



Tewksbury Township Board of Education

173 Old Turnpike Road, Califon, NJ 07830

908-439-2010 Fax: 908-439-2655

www.tewksburyschools.org

September 15, 2017

Dear Tewksbury Township Families,

The 2017-18 school year is well underway and off to a terrific start!

The Tewksbury Township Board of Education is pleased to welcome two new administrators to Tewksbury schools. Roseann Humphrey, Ed.D. joined the district in July as Interim Superintendent and Mr. Pat Orsini recently started as Interim Middle School Principal. Both are seasoned administrators with wide ranging education and administrative backgrounds. Dr. Humphrey served for many years as the Superintendent/Principal for the Boonton Township School District before her retirement and Mr. Orsini was the long term principal at Bloomfield High School before retiring.

The State of NJ permits school districts to hire retired administrators to fill open positions on an interim basis, not to exceed two years. This enables districts to have leadership in place while searching for a permanent administrator. Attracting and retaining administrative talent is a challenge for many school districts, especially small districts such as Tewksbury Township. Hiring Dr. Humphrey and Mr. Orsini gives Tewksbury a unique opportunity to leverage the knowledge and skills of experienced administrators while working towards a permanent administrative structure.

District goals guiding priorities for the current school year are focused on:

- Fostering effective community engagement and communication.
- Using testing data to inform curriculum planning.
- Defining a sustainable administrative structure.

Notable highlights for the 2017-18 school year include:

- Technology: Introduction of a Chromebook “take home” program to expand upon the one-to-one device initiative. Students in grades 6-8 are assigned a Chromebook for use in school and at home. Additionally, all students in grades 2-5 now have laptops to use in school.

- Curriculum: Revision of the K-4 science curriculum using Next Generation Science Standards, expansion of the K-2 phonics program into grade 3, and program enhancements in language arts to expand student reading in grades K-8. A district wide social and emotional program implementation is underway for grades K-8, including professional development. Extracurricular opportunities continue at TES and OTS with new club and after school offerings.
- Facilities: The OTS library and music rooms were resurfaced with contemporary vinyl flooring, replacing the aged carpeting. Ongoing security enhancements continue at both schools. Air quality tests performed in TES and OTS scored above average results indicative of healthy air. Water testing for lead yielded safe drinking levels at both schools. Test results are available on the district website.

Providing an excellent, state of the art education without imposing an undue tax burden on the community remains a delicate balancing act. The trend of declining student enrollment continues for the seventh straight year, decreasing by approximately 2.5% for 2017-18. This year's budget eliminated the equivalent of 3.5 full time teacher positions in order to balance the budget while maintaining existing programming. Many districts in Hunterdon County are challenged with retaining quality programs in the face of declining enrollment. The Tewksbury Board of Education is meeting regularly with the North Hunterdon Voorhees High School sending districts to explore options for sharing services and other opportunities for cost savings.

All community residents are encouraged to attend monthly Board meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meeting dates are posted on the district website at <http://www.tewksburyschools.org>. The Board of Education and school administration welcome community input.

Our district is committed to continually improving the education offered to the children of Tewksbury Township. The Board of Education thanks you for your ongoing support of the students and staff of our schools.

Respectfully,

Lori Larsen
Board of Education President