



# Tewksbury Township Board of Education

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Dear Tewksbury Township Residents,

As we begin 2019 the Tewksbury Township Board of Education extends best wishes to all members of the education community for the new year. We would like to share an update on several key items as we begin the year.

The search for a permanent Superintendent is well underway. We would like to thank the staff and community that provided valuable feedback from the survey and/or the feedback forums held in November. Your feedback provides us a strong roadmap for the qualities and characteristics that are critical to finding the best candidate for the Superintendent position. The board is reviewing candidates all this month with the target of selecting a finalist by February. Upon completion of the contract negotiations for the new Superintendent a public announcement will be shared in April.

In addition to the Superintendent search the 2019- 2020 budget review and adoption process begins in February with a target date of May 2nd to formally adopt and announce the budget to the community. Providing an excellent education without imposing undue tax burden on the community remains a challenge to our district. The trend of declining student enrollment continues for the eighth straight year, decreasing by approximately **2.5%** for the 2018-2019 school year. To balance this year's budget, the equivalent of **3.5** full time faculty positions were eliminated, fortunately all due to attrition rather than staff layoffs. Many districts in Hunterdon County are struggling with retaining quality programming in the face of declining enrollment. The Tewksbury Board of Education is in ongoing discussions with the North Hunterdon Voorhees High School sending districts to explore options for sharing services and other cost savings opportunities. The board also continues to review and support further enhancements to the curriculum, communications and security as top priorities for the year.

All community residents are encouraged to attend monthly Board meetings, typically held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Old Turnpike School. Meeting dates and locations are posted on the district website at <http://www.tewksburyschools.org>. All participation and input from the staff and community is always incredibly valuable and very welcome.

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

Respectfully,

Tewksbury Township Board of Education