

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Dr. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools 50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300 Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656 <u>kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us</u>



August 24, 2020

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Faculty, Staff, Parents and Community Members,

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District continues to invest our time and energy to enhance the education of our students. The pace of our referendum work, staffing, academics, social-emotional support, and the pandemic response has required our Flemington-Raritan Regional School District team to be at the top of their game, adjusting and pivoting to the many challenges we face. Even with facing challenges head-on, we are proud of our proactive response to support every student, every day, at every opportunity. This summer we have hired top-notch educators to provide high-quality instruction and recommended for hire building leaders to support an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.

It is my pleasure to announce to you several changes to our administrative team for the 2020-2021 school year as it is anticipated that the Board of Education will approve these appointments during tonight's Board meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Zoom instructions to attend the virtual meeting are posted on the District web site.

First, I am so very pleased to share my recommendation to appoint Jesse Lockett as the new principal of Copper Hill School, effective September 1. Mr. Lockett has served as Copper Hill's Vice Principal for the last three years and as one of the District's School Safety Specialists. His knowledge and experience of the Copper Hill community helps to ensure a seamless transition in leadership at a time when stability for our faculty, staff and families is paramount.

Mr. Lockett was selected to fill the position at the conclusion of interviews held by the Copper Hill School Principal Hiring Committee. Committee members included Copper Hill teachers, support staff, parent representatives, and district administrators. They were as follows: Jennifer Corban, Kindergarten; Ashlie Dente, Grade 1; Lisa Fitzsimmons, Administrative Secretary to the Principal; Dr. Danielle Hamblin, Director of Special Education; Erin Mason, Reading Recover/Literacy Support; Christina Mastroianni, Special Education; Dr. Kari McGann, Superintendent; Marianne O'Connor, PTO Officer; Nicole Payton, Multiple Disabilities; and Wendy VanDine, Teacher Assistant. Conversations continued with the Copper Hill Hiring Committee, Board of Education Members, and Mr. Lockett this weekend on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. An addendum for tonight's meeting is needed to recommend Mr. Lockett as Copper Hill's Building Principal. The addendum will be available online prior to the start of tonight's Board meeting.

To support Mr. Lockett in his new role, I am recommending the transfer of Amy Switkes to serve as Vice Principal at Copper Hill School, effective September 1. Mrs. Switkes has been an outstanding Vice Principal at Barley Sheaf School for the last three years. Mrs. Switkes prides herself on making meaningful connections with students and parents to provide a nurturing and supportive learning experience. She leads with warmth and compassion for all children.

To provide immediate support to Mrs. Karen Gabruk at Barley Sheaf School, I am recommending that Vanessa Ahmed hold a dual administrative role, serving part-time as a ten-month Vice Principal at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School and part-time as a ten-month Vice-Principal at Barley Sheaf School, also effective September 1. As an experienced principal and assistant principal in our district, Mrs. Ahmed has vast expertise, spanning 17 years in our district, that will benefit both buildings in her shared position.

Additionally, it is my honor to recommend Jason Borawski to fill the vacant 12-month Vice-Principal position at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, effective August 25. Mr. Borawski has been a member of our district faculty for the last 18 years, most recently serving as a Technology Integration Specialist at J.P. Case Middle School. Mr. Borawski



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was recommended by the RFIS Vice Principal Hiring Committee and Dr. Anthony DeMarco, Building Principal at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School.

These changes and new additions to our administrative structure ensure balanced support for our students, families, faculty, and staff members as we continue to work together for every student, every day at every opportunity.

My best to all of our families and my hope that you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

Wishing you well,

Kori McGann

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