



# TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

**Anna Polozzo**

**Board of Education President**

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Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney  
935 Kings Highway  
Suite 400  
West Deptford, NJ 08086

Dear Senator Sweeney:

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with Superintendent Healy and our Business Administrator William Doering last week. I very much appreciate that you are working with our Toms River Regional School District administration to help resolve our very dire financial situation. We would be honored if you would consider visiting our district at your earliest convenience to continue that conversation.

Mr. Healy and I look forward to touring with you at one of each of our Elementary, Middle and High Schools. I think you will be extremely impressed with the programs and services we are able to provide our students despite our very low per-pupil expense. We perform this seemingly impossible task, through an extremely tight but very well managed budget, supplemented by the generosity of dedicated grant funds from organizations such as the Grunin Foundation, NAVAIR, The Hirair, and Anna Hovnanian Foundation, Ocean first Bank and many more. Toms River Regional Schools is in fact the model of efficiency.

Toms River Regional is proud to serve a diverse population of over 15,000 students from Beachwood, Pine Beach, South Toms River and of course Toms River. We educate our children in 19 different buildings including 12 Elementary Schools, 3 Intermediate Schools, 3 High Schools, and an Early Learning Center. We value every child our district serves and make a great effort to provide a wide variety of interest-based, developmentally and educationally appropriate academic and co-curricular programs to all our children, including the 30% district-wide which are economically disadvantaged and a substantial number of special needs students.

More than 13,000 Toms River Regional Students Participate in our co-curricular programs. These programs are how every Toms River Regional student learns that they have a place here in our community. These programs are how we provide our children with social-emotional support to get through days that can be hard. They are where we as a community teach our children to love one another for their differences not in spite of them. It is in these very vital co-curricular programs where they learn resilience and teamwork. As I am sure you are aware these and other non-mandated programs are in grave danger. We will be unable to sustain them in the coming year due to anticipated drastic cuts in our state aid under S2, even after the 2% tax levy increase our Board of Education will pass in deference to the law we will be 4.3 million short unless we are able to secure outside funding. With Governor Murphy's Veto of your proposed cap waiver legislation, I am sure you are aware Toms River Regional now needs a new backup plan. The options the NJDOE has proposed are both inadequate and unreasonable. I know that you are aware this is an unintended consequence of legislation that provided other districts with much needed funding. We are happy for them. All children deserve a high quality, well rounded, thorough and efficient education. We look forward to your visit and subsequent dialogue as we work together to continue to provide the children of Toms River Regional Schools with the academics and co-curricular programs they need to prepare them for a bright future as part of a well-educated New Jersey workforce. Please have your assistant call 732-505-5500 x500005 to schedule your visit. We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully yours,

Anna Polozzo  
Board of Education President