



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUGUST 29, 2018

Good evening. It's hard to believe that in about 155 hours our classrooms and hallways will once again come alive with the sights and sounds of teaching and learning and I for one can't wait! Just seeing some of our students last night for 9th grade and new student orientation last night and more today at our open houses has me very excited for the year ahead.

I want to start my brief report tonight by thanking all of the many staff members who have been and will continue to be work hard in order to make the school year get off to a great start for our students! For those here and to those listening, thank you for all of your incredible efforts. Special thanks to our three Principal Transition teams and for all those who have welcomed and assisted us in our recent principal switches.

With the great feedback that the board provided in relation to our emerging goals for the 2018-2019 year, the administrative team met recently to continue to consider that feedback, other data and insights gained through observation, experience and the perspectives of new members of our team. We took time to look at the district with a 30,000 foot view and considered the extent to which each of the potential goals

1. Supported our district's mission
2. Aligned with our Innovate to Elevate Brand.
3. Addressed an identified need.

Our work also focused on making sure we had goals that would be relevant to each of the schools and that could be made professionally relevant to staff as well, so that as I have said before that we are "all pulling in the same direction" or that all of our gears are working together to bring about change.

The team felt as though the goals related to social, emotional and psychological health of students and staff and continued work on data to be extremely pressing needs with the goal focused on the next step in our Future Ready efforts to be an

equally important needed focus. As such, we spent some time exploring how these would inform school and staff goals. And of course, moving forward with the Holmdel 2020 Initiative must be a focus for the year.

As I shared with the board recently, I am recommending four goals. They are:

- To examine and evaluate issues related to the social, emotional and psychological health of all students. Examine programs currently provided while identifying others that may be needed to promote the health and well-being of all students and staff.
- To increase the practice of collecting and using data to inform decisions in all aspects of the school district from the classroom to the boardroom.
- To establish a network of partnerships with businesses and organizations within our local community and globally that can provide meaningful, real-world experiences for our students via internships and collaborative projects.
- To continue to drive the successful implementation of the Holmdel 2020 Initiative by completing 2018-2019 projects in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

We are excited to start working with our staff on these when they return on Tuesday as they are woven into administrator goals, school goals, and staff members' professional development plans and become standing agenda items for meetings throughout the year.

Do we think all of these are achievable in one year's time? Most likely some of these will take longer than the time that one school year provides or they may lead us to articulate new goals built from what we discover this year,. But that's part of being aspirational and always looking to do more. And that's what makes us Holmdel. I look forward to discussing these in more depth later this evening.

On behalf of the administration, we wish all a happy and fulfilling start to the new school year and we hope to see you tomorrow evening as we light up Roggy Field like never before and light the way to 2020 and beyond.!