



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to share several important updates from across the district, including progress on facilities, program enhancements, and upcoming events.

Media Center Soft Opening

We are pleased to share that the district has received a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the newly renovated Media Center. We held a soft opening of the space during our Board of Education meeting on February 19. The redesigned media center includes several new instructional classrooms and a dedicated counseling suite, and we are extremely pleased with how the space has come together. **A re-dedication to Paul Giilgigan the III is currently being planned for later in the school year.** We look forward to welcoming students soon, once the process of returning books and materials to the shelves is complete. Photos of the new media center, courtesy of Dom Francesconi, are attached, and you may also view the full Board meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAYglkDXMRs>

Township Assistance with Snow Removal

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to **Mayor Randy Teague and the Haddon Township Public Works Department** for assisting our Buildings and Grounds team with snow removal efforts yesterday morning. Their support helped ensure our campuses were safe and prepared, allowing us to open with a 2-hour delay. Because the district does not contract out snow removal services, this partnership was especially meaningful. We are grateful for the Township's continued collaboration and commitment to the safety of our students and staff.

Staff Climate and Culture Survey Results

I am pleased to share high-level results from our recent districtwide staff climate and culture survey. Overall, the feedback was very positive and reflects the strength of our professional community. Highlights include:

- Meaningful collaboration among staff
- High levels of peer and administrative support
- A strong sense of school community and pride
- High levels of belonging, trust, and respect among individuals

Summary results are attached to this email and affirm the positive culture we continue to build together in Haddon Township. Student culture and climate surveys for grades 3- 8 will be administered over the next two weeks in all schools.

Before and After Care and Summer Recreation Programs

The Board of Education recently approved a partnership with **Right at School**, which will assume responsibility for our before- and after-care and summer recreation programs beginning this summer. This partnership will allow us to enhance program quality and flexibility while maintaining continuity for families. Planned improvements include:

- Flexible Summer Recreation scheduling options
- Expanded August Summer Recreation offerings
- Potential programming on select school days off next year
- Only a projected 3 percent increase in program costs
- Employment opportunities for all current district program staff who wish to continue

We are confident this partnership will strengthen our extended-day and summer offerings for families.

State Aid and Legislative Advocacy

As we approach the annual state aid announcement on **March 12**, I want to acknowledge that this remains a significant concern for our district. Despite rising operational costs, Haddon Township has experienced reductions in state aid in recent years, largely due to increases in local property values. In my view, rising property values should not reflect a community's ability to absorb additional financial burdens, and we continue to advocate for a better solution from Trenton. We are hosting a **Camden County Legislative Forum on March 6 at William G. Rohrer Middle School**, bringing together superintendents, board members, and state legislators, including Majority Leader Lou Greenwald, who will be our guest speaker. Our Board of Education, led by President Kellie Hinkle, and our Public Information Officer, Lori Perlow, are also actively engaged in our efforts for fairer solutions to school district funding. I will continue to keep you informed as more information becomes available, and we will receive next year's projected State Aid and its impact. A budget community meeting forum may be planned shortly thereafter if necessary.

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2026/02/20/nj-school-budget-deficits/>

Spring Musical Production Update

We look forward to our student production of *Newsies*, which has been postponed 30 days to March 26th, 27th, and 28th to allow for the completion of ADA accessibility improvements and construction completion in the auditorium foyer. These upgrades will ensure that our facilities are accessible and welcoming to all members of our community.

Winter Athletics

Best of luck to all of our winter athletic teams who are preparing for and participating in postseason competition. Congratulations to all of our student-athletes and coaches on another outstanding season representing Haddon Township with pride.

HTEF Trivia Night March 6

The Haddon Township Education Foundation will host its Trivia Night fundraiser on March 6 at Haddon Township High School. Doors open at 6:00 pm, with the game beginning at 7:00 pm. Teams of up to six players may register, and prizes will be awarded to top finishers. Proceeds directly support enhanced learning opportunities for our students.

Team registration is \$100, with an optional VIP dinner package for \$150 that includes pizza and beverages. This event is open to adults and high school students.

To register your team, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/HTEFtrivia>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our schools and students.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent