district received bids from five banks, and awarded the bid to Bank of America/Merrill Lynch at a net interest cost of 3.698%.

“Although this was the lowest bid, the others were all in a similar range which indicates that all banks really wanted a shot at the bonds as we had a really attractive package,” School Business Administrator Dennis Nettleton commented. “According to our financial advisors at Acacia Financial, our successful and competitive sale is testament to our strong financial management, AA- bond rating, and the size and timeline of our bonds.”

A release from the **Personnel Agenda:**

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Director of Counseling and Assessment Announces Retirement

The retirement of Mrs. Betty Jo Prince, Director of Counseling and Assessment for The Ewing Schools, was accepted by the Board of Education at its December 17th meeting.

Mrs. Prince has been with the Ewing Schools since 2000 in several key administrative roles. She will retire from the district on July 1st, 2019.

Mrs. Prince attended Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in special education and began her career as a teacher in Atlanta, Georgia for special needs high school students. During the time, she enrolled in graduate school at Georgia State University in Atlanta and earned a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership and Supervision and soon ascended to an administrative position for the Atlanta Schools.

Mrs. Prince eventually moved to the tri-state area and become an Assistant Principal in Washington Township, New Jersey.

After ten years in South Jersey, she moved to the Ewing Schools, becoming an assistant principal at Ewing High School where she was charged with ninth grade transition, building management and many other administrative and leadership tasks.

Mrs. Prince soon assumed the role of assistant principal for the EHS Guidance Office where she was responsible for the guidance department, the master schedule, report cards, transcripts, student scheduling, curriculum guides, school profiles, special guidance events and program, overseer of Senior Awards Night, and also served as the school test coordinator.

In 2011, Mrs. Prince became the Director of Counseling Services and Assessment for The Ewing Schools. In this role, she served as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator for the district and was responsible for the implementation of many new programs designed to create a positive and harmonious school culture. Other accomplishments included working with the FMS administrative team to revamp the master schedule at FMS, leading a complete revision to the 504 Plan process, improving graduation rates, and revising the high school transcript process.

Mrs. Prince was a key part of Ewing High School being named to the prestigious College Board AP Honor Roll for two consecutive years.

"I will treasure the nineteen years I have spent with the Ewing Public Schools and all of the wonderful children and adults I have met and worked with along the way and I will also have many great memories of my forty-one years in education to keep me going through retirement," Mrs. Prince stated.

"We are greatly appreciative of Mrs. Prince's years of service to the students of the Ewing schools," Superintendent Michael Nitti stated. "She touched many lives and certainly is leaving a legacy of accomplishment. We wish for her a happy and enjoyable retirement."

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At the close of the meeting, the Board and administration joined together in wishing the Ewing School Community a wonderful holiday season!

The next meeting of the Ewing Township Board of Education is the annual Organization Meeting on **Monday, January 7th, 2019 at 7:00PM** in the Fisher Middle School media center.

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