



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I trust that this email finds you well. Please see the school updates below and have a great day.

Bond Referendum Planning

On November 15th at 6:30 PM in the Media Center, the Board of Education has planned a special listening session with various school community groups such as the Zone PTA, HTAA, HTEF, and others. Although the meeting will be open to the public, **the purpose of this evening is to gather feedback from each of these community organizations** before scheduling more extensive listening sessions for other members of the individual public. As we continue to plan for a successful referendum, **it is important to understand that referendum dollars can only be utilized to pay for capital improvements. Attached to this email is a copy of our presentation**, which coincides with the video below that was previously distributed. Please stay tuned for additional community engagement sessions coming in December, and I look forward to discussing this topic more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYxkyifi9Ak>

HTHS RMS Assemblies

Please note that on Thursday, October 26th, Haddon Township School District offered a school assembly for the middle and high school students. HTSD contracted with Power Moves to provide an intended motivational message to students focused on drug and alcohol awareness and fostering healthy habits. While aware of the Power Moves speaker's connection to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, it was assured that the assembly would continue the previous and successful message delivered in over 100 New Jersey public schools (most recently in neighboring Haddon Heights and Gloucester City), with an inclusive, 100% secular, and noncontroversial message. I am disappointed that a topic apart from those necessary to deliver a sound and responsible educational message, **abstinence**, was raised **outside the scope of what was approved for educational content**. This divergence may have caused feelings of divisiveness among students and attendees, **which is unacceptable**. Furthermore, individuals who accompanied Power Moves inappropriately distributed information to students in the form of a flyer following the high school assembly, advertising an evening event with the HTHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes Student organization. Over the last several days, I have corresponded and spoken with parents concerned about the activities of these events

and regret the aforementioned circumstances. Although the middle school assembly was without incident, I would like to acknowledge any actions of those involved in the high school assembly that may have adversely impacted the school community. I commit to take additional action to scrutinize and contemplate guest speakers in the HTSD school more closely. Furthermore, in light of recent events that have continued to highlight the fragility of global relations, please know that **I prioritize any situation that may be divisive to our community** and commit to engaging in continuous opportunities to advance the Haddon Township School District.

Grading Policy Letter

On Tuesday, October 24th, I received an email and a letter addressed to myself and members of the Board of Education with electronic "signatures" from community members identifying as *Haddon Township Parents for a 10-point scale*. This letter requests that our current grading scale be changed, partly out of concern about college admissions and scholarships, along with student stress. **Over the next several months, we will perform our due diligence and listen to all perspectives.** Our process will also include engaging members of our high school teaching faculty, counselors, and administration and continued contact with University Directors of Admissions and other appropriate higher education personnel.

Thank You- HTEF

Once again, I would like to applaud and appreciate the efforts of the Haddon Township Education Foundation, which recently awarded \$15,810.33 to fund (14) Haddon Township School District Grants. **These dollars will directly and positively impact our classrooms and students,** and I would like to thank so many of you who have participated in the recent HTEF fundraising opportunities. We also had a record number of (26) grant applications and proposals, and it has been a pleasure to see how the partnership between our educators and HTEF continues to grow and strengthen.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent