HADDONFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

...news from the Board of Education

FROM the INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Haddonfield Families:

We all have heard that "as one door opens, another closes." This is certainly true for me as I leave my position as Superintendent of Schools in Lower Merion to begin the door to my new position as Superintendent of the Haddonfield School District on July 1st, and as I close the door on my two-year service as Assistant Superintendent in Lower Merion, we are also closing the door on our New Jersey Single Copy Sales Accountability Consortium (NJSCSAC) review.

As you are probably aware, NJSCSAC is the New Jersey Department of Education's monitoring and technical assistance system designed to ensure that students are provided a high-quality education and safe learning environments when the district is fiscally responsible and operationally efficient. NJSCSAC is a "cycle" that lasts approximately three (3) years; this cycle is ongoing. The NJSCSAC process requires districts to be evaluated in five areas: Program and Instruction, Governance, Finance, Operations, and Personnel. Generally, review occurs on a three-year cycle. However, Haddonfield has requested a nearly 10-year exemption based on student performance scores. In the fall of 2018, Haddonfield School District (HSD) was found to be above the bar in each of the five areas, with passing Governance based on an appeal.

There were many questions as to how such a high-achieving and successful school system could perform so poorly. In short, our five schools were closed. Each school performed well in the areas of instruction and assessment, but the District's overall score was low because the system is unable to guarantee that the level of services provided to our students would continue and grow. The challenge, starting in the summer of 2018, was to put in place the systems that necessary. This would require the cooperation and efforts of all HSD staff members.

Over the last two years, over the last 18 to 20 months, HSD staff members rose to the challenge. Central Administrative Office procedures were honed and corrected. Buildings level administrators and staff developed and implemented new systems for student training, and record-monitoring. Teachers across the district revised, revamped, and created curriculum and assessments. Students, K-12, learned to "do school" in a manner which HSD prepared to meet them. This did not come easily. The focus and the cooperation everyone in the organization was necessary for HSD to grow, improve, and improve continuously and meet the ever-changing environment. Our efforts, by the conclusion of this two-year process, I am happy to say HSD is ready for new challenges in the future.

As I mentioned, my goal is to close the door on my current position and open the door to another, building principals have been working to create safe and efficient processes for the closure of their schools. Teachers are finalizing plans to collect school-owned materials and return student materials left in school buildings, provide transitional support to students, and ensure that all appropriate documents to boost promotion from high school and gain entry into the high school graduation. Much of this information has been emailed to you by building principals. Links to this information can be found under a wall, called, "School Stories."

Also it should be noted that, while we are still four months away from the opening of the new school year, we have already started to discuss ways to ease the transition of our students academically, emotionally, and socially as they return to school in the fall, whether this means in-person, virtual, or a hybrid of both.

The fatalistic for 2019-2020 is in sight. We have three weeks of remote education left, and I am confident we will be reunited with our students and families in a manner that will foster creativity and perseverance as they have demonstrated since March 13th. I am proud to say this and I can wait to work with all of you.

Stay safe!

Carolyn Roser
Incoming Superintendent of Schools

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Board Meeting	June 11	7:00 p.m.

All 2020 Board Meeting dates on our website

Log in to watch (and call in during designated time) Board meetings

Presentations from April 30 Board Meeting:

President Adam Segelin's Presentation on Choosing Alpha88ET as Child Care Provider

2020-2021 User Friendly Budget

2020-2021 Public Hearing Budget Presentation by Board Secretary Michael Cardone

Final QSAC Results

The Tenure Process in Haddonfield School District

Equitable Secondary Grading a New Look at Policy 2439

DISTRICT NEWS

Dr. Gino Priolo Approved as Next Assistant Superintendent

At last night's regular Board meeting, the Haddonfield Board of Education voted unanimously to approve Dr. Gino Priolo as Assistant Superintendent for the Haddonfield School District. He will assume that role on July 1, 2020.

Read the complete news release here.

Secondary Grading System Change Proposed – Policy 2624

On Thursday evening, May 21st at the bi-monthly work session, the Haddonfield Board of Education discussed possibly changing Policy 2624, the secondary grading system used in Haddonfield School District. It was repeatedly noted that the proposed change for this policy under News and Announcements on our web site, the March and April Board Meeting Bulletins, and the Superintendent's newsletter, The Bond has been mentioned as the efficacy of the current 7-point grading system used in Haddonfield for probably more than 100 years. The 7-point system, which is a 7-point scale, ranges from 93 to 100 for an A and includes all subjects achievement score 93 to 100. The grade of B reflects a score achievement of 85 to 92, and so on.

In the book, a project team was assembled where the participants of the team conducted the research to inform the board about possibly changing the policy. The project team was formed in January 2020 and April, since to validate the proposed recommendations were delayed and again to share the research findings. Members of that team were as follows: BOE – Adam Segelin, Gino Priolo, and Lynn Hogg; Faculty Members – Anthony Bruno, Mike Bauarlle, Steve Flaherty, Jeff Holman, Kevin Kozak, Danielle McKelvey, and Jessica Wolfson; Parents – Jill Cardone, Jill Kaplan, Jill Lewis, Jill Rosenberg, Administrators Jason Kimmerle - Chuck Kane, Tracy Bennett, Tracy Tarney McHale, John Miller, Colleen Murray, and Gino Priolo; Community Members - Ashley D'Amato-Stalks, Glenn Mosenson, Alison Sandmann, Melissa Wasserroll, and Monica Tom Kinney.

