



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I am contacting you this evening to clarify a matter that has prompted a large volume of emails and inquiries to me over the past few hours. Many messages that I received have inaccurately suggested that the district has "done absolutely nothing" to secure fourth-grade instrumental music instruction. I want to assure you that this is not the case, and I have outlined below the specific actions we have taken to address this position.

Consultant Hiring and Transition: The district initially hired Mr. Ian Macauley as a fourth-grade instrumental music consultant who began immediately. However, he soon transitioned to cover Ms. Gaffney's teaching assignment as a replacement teacher during her leave of absence. Following this change, we actively sought to "back-fill" Mr. Macauley's role by interviewing candidates and extending offers to two qualified individuals, both of whom declined due to personal reasons.

Current Employment Offer: We have since extended an employment offer to a third candidate who has **verbally accepted** the position. The only remaining step is completing a background check, after which this individual will provide services effective immediately. Once Ms. Gaffney returns, Mr. Macauley will resume his original role as a music consultant, which was initially planned and secured weeks ago.

Scheduling and Funding: Our elementary principals and Visual/Performing Arts Department Chair, Mr. Baccaro have developed flexible schedules to support this instruction and programming, and funds have been allocated from our previous years' kindergarten enrichment program to pay for this **enrichment service**, which is **not** required by the NJ Department of Education or common core standards but continues to be a priority.

This matter has also been discussed in recent public Board meetings. Recognizing a sense of urgency, the Board moved swiftly by permitting me to hire a consultant immediately, pending background clearance, without requiring formal Board approval, which is necessary with certificated positions.

Though my usual practice is to communicate when we have finalized updates, I wanted to share these developments promptly to minimize current misconceptions and to clarify our collective commitment and actions.

Please be assured that we are working diligently to secure this service as soon as possible and have a great night.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent