



H a c k e t t s t o w n P u b l i c S c h o o l s N e w s l e t t e r

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

David C. Mango

Fall 2019

Dear Hackettstown Community Members,

On behalf of the Board of Education and my office, I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2019-2020 school year. Between the end of last school year and now, much has been taking place within our school district. We are in the final stages of our High School auditorium renovation and the Willow Grove School's HVAC installation and drainage projects. All three projects have an anticipated completion date for August 23rd. That said, the 2019-2020 calendar year will be another exciting journey for students, staff and community members alike.

For the first time in our district's history, we will witness grade based-elementary schools, multiple inclusive pre-school classrooms, increased Language Arts and Mathematic instructional time at the Middle School, semester based high school elective course offerings and Mental Health and Mindfulness adaptation throughout. This was a large undertaking and concerted effort for all stakeholders and will certainly have a positive impact for our students and staff.

Moreover, our school district will be implementing an instant security alert system otherwise known as LENS- Lock-down and Emergency Notification System. This includes exterior and interior visual alerts or strobes, as well as, simultaneous automated messaging. District Director of Security, Mr. Speirs, is currently in the initial stages for implementation at Hackettstown High School. Additional information will be made available to our community at a later date. All of the aforementioned changes along with the upcoming question on the November 5th ballot to extend debt service will lead our community at large into the future and next decade.

The ballot question for debt service extension is solely for the need for the following projects:

- ~ Complete roof replacement at Hatchery Hill School- total cost \$1,579,000.
- ~ Partial roof replacement Hackettstown Middle School and electrical upgrade- total cost-\$838,000.
- ~ Partial roof replacement at Hackettstown High School and electrical upgrade- total cost- \$1,579,000

Currently, Hatchery Hill School has never had a roof replaced in the buildings history and the electrical upgrades at the High School specifically are original from 1959. As we would with our own homes, these upgrades are necessary for the safety and health of our students, staff and community members that may utilize our facilities. In addition, the climate changes we experience also assists in areas of mold growth when roof tops are leaking into the interior of our buildings. The total debt service extension is \$3,996,000 dollars. However, the N.J. State Development Authority-S.D.A. will fund over 40% of the 3.9 million if passed on November 5th. This means over the life of the debt service, the Hackettstown School District will receive an estimated \$1,647,630 to finance the total cost of projects.

Taking everything into account, we ask you to please join us on Thursday, September 12th, at the Hackettstown High School to be an active participant for the development of a new Strategic Plan. The previous Strategic Plan cultivated positive change and by NJSBA's records witnessed the largest participating crowd ever in the history of Strategic Planning. Your voices and concerns were heard throughout the winter and spring of 2013 so once again, we ask that you partner with us in developing a vision for our school district that will move us into the next quarter of the 21st Century. This Strategic Plan will also touch upon the ballot question and the consistency shared in the past for the need to dedicate funds for facility upgrades.

More information will continue to be disseminated but please come to our Strategic Plan meetings, public Board of Education meetings or simply contact Central Office to be involved or inquire about additional information you may have questions or concerns about.

(Continued on Page 2)

Below are a list of district-wide activities/presentations for you to participate along with us.

- ~ September 12th- Strategic Plan Meeting #1
- ~ September 18th – Public Board of Education Meeting
 - ~ Annual H.I.B. Presentation
 - ~ 2018-19 NJSLA Presentation
- ~ October 10th Strategic Plan Meeting # 2
- ~ October 16th- Public Board of Education Meeting
- ~ November 5th - Public vote for Debt Service Extension
- ~ November 20th- Public Board of Education Meeting
- ~ December 18th – Public Board of Education Meeting

Wishing each of you and your families a successful, safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

David C. Mango

David C. Mango

Superintendent of Schools

Special Education Department - Kevin O'Leary Fall 2019

Before I give an update on the Special Services department, let me take a moment and introduce myself, my name is Kevin O'Leary and I was appointed the Director of Special Services for the Hackettstown and Great Meadows School Districts. For the past five years, I was one of the Assistant Principals for Hackettstown High School, where I supervised the Special Education department and worked very closely with the high school Child Study Team. Prior to Hackettstown, I was a Special Education teacher and administrator for eleven years for the Becton Regional School District.

It has been a very exciting Summer for the Special Services department of Hackettstown. The Extended School Year is coming to a close on August 5. With the re-alignment, all ESY programs were housed at either the Middle or High School. I would like to thank all those who made the transition to those buildings this year, teachers, aides, students, parents and building staff. With the addition of a number of Special Education teachers, we are looking forward to the new Pull Out Resource program instituted at the Middle School. The Preschool and ASD programs at Hatchery Hill continue to grow. We will continue to work throughout the rest of the summer to make the transition into the 2019-20 school year as easy as possible. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to working with everyone in the upcoming school year.



