



# TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

DAVID M. HEALY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Toms River Regional Schools community members:

January 24, 2019

As you are all aware, our referendum-- the culmination of work spanning the past five years-- passed by a more than 2,000-vote margin. As we begin implementing our next steps, we can't forget how we reached this point and therefore it is important to acknowledge those past board presidents and members who immediately responded to a 2013 community survey that, among other things, asked these boards to fix our "crumbling" schools and to "regain the public's trust." I believe Tuesday night's election results speak for both.

This process began with Board president Ben Giovine, then presidents Joseph Torrone, Robert Onofrietti, Ben Giovine again, then Russell Corby and now Joseph Nardini and the many board members who served along with them including Gigi Esparza, Loreen Torrone, Gloria McCormack, James Sigurdson, Walter Ramsey, Daniel Leonard, Janet Bell, Michelle Williams, Ginny Rhine, Michael Horgan, Christopher Raimann, Jennifer Howe, and Anna Polozzo. Although the members and roles have changed over the years, the board's and this administration's child-centered mission has remained a constant. It was with the board's vision, support, and leadership that we were able to design, refine, and implement the Rebuilding Our Schools Initiative, and it was through the tireless and dedicated work of many that we were able to transparently present this initiative to the community in a way that was fully informative and accessible.

I always believe in giving credit where it is due and, even more importantly, thanking those who have reinforced our efforts to support our staff and students. On behalf of our Toms River Regional School District, which includes our Board of Education and leadership team, I sincerely thank all of you for your trust and confidence in us to do the right thing for you and our children. I thank our district's parent organizations; our many community groups; our teachers; support staff, and the Teachers Association; our parents and families; Todd Frazier; Frankie Edgar; Jeremy Grunin; the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce; student Noa Greenough; the Boy and Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore; the mayors of Pine Beach, South Toms River, and Beachwood, and their respective council members; Toms River council members Maurice Hill, Maria Maruca, George Wittmann, Laurie Huryk, Brian Kubiel, and Terrance Turnbach; and media contacts such as Karen Wall of *Toms River Patch*, Jean Mikle of *Asbury Park Press* and Chris Lundy of *Times River Times*.

Together with our administration, our board, our staff, our families, and this community, we are a team in the truest sense. We should all be proud of the work we've accomplished on behalf of our students. Our rallying cry and hashtag says it all: #WeAreTRschools!

"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved."

- Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Sincerely,

David M. Healy, Superintendent of Schools