



Superintendent's Report November 18, 2021

Congratulations to the Board of Education candidates, Liz Fanelli, Janice Yeoh, and Sheryl Wagner, who were announced as the official winners of the November election. We will formally welcome our new Board members at the January 6, 2022, reorganization meeting. We will also recognize and thank our outgoing Board members, Sung Min Lee, Michele Bhagat, and Tony Linn, at our meeting on December 9, 2022.

I extend a special word of congratulations and gratitude to our secretaries, custodians, maintenance staff, and paraprofessionals for National Educational Support Professionals Day which was celebrated this week. Our Educational Support Professionals work diligently every day to ensure the well-being of our students and staff and so our schools function effectively. A huge thank you to you all!

On Friday, November 5, 2021, Hillside Elementary School received a plaque from the United States Department of Education to commemorate their 2021 National Blue Ribbon Award. This award, which recognizes excellence, honors our teachers, staff, administrators, students, parents and the community for their commitment to high academic achievement. At the ceremony, Cynthia Marten, Deputy Secretary for the United State Department of Education, said that the 2021 award recipients were also noted for their exceptional delivery of instruction during the pandemic. I am proud that our district was able to provide both hybrid and fully-virtual options to students last year. Again, congratulations to everyone at Hillside Elementary for their diligent work always!

Our school district is observing National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Teachers have planned lessons for students that include: Native American read-alouds, research on New Jersey Native American tribes, building replicas of Lenape villages, learning about Native American scientists and engineers, singing Native American Indian songs, learning about Native American athletes, reading chapter books with Native American protagonists, and reading articles in Scholastic News about the contributions of Native American Indians and Alaska Natives. Our next cultural heritage observance will be Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2022, followed by Lunar New Year on February 1, 2022. Our district is diverse and we are working carefully to ensure that we celebrate all of our families' cultures and provide opportunities to learn about others.

The Finance and Physical Plant Committee of the Board met on October 26 and November 11, 2022, to work on this year's Board goal of reviewing the district long-range facilities plan to determine what improvements to the school should be updated in the plan. Chris Kwon will provide a report of the committee's work during our committee reports.

Schools will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021, and Friday, November 26, 2021, for Thanksgiving. Please be reminded that if unvaccinated students or staff travel outside of NJ, NY, PA, CT, DE, or outside the United States, they will need to quarantine before returning to school. This is part of our community-wide effort to keep our students and staff safe from COVID-19. Please review the [Quarantine Timeframes](#) document on our website or call the school nurse at your child's school for more information. If your child is fully vaccinated, they do NOT need to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms. For children ages 5-11 who have been recently vaccinated in accordance with the new CDC endorsement and recommendation for vaccination, please note that your child will not be considered vaccinated until two weeks after they receive their second dose of the vaccine (which is after we return from Thanksgiving break).

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to let the community know that I am grateful to serve as Closter's Superintendent. In every success and in every challenge, I continue to learn and grow as an educator and leader. Thank you for your trust in me. I wish everyone a happy, safe Thanksgiving!

Vincent Mc Hale