In education we are fortunate to experience a new beginning each September. At Hatchery Hill we look forward to a great year with positive change. We are excited about becoming an early learning environment which includes our new inclusive preschool program, kindergarten and first grade. We extend a warm welcome to students, staff members and parents who will be joining our special school community. This year promises to be a year of not only change but also growth and progress.

First and foremost, we will focus on providing a smooth transition for our children so that they feel comfortable, safe and ready to learn. Our early learning school will impact our children for the rest of their lives. With a dedicated and caring staff our goal is to meet their needs, cultivate their interests, and help them grow. For children with distinctive needs and abilities, Hatchery Hill offers Basic Skills Instruction, Special Education services, English as a Second Language, Gifted and Talented, and our Extended Academic Support Program. We are also proud to offer all of our children the opportunity to engage in art, music, physical education, world language, mindfulness, and STEM/STEAM related activities to enhance overall growth.

Finally, we will be celebrating Hatchery Hill's 50th Birthday. Our school opened its doors to students in Hackettstown in September 1969. This is a "Special" celebration. Our own Mrs. Egan was a member of the first Kindergarten class.

Our entire learning community looks forward to a productive school year. This of course involves our continued communication and partnership with you and your child.

"It takes a Big heart to shape little minds"

Mark the following dates on your calendar:

- September 3 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- September 3-4 Early Dismissal 12:00
- September 19 School Pictures
- September 26 Back to School Night 6:00 pm

Willow Grove School - Jon Beyer, Principal Fall 2019

Willow Grove School has had a summer full of change and new beginnings. Our custodial staff has been working tirelessly to make sure that our building is fresh, clean, and orderly for the start of the 2019- 2020 school year. We can't thank them enough for all of their hard work and dedication to our students and the district. We have been getting to know all of the new staff members joining the Willow Grove Family from Hatchery Hill. As the new intermediate elementary building we are looking forward to sharing ideas and developing a common vision together as a team.

This year, we are also focusing on developing a common experience for our students in each grade level. Through the addition of PLC's (team time) our teachers will be able to create highly engaging lessons through collaboration and the sharing of best practice approaches to teaching. During team time our teachers will also be examining and adjusting our grade level benchmarks in Language Arts and Mathematics. Most importantly this will give our teachers the opportunity to discuss the individual and group needs of our students to ensure that they are having a top notch academic and social experience here at Willow Grove.

This year, we have two new and exciting special classes to offer our students. First, we have a STEAM laboratory where our students will be building, creating, constructing, and deconstructing their way through science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. This is going to be a classroom that focuses and hands on learning and group collaboration. Second, we have a new mindfulness and healthy living course. Here our students will learn ways to deal with stress, the importance of exercise, healthy eating habits, basic yoga techniques, and so much more.

Overall, this year marks a fresh new start for Willow Grove School, our students, and staff. We look forward to working together to make an exceptional learning experience for our students. Take some time to enjoy the last few weeks of summer and start getting ready for a great school year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September.



I would like to welcome everyone back! I am excited and looking forward to starting the new school year. There are many changes across the entire district that will both benefit and challenge our students academically. Student achievement and success are at the forefront of all the changes.

The High School will be offering numerous semester-based courses that will give students a more diverse educational experience. The Dual Credit Program will continue with Warren County Community College offering our students 24 courses in which they can earn college credit.

The Middle School will be increasing instructional time in Math and English Language Arts and added seven new staff members. The increase instructional time and staff will put our Middle School students on a more equal academic footing with other middle school students across the State of New Jersey.

The elementary schools will be grade base with Hatchery

Hill the new Pre K-1 school and Willow Grove will have grades 2-4. With this change came the addition of 3 new cycle courses and we have extended our Bilingual Program from K-1 to K-2. Our teachers will also now have a common meeting time to discuss grade level programs and curriculum which will greatly improve vertical and horizontal articulation.

I am happy to report that we were awarded the ESSA grant again this year that will allow all our Title programs to continue and expand. Our Title I programs are extremely beneficial to our students who need additional resources to achieve academic success academic success. Parents, please be on the lookout from your school principal for an invitation to our parent meeting if you child is identified as a Title I student. The meeting usually occurs in late September/early October.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Hackettstown High School - Kyle Sosnovik, Principal Fall 2019

High School Student Information and Welcome

We have reached the midway point of summer and the staff at HHS have been working hard to ensure the building will be ready for the return of students. Our auditorium renovations are moving along nicely and we have also spent time updating our front lobby. Although work is still needed, come September the lobby will be newly furnished with seating, an updated reception desk and an informational monitor mounted to the wall. In addition, we purchased a new display case to showcase the many outstanding accomplishments earned by our theater program. And finally, our custodial staff has been very busy using some newly purchased equipment to restore our Terrazzo hallway tile back to its original finish. I think it is safe to say we are very excited for the new school year! To help better prepare you for the fall, please review these important reminders for August:

- Summer assignments are posted on our new website platform. If they haven't started already, all students should review their portal schedules and access those assignments for the beginning of school. If there are difficulties accessing the portal, please contact any secretary or administrator.

