



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

*Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
65 McCampbell Road  
Holmdel, NJ 07733*

July 1, 2020

Dear Holmdel Community,

I am thrilled to begin working with you, the Holmdel community, as the Interim Superintendent of Schools. These are challenging times. However, I am confident that with your continued support of our schools, and by working together, we can continue the excellence that is Holmdel and work through the reopening of schools this fall.

As your newly appointed Interim Superintendent of Schools, I have spent the last two weeks working with the Board of Education and our administrators to assess the status of the District as we prepare to reopen in September. This will be a monumental task that requires us to work together to address the myriad of challenges that reopening presents.

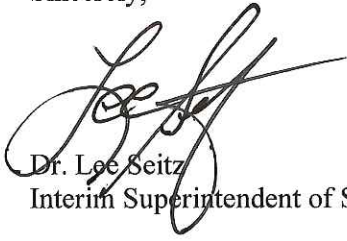
Fortunately, the referendum project is on schedule. When the students return to W.R. Satz and Holmdel High School, they will be welcomed to a transformed learning environment. The only project that will remain will be the media center, which will be completed by the end of September as expected. This is a tremendous accomplishment and will provide much-needed improvements to our schools to support our excellent instructional and co-curriculum programs.

This month, now that Governor Murphy has released guidance to reopen our schools, we will be meeting with members of our educational community to develop a model plan for Holmdel to reopen our schools. As of this moment, we are initiating wide-ranging discussions on a variety of options and it seems each model presents opportunities and challenges. We know that the radical shift from our traditional school program to a distance, online instructional model was unsettling at the very least and compounded by the lack of preparation time for you as parents and for us as teachers. We will be asking you very shortly to complete a survey. This survey is just one critical way to gain insight into what worked, and what didn't work this spring with remote learning, and will drive the decision-making process for the fall. As we go through the process of developing a plan to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year, I suspect that many compromises will have to be made. However, I can assure you that we will meet or exceed the State's requirements, will continue the excellence that is Holmdel and, most importantly, we will ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of our students and our teaching and support staff...it is our number one priority!

This letter, by design, is lacking any specific reopening plan or instructional models for one critical reason, we need to work together to develop a plan and we cannot and will not do that without your feedback and suggestions. So, please share your thoughts and ideas with us through the survey. The results will be given full and critical consideration in the developmental process and lead to other opportunities for us to gain insight into our student's needs and the needs of you, their parents.

During my career, I have found time and time again, as we faced an uncertain future, that when we listen to our educational community, excellent decisions are made and our students and staff excel!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Seitz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Lee Seitz  
Interim Superintendent of Schools