



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I trust that this email finds you all well. Please see the updates below from around the district and have a great day.

High School Grading Scale

At the next meeting of the Board of Education on **March 21st**, I will make a presentation to summarize the internal information that we have collected on the topic of our high school grading scale and will make a recommendation to the Board for a path forward. I acknowledge that this has been a passionate and emotional issue for many individuals in our community, and I can assure you that our Board of Education is very engaged on this topic. At our last meeting, there was some collective frustration because an appropriate mechanism for the Board and me to discuss this issue with the public has yet to be created (note: a public comment period of a board meeting is designated for public comment). Following the presentation on March 21st, there will be discussion, and I look forward to having some collective dialogue as we begin to shift our focus to planning for the next school year.

Rachel's Challenge

This past Tuesday, I had an opportunity to view one of the best school assemblies that I can remember as **Rachel's Challenge** visited and presented to all Haddon Township High School and Middle School students. **Rachel Joy Scott** was the first victim of the Columbine School tragedy in 1999, but her message of kindness, acceptance, and empathy has inspired thousands of students across our country since that time. Following the assemblies, a selection of HT students participated in Rachel's Challenge leadership training to develop ideas to add to the values of kindness and compassion in our schools. Please join me in supporting them and this exciting initiative.

<https://rachelschallenge.org/our-story/>

Bond Referendum

Our next community meeting is scheduled for this Monday, February 26th, at Stoy School but **will have a time change and will BEGIN at 6 PM (not 6:30 as initially scheduled)**. In recent days, I have received some emails regarding health concerns about artificial turf fields after a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. It is important to understand that while an "artificial field" is part of our referendum question, **we have options for how the specifications are written to choose the actual field and material that will be installed should the referendum pass. Furthermore, no timetable has been established for this project.** As previously stated, we desire to complete all of the work in environmentally respectful ways, and the technology around artificial fields and their components continues to change and evolve. If the referendum does pass, I will recommend assembling a committee or "turf task force" to help the Board critically examine specifications, materials, and research before any selection for actual implementation. Current examples of turf options may include basic rubber pellets, virgin rubber pellets, organic infill coconut fibers, cork/walnut shells, hybrid options, and more. The reason for the artificial selection option instead of natural grass is that we believe that **it is the only solution that can provide us with the level of durability and access needed for all students, all activities, and the maximum amount of community members' use.**

Thank You, Coach Mulligan

Last evening, Haddon Township High School welcomed back a **three-decade span** of former students and girls' basketball alumni to pay tribute and give thanks to Coach Tom Mulligan, who has announced his retirement from basketball at the end of the season. Coach Mulligan has served as our Varsity Girls Coach for **32 seasons** and distinguished himself as one of the best in the history of South Jersey. Please join me in applauding Coach Mulligan's remarkable service in this area to Haddon Township students. An article about his career and impact is below.

<https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/sports/high-school/girls-basketball/2024/02/21/haddon-townships-tom-mulligan-to-step-down-after-32-seasons-over-650-wins/72684362007/>

Thank you very much for your continued support.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D.
Superintendent