



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

JOSEPH NARDINI

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

1144 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753

732-505-5514 • Fax: 732-505-9330

Email: jnardini@trschoools.com

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Dear Toms River community members:

As I'm sure you're aware, for the past five years our central administration, led by Superintendent David Healy and School Business Administrator William Doering have championed well-documented efforts to address significant state aid cuts that have now risen to alarming levels as a result of a critically-flawed school funding formula and the short-sighted introduction of Senate Bill S-2. Last Tuesday, 27 buses carrying nearly 1,400 children, teachers, local legislators, administrators and parents [traveled to Trenton to rally](#) alongside 72 other similarly affected school districts while the governor presented his budget address. This caught the attention of the governor and his staffers, who have since either met or communicated with Mr. Healy and Mr. Doering several times, conveying a message of support for our cause.

If nothing changes, in addition to the \$2.4 million in cuts incurred this school year for 2018-19, Toms River will be losing \$2.8 million for 2019-20 and, cumulatively, \$83 million in the next six years. This will not only adversely affect our great schools and the children they serve, but also the quality of life for every resident in the greater Toms River area, including significant, *mandated* tax increases to each and every one of you. Our school children, administration, teachers, and support staff are tenaciously fighting for all of you, but they simply cannot do it alone. We require the immediate and sustained action necessary to **save our community**. This is a call to action; our schools and our community lie in the balance.

I am asking, *begging* each and every one of you to attend and testify at one or more of the events listed below. As with last Tuesday in Trenton, your school district will be attending in force and your school administration, students, and other TRRS supporters plan to testify. Please access the information below and attend these hearings and testify. If you're unable to testify, simply **be there**. Follow the example set by our and your children last Tuesday in Trenton.

The schedule for the FY20 Budget Hearings has been posted on the New Jersey State Legislative website: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>.

The NJ Assembly budget hearings will be at the State Annex on March 20 and 27, commencing at 9:30 a.m. each day. The Senate budget hearings will be March 21 at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Campus Center Atrium, 150 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ 07102, and March 28 at Salem Community College, 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carneys Point, NJ 08069. The hearings commence at 10 a.m. [Register here to testify](#), and you should **proceed to do so immediately**.

Districts that are being hardest hit (affecting cuts to staffing and programming this year) by this year's cuts should definitely move to the front of the line. Toms River, for good reason, is at the front. Please make sure you register ASAP.

If you plan on testifying, please communicate your intent with your mayors and councilmembers. Blast it on social media and encourage your friends and followers to join you. [Linked here](#) is factually-based, irrefutable commentary

you may utilize for your testimonials. As parents and community members, you are encouraged to add your personal sentiments. Keep in mind that they may limit the number of people who testify based on the amount of registrations. Plus, this testimony will be on all aspects of the budget and not just education.

The greater Toms River area has 110,000 residents, 76,000 of whom are registered voters. Please make your presence known at these hearings both inside and outside of the venues. Believe me, your voice and your attendance matter, and may likely save the future of our greater Toms River community.

Sincerely,

Joseph Nardini
Toms River School Board President