- From August 3rd through the 10th, Athletic practices will be on hold. During this time our staff will be preparing all athletic surfaces for the coming season.

- On August 13th, our upperclassmen that would like parking privileges in the fall are encouraged to attend our final summer offering of the "Share The Keys" program. Completion of this program is required for students parking on campus.

- On August 14th, parking applications will be accepted.

- On August 23rd we officially welcome our incoming 9th-grade students with our eagerly anticipated Freshman Orientation.

As been done in the past, all needed school forms and acknowledgments will be done via the Realtime Parent Portal. Reminder calls will be sent to notify parents when forms are ready for viewing. Please also stay informed by following our high school Twitter page @HHSTIGERS.

Mark your calendar for the High School Principal Forum scheduled for October 23rd. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm for Spanish speakers, and at 6:00 pm for all others. The forum is a great opportunity for parents to sit down and discuss a variety of topics with the principal and other administrative staff in an informal setting. An agenda will be posted on the website as the date approaches.

members. Mrs. Lena Wasyluk has taken over as Assistant Principal. Mr. Adam Freedman joins us from the middle school and has taken the reigns of our band program. Mr. Matthew Dell Elba joins our Math department. Mr. Christopher St. Genis joins our Special Education Department. Mr. Daniel Eyeran will be running our choral department while Mrs. Pomeroy is out on leave.

And finally, the high school welcomes a few new staff

Hackettstown Middle School - Sheena Delgaizo, Principal Fall 2019

Hackettstown Middle School is gearing up for the start of the brand new school year and is excited about the addition of instructional staff members in various content areas, along with developments in the master schedule and classroom environments to educate and inspire students through school, family, and community partnerships so that all become positive, contributing members of a global society, with a life-long commitment to learning.

All students and staff will be entering year two of the Hackettstown Middle School's initiatives that were developed to go beyond the curriculum and provide real-world experiences. Continuing to develop the Character Education program complements a broad range of educational approaches within the walls of our school such as whole child education, service learning, social-emotional learning, and civic education while our Public Speaking initiative will further assist students in communicating clearly

and effectively with reason as part of the New Jersey State Learning Standard for Career Readiness and enhances the development of the Character Education program.

We invite all community members to join at the last summer Principal's Forum to discuss the developments for the 2019-2020 schedule which will be at 6:00 pm on Thursday, August 29, 2019 in the Middle School's Auditorium. As for parents and guardians, we will be opening our doors for an early Back-to-School night on Thursday, September 5, 2019 starting at 6:00 p.m. with a welcoming address in the Auditorium. For additional information regarding Hackettstown Middle School, please do not hesitate to access our website (hms.Hackettstown.org) while following us on Twitter **@HackMSTigers**. As we look forward to the start of the school year, we hope that you enjoy the remainder of your Summer!

Hackettstown Public Schools Mission Statement

Building on tradition and success, the mission of the Hackettstown School District is to educate and inspire students through school, family and community partnerships so that all become positive, contributing members of a global society, with life-long commitment to learning.

New Strategic Planning for 2019-2024

First Public Strategic Planning Meeting—September 12, 2019

Second Public Strategic Planning Meeting—October 10, 2019

November Ballot Question

The question will allow the District to extend our debt service so that we can replace the roofs on three of our buildings. The total debt service extension is \$3,996,000 dollars. However, the N.J. State Development Authority-S.D.A. will fund over 40% of the 3.9 million if passed on November 5th. This means over the life of the debt service, the Hackettstown School District will receive an estimated \$1,647,630 to finance the total cost of projects.

“Determination, Dream, and Destiny by Design”

We are on the web!

www.hackettstown.org

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

David C. Mango, Superintendent
Timothy Havlusch, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Debra Grigoletti, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Kevin O'Leary, Director of Special Services

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Important Dates to Remember

August 21st, 2019: Board of Education Meeting
August 23rd, 2019: Freshman Orientation
August 28th, 2019: First Day for Staff—No School
August 29th, 2019: Staff In-Service Day—No School
September 3rd, 2019: First Day for Students—Early Dismissal (All Schools)
September 4th, 2019: Early Dismissal (All Schools)
September 5th, 2019: HMS Back to School Night
September 12th, 2019: Strategic Plan Meeting #1
September 17th, 2019: W.G. Back to School Night
September 18th, 2019: Board of Education Meeting
September 19th, 2019: HHS Back to School Night
September 26th 2019: H.H. Back to School Night
October 1st, 2019: HHS Mini-College Fair
October 10th, 2019: Strategic Plan Meeting #2
October 14th, 2019: Columbus Day—No School (Teacher In-Service Day)
October 16th, 2019: Board of Education Meeting
October 17th, 2019: HHS 8th Grade Parent Night
October 23rd, 2019: Principal's Forum
November 7th, 2019: Teacher Convention—No School
November 8th, 2019: Teacher Convention—No School

Please Check the District Calendar at www.hackettstown.org for 2019 Board Meeting Dates