



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

At last evening's Board of Education Meeting, we decided to adjust the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. While no action will formally be taken until next month by the board, the following changes are anticipated. The calendar as it was tentatively planned conflicted with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Our past practice has consistently been to have (1) school day off for (1) of the Jewish Holidays in the Fall. When our school calendar was initially adopted, we scheduled the day off for Yom Kippur on Thursday, September 16th, which has caused concerns because Rosh Hashanah conflicts with our **first day** of school on September 7th.

The revised school calendar will now designate **both September 7th and 16th as non-school days**. This solution provides a stronger message about Haddon Township's commitment to providing an inclusive learning environment for all. Also, **Monday, October 11th, will now be an in-school day for students**, while Friday, September 3rd, will be designated as a staff in-service day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. Please see below for some additional brief updates from around the district.

Vaccines

Our school nurses have been working with many local pharmacies, and eligible students have easily scheduled the vaccine. NJ offers some incentives, such as free admission to many of our state parks for individuals who chose to become vaccinated. If you are interested in having your child vaccinated and have been unsuccessful in finding a location, please feel free to reach out to your school nurse. She will happily provide you with assistance on how to schedule.

Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education is making plans to return our meeting in person, potentially as soon as July. By this time, we are hopeful that members of the public will be invited to join us, and plans are being developed for socially distanced seating. We also plan to broadcast these meetings live on youtube. Many school districts around the state are making similar plans, but there is some uncertainty in the format for public comment moving forward. If you are interested in providing the board with input regarding how you think the public comment portion should best occur when this transition is made, please feel free to email me, and I will forward your ideas along. In particular, should the public comment be reserved for those who attend in person? At the same time, remote attendees have the option for written correspondence, or should we attempt to

provide remote live options for public comment? Technologically speaking, Sound quality could present some challenges, but we are happy to explore it should there be strong interest from our community. Communication, transparency, and community engagement continue to be important to members of the administration and school board, and we look forward to your feedback in this area.

Travel Advisory

Our school district will continue to follow travel advisory recommendations for unvaccinated individuals until the end of the school as a precaution. If you plan on traveling outside of the designated region over the Memorial Day Weekend and have questions about self-quarantine recommendations for your child, please contact your school principal or nurse.

I hope that you all have a great weekend and enjoy this beautiful weather. Thank you all for your support and partnership in education.

-Regards,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent