



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Immediate Release

The Ewing Public Schools Board of Education BOE Briefs: September 21st, 2020

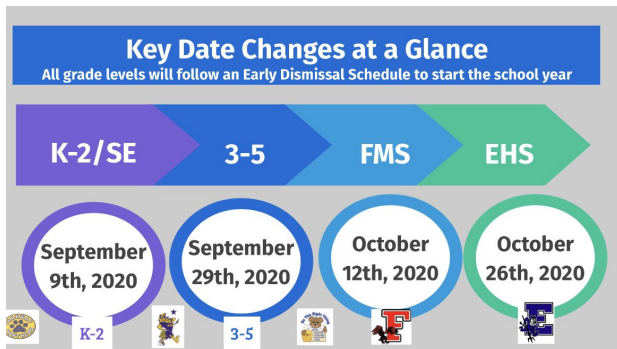
The Ewing Township Board of Education held its monthly meeting this September virtually as a result of the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 public health crisis. The virtual Board of Education meeting opened at 7:00PM and the only action the Board took at that time was to move to 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.

In his Superintendent’s Report, Chief School Administrator Michael Nitti introduced Ewing High School student ambassador to the Board of Education, Elisa Davila. Elisa is a four-year member, three-year officer, and current president of the EHS Student Council. She is a Peer Leader, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Varsity Field Hockey team and the Varsity Swim team. Elisa is also a member of International Thespian Society (ITS) who performs in the Ewing High School’s musical production. She is a dedicated Key Club member who has volunteered her time at the EHS Open House and Parkway Field Day and is a leader at her church.

Elisa updated the Board and the public about the virtual opening of the school year, the excitement of beginning classes, and the positive response to the virtual teacher hours when students have the opportunity to meet with their teachers and review information taught earlier in the day. She shared that Ewing High School students are excited about the opportunity to play fall athletics and the starting of clubs and activities. Elisa also shared Ewing High School will be hosting a Virtual College Fair on Tuesday, September 22nd and encouraged all her classmates to participate.

Mr. Nitti then thanked the entire Ewing School Community for the efforts, support and understanding as the district navigated the start of Virtual Learning and the return of students to the classroom.

The district is continuing with its phased in approach to returning students to school:



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Mr. Nitti also stated that September is typically when Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ishibashi presents her report on mandated assessments. He mentioned that 2019-20 was marked by substantial student achievement increases and the Ewing Schools being deemed a “High Performing District” in the rigorous Department of Education QSAC monitoring but since mandated testing was cancelled as a result of the pandemic, there would be no presentation this school year.

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

Finance and Operations

The Board approved the renewal contract with R&M Transportation to transport students to/from September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The NJDOE allocated \$713,619 of the **Digital Divide Formula Grant** to The Ewing Township Public Schools. The Board of Education approved this grant application on August 24, 2020. The NJDOE approved the grant application and the awarded funds were formally accepted by the Board.

Curriculum and Instruction

The Board accepted the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) report for the SSDS reporting Period 2 (January 2020-June 2020). Reports are entered into the NJDOE Student Safety Data System (SSDS) data base which generates the reports. The Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports must be accepted by the Board of Education each year/twice a year.

The Board approved Rider University Clinical Practicum students at Ewing High School and Fisher Middle School for the fall semester.

Student Services & Technology

The Board approved for students to participate in Special Olympics for the 2020-2021 school year, teams will participate in events grades Kindergarten through 12th in the following categories: Unified Soccer (Fall), Bowling (Winter/Spring), Unified Bowling (Winter/Spring), Kickball Spring), Unified Basketball (Winter), Unified Club (School Year), Track & Field (Spring/Summer), Unified Track, (Spring/Summer) Bocce (Spring/Summer), Unified Bocce (Spring), Strider Biking (Fall).

In the event that formal Special Olympic practices and events are unable to be held the coaching staff will pivot to in-house unified fitness nights and virtual activities: Unified Fitness Nights (School Year), Virtual Unify Club (School Year) *for students unable to attend in person activities.*

Personnel

Ewing School District Welcomes New Staff

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Nicholas Ratigan is joining the **Ewing Public Schools** as an **Athletic Trainer**. Mr. Ratigan graduated from Seton Hall University receiving his Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and his Master's degree in Athletic Training. Mr. Ratigan has prior experience serving as an Athletic Trainer at the high school level in the Bronx, New York.

Rebecca Lane is joining the **Ewing Schools** as an **Occupational Therapist**. Ms. Lane graduated from Elizabethtown College receiving her Bachelor's degree in Health and Occupation and her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy. Ms. Lane brings to the district prior experience as an Occupational Therapist.

Michele Simmons is joining **Antheil Elementary School** as a **School Nurse**. Ms. Simmons graduated from the University of Phoenix with her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Nursing. Ms. Simmons has prior experience working as a Registered Nurse and serving as a School Nurse.

William Wolverton is joining **Antheil Elementary School** as a **School Security Coordinator**. Mr. Wolverton joins the Ewing Schools after his retirement from the Ewing Police Department where he served for 25 years as a Patrol Officer and Detective. In his tenure with the Ewing Police Department, Mr. Wolverton received various awards including the Certificate of Commendation, the Recognition Award and Exceptional Duty Award issued from the Ewing Chief of Police.

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

- Bylaw 0169.2 – Board Member Use of Social Networks
- Policy 5200 – Attendance
- Regulation 5200 Attendance
- Policy 5610 – Suspension
- Regulation 5610 – Suspension Procedures
- Policy 5620 – Expulsion
- Policy 8320 – Personnel Records
- Regulation – Personnel Records

The following policies and regulations were approved by the Board as "First Readings". After review and approval by the Board at its next meeting in October, it will become formal Board policy:

- Policy 7100 Long-Range Facilities Planning
- Regulation 7100 Long Range Facilities Planning
- Policy 7425 Lead Testing of Water in Schools

The next meeting of the Board of Education will take place on Monday, October 26th, 2020. The format and location of that meeting has not been finalized, but will be widely publicized prior to the meeting.

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