



“Pride in Performance”

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michael Dzwonar
Acting Superintendent

September 18, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the start of East Windsor Regional School District’s 2018-2019 academic year!

Each new school year brings with it new changes. Effective September 1, I have started to serve as Acting Superintendent. In my role as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at EWRSD for the past fifteen years, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of the entire district from Pre-K to grade 12 as well as the board, our staff, and, most importantly, our students.

I am honored and look forward to working with the entire school community to continue the positive growth of the district while we undertake our search for a new superintendent.

Update on Superintendent Search

At the Board of Education meeting on September 17, 2018, the Board of Education approved Dr. William Librera of West Hudson Associates to replace search consultant Ronald Bolandi. Mr. Bolandi removed himself from the search due to personal reasons.

Dr. Librera served as an educator for more than forty years in the State of New Jersey. He also serves as an advisor and consultant to national organizations. For more than twenty years, he was a superintendent in New Jersey school districts. He has also been the Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey. His experience also includes working as the Presidential Professor at Rutgers University and the Executive Director of the Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement.

While Dr. Librera is committed to implementing the process announced by Mr. Bolandi and the Board of Education, the timeline will be slightly extended.

Please note, the public forum has been rescheduled from September 24 to October 1, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Hightstown High School auditorium. The forum will allow the district to receive input from the public on what qualities they feel the next superintendent should embody. Dr. Librera will also be scheduled to meet with administrators, teachers, PTOs, and other stakeholder groups throughout the day.

Reconfiguration Update

Throughout the summer, our staff worked tirelessly to prepare for the return of our students. Buildings were cleaned and updated, thousands of boxes were moved due to the reconfiguration, and many large projects such as replacing crosswalks between schools, remodeling the library at Grace N. Rogers Elementary School, replacing windows at Hightstown High School, renovating the Hightstown High School locker rooms, and repairing the Hightstown High School turf field.

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Mission Statement & Goals

As we begin the new school year, we would like to share our goals and our vision with you. Please note that even in transition we have added additional core goals related to security and the development of social and emotional skills essential for success in life and impact on learning. In addition, we have added six additional one-year focus goals. Of particular note is focus goals related to STEM, Fine and Performing Arts as well as Citizenship curriculum enhancements.

East Windsor Regional School District Mission Statement

Through a safe, inclusive learning experience that is grounded in best practices, students in the East Windsor Regional School District will develop and strengthen academic, social, and emotional skills needed in order to be successful, productive citizens.

Serving Every Child, Every Day, we will strive to:

- Increase achievement by challenging and supporting each student to reach his/her highest potential.
- Address the needs of the whole child by ensuring all students feel healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, with opportunities for social/emotional learning and growth.
- Prepare all students with the skills and awareness necessary to actively contribute as productive local and global citizens.
- Provide professional staff with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary for highly effective delivery of instruction and services.

Core Goals

Goal 1

Ensure all students graduate from the East Windsor Regional School District with the necessary skills and appropriate plans to be successful.

Goal 2

Support foundational literacy skills of all students, while addressing the achievement gap of current/former ELL and Special Education students.

Goal 3

Assure that the professional development plan is aligned with the district vision and mission.

Goal 4

Provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff.

Goal 5

Ensure students are functional, skilled readers by third grade.

Goal 6

Cultivate the development of students' fundamental social and emotional skills essential for success in life and impact on learning.

Focus Goals

Focus Goal 1

The Board will commence a search and hire a high-quality superintendent to lead the East Windsor Regional School District.

Focus Goal 2

Develop a strategic plan to increase opportunities for STEM learning for students in K to 12.

Focus Goal 3

Develop a strategic plan to increase opportunities for enrichment in fine and performing arts in K to 12.

Focus Goal 4

Enhance the systemic recruitment process and professional development plan to ensure alignment with district vision and mission.

Focus Goal 5

Analyze current curriculum and programs and develop a plan to ensure that the district goal of preparing all students with the skills and awareness necessary to actively contribute as productive local and global citizens is being implemented and achieved.

**Focus Goal: one-year goal to establish priorities and to define specific action with measurable objectives.*

Our goals convey our district's purpose and set forth what we should strive to become in the future.

Additions to Staff

We are excited to welcome new staff members in all of our buildings as well as new administrators: Priscilla Aniegbuna: Assistant Principal at Hightstown High School (Ninth-Grade), Candice Bland: District Supervisor of Bilingual, ESL & World Languages, Christopher Edwards: Assistant Principal at Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, Lauren O'Brien: Supervisor of Guidance, and Jose Santos: Director of Buildings and Grounds.

State Aid Funding

Over the summer, East Windsor Regional School District received more state aid for the 2018-2019 school year. Overall, the increase was \$3,882,103 (19.29 percent).

The receipt of the additional state aid represents a "catch-up" in funding from the state. In 2010, state aid was drastically cut to New Jersey school districts. East Windsor Regional School District immediately lost approximately \$5,000,000 in funding resulting in substantial reduction of services and opportunities for students.

It is only now, in the 2018-19 school year, where we have finally recovered the lost state funding. Funds from budget restoration will provide support for HIB in the middle school, fund lead teacher positions, and allow funding for much-needed facility upgrades.

During the 2018-19 school year, we will continue to build upon and refine our proven foundation of strong relationships with our staff, students, parents, and community to provide the best learning opportunities.

We look forward to a productive school year and will continue to provide regular updates on our progress!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dzwonar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michael Dzwonar
Acting Superintendent