



## PITMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Robert J. Preston, Ed.D., Superintendent*  
*Robert O. Miles, III, Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

**Central Office:** 420 Hudson Avenue, Pitman, NJ 08071

**Main:** 856-589-2145

[pitman.k12.nj.us](http://pitman.k12.nj.us)

September 19, 2024

Dear Community:

It has been an exciting opening to the school year. I enjoyed greeting your children on opening day and getting to know many of you at our Back-to-School Nights. I want to also express my gratitude for your continued trust and support of our schools. The smooth opening of this year was only possible because of the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, engaged students, and the support from the entire community.

As is usual in my monthly briefs, below are some updates as well as some information for you to be aware of, including some things I shared in my Superintendent's Report at our most recent Board meeting.

### **Pitman Elementary School Playground (Summit Field)**

I want to bring your attention to some ongoing concerns regarding the Pitman Elementary School Playground (Summit Field). Over the past several weeks, we have seen a significant rise in incidents occurring after school at the field, involving students from across the district. While the district utilizes the playground as part of the Panther Club wrap-around program, it's important to note that students who are not enrolled in this program are at the field unsupervised. Unfortunately, this lack of supervision has led to various issues, some of which have caused school officials and even Pitman Police to intervene. As a result, we are considering the possibility of closing the field to ensure that our after-care program can use it safely. We value this space as an integral part of the Pitman community and want it to remain a *true* community resource. We will continue to monitor the situation and will follow up if necessary.

### **Increasing Enrollment**

Since September 2023, enrollment in our district has increased by 5%, reflecting the community's strong belief in the quality of our schools and the dedication of our staff and Board leadership. This growth is not just a number; it represents the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in our educational mission. As we continue to keep Pitman a premier school system in the region, this positive trend reinforces our vision and motivates us to continue enhancing the educational experience for all our students.

*A Tradition of Excellence*

## Referendum Updates

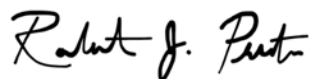
As the new superintendent of Pitman School District, I'm inspired by the strong hometown pride and commitment this community has for its schools, reflected in the generations of investment in our children's education. In the coming months, likely in January or March, we will hold a bond referendum—the first since 2008—allowing residents to vote on vital improvements identified during last year's Strategic Planning process, in which many community members were involved. This referendum, shaped by two years of community collaboration, will address critical needs, including upgrading heating systems at Pitman Elementary, renovating bathrooms, enhancing the Jr./Sr. High School's track and drainage, and introducing air conditioning and security upgrades. We are dedicated to transparency throughout this process, ensuring that all residents understand the potential tax impacts and have the opportunity to engage with the information as we prepare for the vote. Be on the lookout for information about the referendum on our webpage, including informational sessions and FAQs.

## Pitman Education Foundation Fundraiser

I'd like to make a plug for the Pitman Education Foundation, a key partner and supporter of PSD. Their annual Panther Prowl 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk will be held Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Pitman Jr./Sr. High School, located at 225 Linden Ave, Pitman, NJ! This exciting event, hosted by the PEF, is a fantastic way to support our schools while promoting health and wellness. The 5K will begin at 8:30 AM, followed by the 1 Mile Walk. For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Pitman/PantherProwl2011> or contact Ms. Kristen Russell at [Kristen.Russell@yahoo.com](mailto:Kristen.Russell@yahoo.com) or at 856-981-5719.

Thank you for all you do as parents and teachers. I look forward to seeing you around our schools and town.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Preston

Superintendent