



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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For Immediate Release

The Ewing Public Schools BOE Board Briefs: January 28th, 2019

The Ewing Township Board of Education held its monthly meeting in the Parkway Elementary School media center on Monday, January 28th, 2019.

This was the second of the Board's traveling meetings for the 2018-19 school year, as the Board visited Lore School in November and now Parkway School in January. These meetings give the Board the opportunity to tour the schools, meet with staff, and receive an update from the school leadership.

Ewing High School student ambassadors to the Board of Education, Steven Rodriguez and Nadlie Alexis, updated the Board and public on events and developments at EHS during the month of January.

During the **"Superintendent's Report,"** Chief School Administrator Michael Nitti provided an overview of recent district developments. Superintendent Nitti then introduced Parkway Principal Nicole Harris, who shared an update on events and happenings at the Parkway School.

The Board then moved into the **"Superintendent Recommendation"** section of the Agenda:

Ewing BOE Approves 2019-20 Ewing Public Schools District Calendar

As part of the development process, the calendar is reviewed by the Educational Leadership Team, union leadership, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and various PTA/PTO and parent representatives.

Students will return to school on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 with building meetings and new student orientations being held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. The District is closed on Monday, September 2, 2019 for Labor Day.

Winter break begins with an early dismissal day on Friday, December 20, 2019.

Spring break is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020 through April 10, 2020.

The last full day of school will be Monday, June 15, 2020 with three single-session days on June 16, 2020, June 17, 2020 and June 18, 2020. The final day of school and Ewing High School graduation will be on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

There are (4) Staff Development days: Monday, September 30, 2019, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, Thursday, April 23, 2020 and Friday, June 19, 2020.

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There are (2) emergency days for the closing of school. Please note information on the calendar pertaining to the possibility of additional closing of school.

The school calendar for 2019-20 is attached.

As the district moves forward with its sustainability efforts, the Board approved a partnership with The College of New Jersey on a program entitled, *"EcoTeachers: Protecting Water and Connecting Minds."* This innovative professional development opportunity involves integrating environmental sustainability education across the elementary school curriculum, with a specific focus on water. The district receives a grant as part of this initiative.

From the **Personnel** section of the Board meeting:

New Dean of Students for Antheil School

The Board of Education approved current Antheil teacher Ilona Chaser to move into the position of Dean of Students for the school.

Ms. Chasar obtained her Bachelors Degree from Rider University, majoring in Elementary Education and Psychology, with minors in Special Education and Early Childhood Education. She earned a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton. Ms. Chasar has been a teacher at Antheil since 2014, working with multiple grade levels.

Ms. Chasar was Antheil School's Educator of the Year in 2018. Other honors include being a First Day of School Foundation Grant Recipient in 2017 and earning Rider University's Presidents Award in 2012.

Ms. Chasar replaces departing Dean of Students Maureen Rexer, who is moving into an administrative position in another district.

"We were impressed with Ms. Chasar's candidacy throughout our interview process," Antheil Principal Jennifer Whitner stated. "We look forward to her joining our management team and helping build a positive and supportive school culture at Antheil School."

Administrators Announce Retirement

The Board accepted the retirement of two longtime district administrators.

District Supervisor of Social Studies and the Humanities James Woidill will be retiring from the Ewing Schools on September 1st after twenty-eight years as a teacher, coach and administrator.

Mr. Woidill was a highly regarded member of the Social Studies Department at Ewing High School for many years, teaching a number of different courses and electives, including Advanced Placement US History. He was Ewing High School's Teacher of the Year in 2008.

The Ewing Public Schools

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During this time, he also served as Peer Leader Advisor and coached in the Boys and Girls Basketball programs, as well as the Cross Country program. He was the head Golf Coach at Ewing High School for thirteen years and was named CVC Golf Coach of the Year in 2012.

Mr. Woidill moved into an administrative role for the Ewing Schools in 2013. As District Supervisor of Social Studies and the Humanities, he has led curriculum revisions throughout his areas of responsibility, promoted increased access and utilization of technology in the classroom, and oversaw significant expansion and improvements in the district's music and drama programs.

Athletic Director and Supervisor of Health and Physical Education Bud Kowal will also be retiring on September 1st.

Mr. Kowal joined the Ewing Schools in 2004 and has supervised the district's athletic and physical education programs for the past fifteen years.

During this time, Mr. Kowal oversaw many improvements in the district's physical education and athletic offerings, including the expansion of the high school fitness center, the creation of the multi-use turf athletic facility at Ewing High School, the addition of an auxiliary physical education setting at the high school, and an emphasis on programming that promotes the importance of lifelong health and fitness. He has partnered with The College of New Jersey to bring innovative physical education instruction to the elementary level.

Under Mr. Kowal's supervision, the Ewing Schools have become a leader in inclusive Unified Physical Education and Athletic offerings, presenting on this programming to districts around the state. He also worked with the district's special education department to foster a close relationship between the school system and Special Olympics.

During his time as Athletic Director, Ewing High School won 7 NJSIAA State Championships and 14 Sectional Championships, including recent state championship appearances by the Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball and Softball teams. He was instrumental in the creation of the West Jersey Football League and has been the WJFL president since its inception. Mr. Kowal was president of both the Mercer County Tournament Association and the Colonial Valley Conference and served on several NJSIAA committees. He was awarded the New Jersey Directors of Athletics Association Sectional Award of Merit in 2017.

"We are deeply appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Woidill and Mr. Kowal," Superintendent Michael Nitti stated. "They have certainly impacted many lives during their time with the Ewing Schools. We wish them the most enjoyable of retirements."

During the **Old Business** section of the Agenda, School Business Administrator Dennis Nettleton provided an update on the Referendum bonding and bidding process.

The **next meeting** of the Board of Education is on Monday, February 25th at Antheil Elementary School, which will include a presentation on the Preliminary Budget for the 19-20 school year.

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