The board was interested in a few key research questions. Does the current grading system have any impact on student learning outcomes? Does the current grading system impact how students are assessed on standards? Does the current grading system impact students' achievement on SAT scores? Does the current grading system impact students' achievement on PARCC?

The board was also interested in a few key research questions. Does the current grading system have any impact on student participation? Does the current grading system impact students' achievement on PSAT scores? Does the current grading system impact students' achievement on NJ ASK? The grade of B reflects a score achievement of 85 to 92, and so on.

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The Board decided to table the vote on Thursday, May 28th at their regular board meeting and put in fact approve the policy change. The policy is now not for comment until the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 11th. At that time the board will vote on it after public comments received about the secondary grading change and make a final decision. If the board approves the change in June the secondary grading system will change from a 7-point, 93–100 = A system to a 10-point, 90–100 = A system at the start of the 2020-21 school year, beginning September 1, 2020 for students in grades 6-12.

The slides in the May 21st Board presentation answer all of these questions. We would urge everyone who is interested in this topic to read the thoroughly as well as read the research authored by team members located on our web site now.

Haddonfield Moves Ahead on Various Physical Plant Projects, Large and Small

The summer "to-do at-home" directives have forced Haddonfield teachers, parents and students to make significant adjustments to successfully shift from in-person to virtual learning. Fortunately, in the first day of school closures, District administrators gathered in Zoom meetings to address myriad issues surrounding every aspect of this "new normal." From those early days, through April and May, District leaders have had the opportunity for certain projects to be completed much sooner.

As you may recall, our athletic fields were supposed to be almost completely empty, my buildings and grounds staff get to work on numerous projects," McEvoyn said. "We took advantage of the time we had to complete projects that would have disrupted our students and student-athletes." McEvoyn said he and his staff worked around the clock.

In addition to thoroughly cleaning every building, the crew has finished dozens of painting projects, and repaired and repainted throughout the district. Crews also completed a major replacement project will be finished months ahead of schedule, as was the tolerant yet important task of removing wooden covers for the school swimming pools, which McEvoyn recently created a Twitter feed where he has posted photos of his staff and their excellent work. Follow them @Hdbldgnds.

On May 6th, Governor Murphy announced that education must continue at home for the remainder of the school year. This provoked another project for Haddonfield. McEvoyn: "We had a few larger projects scheduled to begin immediately after the school year ended." Haddonfield Board President, Adam Segelin, said the Governor shutdown of May 6th directly we reached out to the contractors about moving dates up so we could start and finish these projects sooner."

These projects have been moved up on the calendar:

MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOF

A renovation to the "Stadium Courtyard/Legacy Walk" at the entrance to the HMHS stadium on School Lane is a project planned by the Haddonfield Historic Preservation Society and the Haddonfield Educational Trust. Both groups and the Beautification Committee have spent many months raising funds to create a much more attractive and welcoming entry to the field and stadium. Many community members have supported the project by purchasing commemorative bricks. The project, which will be completed by the end of June, includes plants and benches, which will begin and conclude between June 1st and June 12th.

The have scheduled these other large projects, although their start dates have not changed:

HMHS CAMERA/ALARM INSTALLATION

In the February 2020 Bulletin, we wrote about a mechanical room addition that would be constructed in the C-wing of the high school to house new air-handling units and other HVAC equipment. The units are now in place, are operational, reliable, and energy efficient. The old pneumatic controls allow technicians to control the timing of heating and cooling from a desktop computer. Because the Board approved this expenditure as part of the 2021 budget, the work is still planned to begin in the fall. The addition will be complete by September 1st. In late fall, equipment will be installed and the remainder of the work from the new year will be finished.

CAMERAS INSTALLED

Another recommendation from the Safety Committee has been to install cameras and signage in various places inside and outside of **all district buildings**. Camera installation will occur during the summer months.

A NEW HMHS WEIGHT ROOM

As written about in the March 2020 Bulletin, the high school will house a new and improved weight room next year. Widely seen as inadequate, the current weight room is outdated, dark, and not equipped with what we feel have to give our kids will be a state of the art weight room. Many community members have supported the project by purchasing pavers in the Legacy Walk. The new weight room will be located in the C-wing, with glass and benches, and will begin and conclude between June 1st and June 12th.

