

# EATONTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION

---



SCOTT T. McCUE  
Superintendent of Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
5 GRANT AVENUE  
EATONTOWN, NEW JERSEY 07724  
TEL. (732) 935-3323  
FAX (732) 578-0017

December 3, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a follow-up to my previous letters to you, I am writing today to inform you of the Board of Education's decision that was made at the last Board meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015. This action of the Board will reorganize the elementary schools along grade levels. As I am sure you are aware based upon my previous letters, the Board engaged in a lengthy and extensive process to provide long term planning for our schools that have been impacted by a severe decline in student enrollment over the past several years.

Beginning in June 2015, the Board hired a very experienced enrollment, facilities, and organizational consultant to explore all options which would be available to address this concern. During October and November of 2015, the Board of Education directed me to inform the school community and the community at large about the district study, the public presentations, and the options proposed by Dr. Ross Haber and Associates. The Enrollment, Facilities, and Organizational Report prepared by Dr. Haber has been posted on the district and borough website since October 8, 2015. This report can still be viewed by visiting [www.eatontown.org](http://www.eatontown.org).

The Board held three public meetings where Dr. Haber presented his findings, answered questions, and where input from the community, staff, and administration was discussed. During those three public Board of Education meetings conducted this fall, the Board weighed both the educational as well as financial benefits of the options presented for the entire district and concluded with a Board resolution approved at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> public meeting. The Board's action was taken as a result of the Board's desire to find a sustainable solution to the district's declining enrollment after very careful consideration of the data provided by the professional consultant, Dr. Ross Haber.

The decision of the Board creates a new organizational structure also referred to as grade-banding which will transform our elementary schools into specific grade level centers where all students at the same grade level attend the same school regardless of where they live in Eatontown. Beginning September 1, 2016, Meadowbrook School will become a K-2 school,

December 3, 2015

Woodmere School will be designated as a 3-4 school, and Vetter School will be organized as a 5-6 school. Memorial School will continue to focus on grades 7-8 and our Preschool program will be housed at Woodmere School. This organizational model provides for more longevity during the primary school years in lower elementary, then a targeted instructional focus for grades 3-4 at upper elementary level, and a campus approach for our intermediate and middle school students.

The new structure will provide for our district, several benefits. Most apparent is with all the grade level classes in one school, the collaboration among teachers will increase dramatically. Research does suggest that when principal and teacher collaboration increases, student achievement increases as well. The district also will be able to create equity in class sizes and provide more consistency in programs and delivery of services. In the near future, this new configuration provides the opportunity for Eatontown Public Schools to “Blend Tradition and Innovation to Drive Educational Excellence” for all students.

Moving forward, the focus of our school system will be on working with the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students in planning for the 2016-2017 school year. During this process, it was very important to the Board of Education to be transparent in terms of sharing information and its decision-making with the public. In the months ahead, as planning continues, future updates and information will be shared with the school community. The educational benefits provided by grade-banding have been posted on the district website. These educational advantages were discussed at the public presentations as well.

We look forward to the new educational and instructional possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you for your attention, consideration, and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Scott T. McCue  
Superintendent of Schools

STM:smb