



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS
JOSEPH NARDINI
BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT
1144 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753

July 25, 2019

To the Toms River Regional Schools community:

As President of the Toms River School Board, I do not condone—and in fact denounce—the social media posts shared by my colleague and fellow Board Member Daniel Leonard. The reasons for my great dissatisfaction with these messages should be evident and obvious, but in light of the contentious Board of Education meeting last night, I feel we must expound upon our position as the Board. This statement is issued in conjunction with a [recent statement](#) issued by Superintendent David Healy.

As Board President, it is my responsibility to consider, first and foremost, the well-being of the children of this District. The recent events with regard to the personal social media postings of Board Member Leonard are distracting the Board from its mission and purpose. We must lead by example and set an example to our students and community that reflect our goals, ideals and vision for the future of this District. Due to these and other concerns, I have rescinded Mr. Leonard's appointment to the Safety, Security, and Transportation Committee, effective immediately.

Additionally, I am asking Mr. Leonard, for the sake of the students in this District, to consider the far-reaching effect of the events of the past few days and the effect upon the District and the students, and to consider tendering his resignation from his position as Board Member. We, as the Board, cannot act to remove a sitting Board Member based upon the allegations related to Mr. Leonard's Facebook postings. However, Mr. Leonard is in a position to remove this distraction from the Board's mission, and we implore him to consider the impact his continued service on the Board has had, and continues to have, upon the student body of the Toms River Regional School District.

It is with a heavy heart that I make this statement. I greatly appreciate Mr. Leonard's service to our Country. I have had respect for his dedication to the work of the Board and his tireless service to this community. I also have a great respect for the right of free speech and Mr. Leonard's individual right to express his personal opinion. However, when such personal opinions impinge upon the ability of this Board to act on the many pressing issues facing this District, and indeed become an obstruction to the Board's message and duties, those opinions do not remain personal to Mr. Leonard but are opinions and statements which the Board must disavow as not reflective of the Board or this District. I implore upon Mr. Leonard to reflect upon our statement and chose to act in the best interests of the District.

Sincerely,

Joseph Nardini
President, Toms River Board of Education