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HMHS C-WING GRAB-AND-GO CAFETERIA

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Wellness Committee has Formed

The state of New Jersey, through Policy 8505, requires each school district to follow the state's standards for wellness and to create its own Wellness Policy. Policy 8505 includes, inside in the areas of nutrition, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities that promote student health. Last fall, a District-level District-wide Haddonfield Wellness Committee has met once so far and will meet again in June. The group's primary goal is to assess our District's current wellness policy and make recommendations to the Board of Education September 30, 2020. The members of the committee are Catalano, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Kelly Lynch, Director of Health Services; Jessica Wolfson, Teacher; Jill Cardone, Parent; Food Service Manager Sam Sanchez; Supervisor Manager Loretta Rovatti, Tatem parent Amy Benford, Elizabeth Haddon parent Libby Ann and Central parent Deb Joseph.

Next year, the Wellness Committee will plan a district-wide Wellness Week.

Extended School Year (ESY) Update

ESY is a special education program only for students who have been identified as eligible for special education and related services.

The landscape impacting school-based decisions changes almost daily. In Dr. Priolo's March 30th Update, he shared the positive news that we would be able to offer ESY from July 1st to July 27th in the hope that we would be able to conduct the program face-to-face in our school buildings. Unfortunately, our best intentions remain unclear. In order to finalize ESY staffing and planning and to allow our families to make their own summer plans, we have had to make the difficult decision to offer ESY remotely.

Here are the final plans:

This summer's Extended School Year will be provided remotely through distance learning **It will begin on Wednesday July 1st and end one week later than originally planned: on Thursday, August 6th.** We are extending the program by one week to provide additional services for our learners. The ESY program will continue to run Monday-Thursday, from approximately 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The ESY program will provide services will provide services for students who are in their schedules. Our teachers will reach out to parents directly with scheduling information approximately one week before ESY begins.

If your child did not qualify for ESY 2020 and you would like your student's participation to be reconsidered, then please reach out to your Case Manager.

Next Steps:

If you have already confirmed your student's participation in ESY, and his/her status hasn't changed, there is no action that you need to take.

If you have already confirmed your student's participation in ESY, and his/her status has changed, please reach out to your Case Manager.

If your student has qualified for ESY and you have not yet notified your Case Manager of your student's participation status, please notify us through this FORM.

Anxiety Workshop Resources

The district held an on-line Workshop on Wednesday, May 6th. 7:00 p.m. Originally scheduled for March 25th in the HMHS library, the workshop was rescheduled and redesigned as a Zoom meeting. Held in collaboration with Rutgers University's Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic, the workshop helped parents identify and deal with issues related to anxiety.

If you were unable to attend, Temple has provided us with resources to share with you. They have been posted on our website, and we encourage you to make use of them.

The Empty Bowl Project

Middle School art teacher Erika Gehringer and her current seventh- and eighth-graders have been making ceramic bowls for two years. They originally planned to host an "Empty Bowl" fund raising event to benefit the Food Bank of South Jersey. The event would have included people buying a bowl and then getting together to share a meal, but the quarantine forced Gehringer to redesign the project. She created a website with an explanatory video and two "virtual galleries" of student work. Gehringer also created a Facebook page to raise funds for the Food Bank. Rather than purchasing a bowl, people who buy bowls may pick them up during the week of June 15th, at a designated location and time TBA. Bowls are still available!

Registration for Alpha88ET Child Care Opens Monday at Noon

Alpha88ET will welcome families with students in grades PreK-5 to its child care program, find out more at this link. Alpha88ET children participate in 2020-2021. This is a reminder that registration opens Monday, May 28th.

Please use this link to learn more about the program and to access registration links!

SCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating Our Community

The Haddonfield School District community initiated remote education 11 weeks ago. During that time, we have all experienced varying degrees of difficulty and success. However, in spite of these challenges, our community has rallied together to provide support one another, to share ideas, to say "thank you," to maintain connections, to spread laughter, and to recognize and celebrate accomplishments.

Social media has provided an effective platform for many wonderful videos, created by families, staff members and students. We have promoted the strong community spirit characteristic of Haddonfield and the theme of #HSOWeAreThisTogether.

Perhaps one of the videos were more powerful or meaningful than those created for Teacher Appreciation Week and those created by our students celebrating their hard work. We have posted many of our very favorite videos. Enjoy!

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

We Miss Our Students!

Thank you to our Teachers

ELIZABETH HADDON ELEMENTARY

Drive-By Sat. Mr. D

Crazy Teachers - "We are in this Together"

TATEM ELEMENTARY

We Miss You, Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Mullin

Thank you, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Taylor, and Mrs. Davenport

HADDONFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

"It's Always Better when we're Together"

"Coming Home," as Superman

HADDONFIELD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

"We Love Our Teachers"

Corona Home Video 2

End-of-Year Activities, Events and Processes

Your principals have been communicating with Haddonfield families and will continue to do so, about drive-up ceremonies, graduations, final drop-offs, school supplies and more. Many of these important details are listed below, for your convenience.

CENTRAL

Year-end information is most recent, effective

ELIZABETH HADDON
Message to 6th graders about their closing ceremony

TATEM
End-of-Year Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

HADDONFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Grade 8 Information
Grade 7 Information
Grade 6 Information

HADDONFIELD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Graduation Update

The next issue of the Haddonfield School District News will be shared in late June. It is recommended by Constantinople Specialty Foods and Bakery and published on behalf, Dandelion, and community members.

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