



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

December 19, 2020

Dear Holmdel Township Community,

At the December 16th meeting of the Holmdel School Board, the president of the Holmdel teachers' union publicly attacked Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lee Seitz, delivered a series of challenges to his leadership skills, and demanded the Board undertake an immediate search for his replacement.

In response, the Board strongly voiced its support of Dr. Seitz's leadership as we have sought to implement the safe opening of Holmdel's schools during these tumultuous times.

The union has consistently argued that our schools should remain closed and that we should follow a half day schedule instead. Unhappy that both the Board and the administration disagrees with this approach, the union has now orchestrated a spam assault on the community, using the services of an outside politically-oriented organization, to flood the email accounts of Board members and residents with their complaints.

Here are the facts:

- Educational and scientific experts agree that in-person instruction is the optimal educational environment for students.
- State and federal elected and appointed officials concur and strongly favor in-school instruction.
- The Holmdel School District spent more than one million dollars to establish a safe teaching environment for students and staff, including installation of cutting edge technologies, careful compliance with CDC and NJ guidelines, and implementation of aggressive cleaning standards.
- We were ready to provide an on-site hybrid program in September designed to allow us to gradually move to a full-day program, which we instituted this week for grades PK-6.
- Currently more than sixty-five percent of our elementary students are participating in full-day, in-person instruction, which demonstrates significant parental support of our actions.
- Grades 7-12 remain on a half-day hybrid program, while a virtual option is available for those families who wish to keep their children home.

The Board views the union's insistence for a shutdown to be an unacceptable option based on the preparations the District has made to provide a safe working and learning environment. We do believe the ultimate success of our schools lies in all of us complying with health guidelines to blunt the spread of the disease, although the union argues that community members are not doing enough.

We are committed to continuing to work with our parents, administration, teachers and staff to preserve academic excellence during these challenging times. Thank you.

Board of Education