



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Immediate Release

The Ewing Public Schools Board of Education BOE Briefs: June 22, 2020

The Ewing Township Board of Education held its monthly meeting this June virtually as a result of the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 public health crisis. The virtual Board of Education meeting opened at 7:00PM and the only action the Board took at that time was to move to a closed session where it reviewed a limited number of confidential items. The public session of the Board of Education meeting was live streamed to the public beginning at 8:00PM. Communication and links to view the virtual meeting were disseminated widely.

The public had the opportunity to comment twice during the Board meeting. The first public comment session was prior to voting on agenda items and was dedicated to Agenda items only. Submitted comments were read live prior to the Board voting.

The second public comment was prior to adjournment and was open to any item of relevance to the Board and school district.

Public comments were submitted to the following email: boecomments@ewingboe.org

Comments could be submitted and were accepted both prior to the meeting and during the live stream. Submitted comments included the name and address of the public commenter.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact djn@ewingboe.org.

In his Superintendent's Report, Chief School Administrator Michael Nitti touched on a myriad of issues that characterized the closing of the school year and shared his "last day of school correspondence" with the public:

So as a school year unlike any other comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment and thank the school community for their support and understanding during this challenging time.

I have to share my appreciation of our teaching staff for making the unforeseen transition to a Virtual Learning Platform and working very hard to ensure the continuity of quality instruction and care for our students.

I want to express my gratitude to our parents, guardians and families for doing their very best to support learning during what has been a very stressful and trying time for so many households.

Finally, to our students, I know that so many of you have missed out on great experiences and events over the past three months, and our heart breaks for you and what you have lost. But we are also impressed with the resiliency and fortitude that so many of you have demonstrated during this time and the positive approach you have taken during this experience.

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We now move into what will assuredly be a demanding and difficult summer as we envision what school will look like in September for the Ewing Schools. Our "Return to School" transition committee has been hard at work over the past month evaluating different scenarios and approaches, but admittedly we have far more questions than answers at this time. We are still awaiting guidance from state governmental and public health leaders.

Please know that we are available for any thoughts and concerns as we make our way to the start of the 2020-21 school year, and we will strive to keep the school community apprised of developments.

Best wishes for a great summer.

The Board then moved into the **"Superintendent Recommendations"** section of the Agenda. Some items of note:

Curriculum and Instruction

The Board approved the Acceptance of the Office of Career and Technical Education's Preliminary FY21 Perkins Grant allocation.

The Board approved the Acceptance of NJ Child Assault Prevention Grant funds.

The Board approved the Ewing Schools Participation in the Central Jersey Program for Recruitment of Diverse Educators.

The Ewing Public Schools have joined with local area Central New Jersey districts in recognizing the need to recruit highly-qualified educators for the 21st century, particularly educators who can add diversity to their respective faculties. The participating Boards of Education have determined that it is in their mutual interest to work together in this endeavor as it addresses their mutual goals of recruiting and retaining high quality and diverse faculties.

The participating Boards hold a joint Job Fair, open to all prospective teaching and administrative candidates in the spring of each year.

The Board approved the Ewing Schools District Professional Development Plan and District Mentoring Plan for 2020-21.

Student Services & Technology

The Board approved the 2019-20 annual Statement of Assurance for School Security Drills.

Personnel

Ewing BOE Announces New Antheil Elementary School Principal

At its June 22nd meeting, the Ewing Township Board of Education approved Mr. Clifford "Kip" Harrison as the new principal of Antheil Elementary School.

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Mr. Harrison's selection marks the conclusion of a process that began in January, and was delayed slightly as the district navigated the COVID-19 public health crisis. The principal position opening was advertised widely and over 70 applications were received. A principal search committee consisting of community stakeholders with expertise and relevance interviewed the top 12 candidates, with three finalists being recommended for final interviews with the superintendent's district administrative team.



Mr. Harrison will assume his duties as principal of Antheil School on July 1st.

Mr. Harrison has been with the Ewing Schools since he began his career in education as a Teacher of Health and Physical Education at Ewing High School in 1995. Over the past quarter of a century, Mr. Harrison has held many positions in the district as he worked his way up the administrative ranks. He became a Dean of Students at Ewing High School in 2005 and served as Assistant Athletic Director for EHS from 2010-2016 and Supervisor of the afterschool ALP program from 2015 to 2017. In 2017, Mr. Harrison joined Principal Ed Chmiel's administrative team as an Assistant Principal where he has supervised several academic departments, served as assessment coordinator, I&RS committee chair and building security supervisor.

Mr. Harrison's work with young people goes beyond the school and classroom setting. He was the Head Baseball Coach at Mercer County College from 2003-2006, and led the Blue Devils Baseball program from 2006-2014. He has also served as a counselor for several athletic and youth camps.

Mr. Harrison earned a Bachelor of Arts from Rowan University in 1995, and his Masters of Education with Distinction from Cabrini College in 2014.

"We are excited to have Mr. Harrison take over as principal at Antheil School," Superintendent Michael Nitti stated. "For twenty-five years he has worked very hard to promote achievement for Ewing students. He has proved to be an effective administrator for us, and we believe he will establish an immediate positive connection with the Antheil school community."

"I offer my congratulations to Mr. Harrison," added Board President Lisa McConnell. "We look forward to his contributions to the Antheil School community."

Over the summer, there will be a "Welcome Reception/Open House" to introduce and welcome Mr. Harrison. If the public health conditions continue to improve, the district would like to have it "in person," perhaps outside. As always, monitor our communication portals for updates!

The following policies and regulations were approved by the Board as "Second Readings" and are now formal Board policy:

Policy 2422 Health and Physical Education

The following policy was approved by the Board as a "First Reading". After review and approval by the Board at its next meeting in July, it will become formal Board policy:

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Policy 5330 Administration of Medication
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Policy 1581 Victim of Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Leave
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Policy 7243 Supervision of Construction
Policy 8462 Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children
Policy 8220 School Day

The next meeting of the Board of Education will take place on Monday, July 27, 2020 and the meeting will most likely be conducted virtually. A Ewing Schools Community Update will be released the week prior to the Board of Education meeting and include the live stream links so the meeting can be viewed by the public.