



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, parents, and families:

On a day marked by the lingering disappointment stemming from the overall results of yesterday's referendum vote to regionalize Seaside Heights into Toms River, I'm left with a tremendous sense of gratitude for each and every one of you who went out to make your voice heard.

Am I feeling let down by the results? You better believe it. I'd be lying if I said otherwise. But I also know that we can only control what we can control. I'm confident that we did everything we could to educate the community about this potential regionalization and its short- and long-term implications.

And you responded. My goodness did you respond! An incredible *90 percent* of our Toms River community voted yes, out of nearly 8,700 votes cast, understanding how this would positively affect Seaside students, our current students, and our district moving forward. That kind of showing and result is essentially unheard of in these types of elections ... *any* type of election, really. So my personal choice is to feel disheartened and frustrated by the 60-some votes that nixed the regionalization, or emboldened by the overwhelming support we received on this from all of you.

I choose the latter. As I maintained since last night's results became official, you listened to us, you heard us, and you supported us. You attended our Town Halls, reviewed our frequent messages and content, asked great questions, and became thoroughly educated in a relatively short window of time. I am truly grateful, genuinely humbled, and even a bit awestruck by your response to this proposal.

So, where do we go from here? That is the question on everyone's mind, and I don't yet know the answer. Rest assured, however, that my team and I are doing everything we can to find and pursue solutions to the issues that persist and continue to adversely affect our district's funding. I promise you that I will continue to keep you informed of our progress and our options. Knowing that we have this entire community behind us is what keeps me steadfast, undeterred, and moving forward.

And for that, from the bottom of my heart, I say again: *thank you!*

Sincerely,

Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools