



# HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

As we transition deeper into spring, I hope this message finds everyone well and that the worst of the bad weather is behind us. It has certainly been a challenging stretch at times, but there are also many positive things happening across the district that I look forward to sharing with you. As always, we continue to navigate both opportunities and challenges, and I appreciate the ongoing support from our entire school community. Please see below for several important updates from around the district, and have a great weekend.

### School Calendar

Due to the two snow days this winter, I want to confirm that **Friday, April 10, will be a full day of school for all students and staff**. There had been earlier discussion about closing that day due to anticipated staff absences, with the idea of extending the school year into June. Since that time, we have finalized our substitute coverage and are confident in our ability to operate safely and effectively. As a result, April 10 will remain a full school day for all students and staff.

### Spring Musical Production Update

I'm excited to confirm that we are moving forward with our student production of **Newsies**, now scheduled for March 26, 27, and 28. The final step ahead of opening night is the completion of the concrete work at the entrance to the new foyer. I have full confidence that we will be ready to go next Thursday evening for opening night at 7 pm. While the auditorium is not yet 100% complete, you will see and feel many of the enhancements upon arrival, particularly in the foyer, as part of our accessibility and improvements. These upgrades are an important step in ensuring our facilities are welcoming and accessible to all members of our community. Most importantly, I hope we have a packed house. **Our students have shown tremendous resilience, working through a 30-day delay**, and they are ready to deliver a great performance. I look forward to being there Thursday night to welcome you and celebrate their hard work.

### Rohrer Middle School Readathon Success

Rohrer Middle School recently participated in the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia's annual "Read for the House" fundraiser, and once again, our students and staff delivered in a big way. **Since 2020, RMS has raised an impressive \$27,000 through this initiative.** This year alone, the school raised \$6,000 to support families in need. It's a great example of what can happen when our students rally around a cause bigger than themselves. To

celebrate, RMS held its second annual Student vs. Faculty Dodgeball Game. Despite the faculty's best efforts and a few flashes of athleticism, the students came out on top, winning nearly all six games. Congratulations to our students, and we'll give the faculty a chance to regroup for next year. A special thank you to Mrs. Amanda Tagmire and Mrs. Danielle Frank for organizing and leading this meaningful effort.

### **Budget Update**

The Board of Education met last night for our regular meeting and continued discussions on developing the district's budget for next school year. We are facing a very challenging set of circumstances. **We are (1) of 28 out of 600 districts in the state of New Jersey facing our third consecutive year of reduced state aid**, and we have also been notified that our **projected health benefits costs will increase by approximately 25%**. On a \$40 million budget, roughly \$8 million is tied to health benefits alone, which is a significant driver of our current deficit. Districts are permitted to apply a health benefits adjustment, and at this point, the Board will likely be considering a budget that falls somewhere between a 2% and 6% increase. Our goals are clear, but they are also in tension with one another. **We are working to minimize reductions to staff and student programs while also limiting the impact on taxpayers**. Those priorities do not always align easily, so **we are carefully exploring every possible option to reduce costs** while protecting the core of our educational program. In terms of next steps, the Board has scheduled a special meeting next Thursday, March 26th, at 5:30 PM to approve a preliminary budget, which must be submitted to the county by March 27. The Board can continue to revise that budget up until the public hearing on May 7. Once the budget is approved at that meeting, it is final. It is important to note that many surrounding districts in Camden County are facing similar challenges, particularly with rising health benefit costs. This is not an easy time for school leaders, board members, or residents, and we are approaching these decisions with the level of care and thoughtfulness they deserve.

Please see the link below for last night's Board meeting, which includes a detailed budget presentation from our Business Administrator, Mrs. Gauld, beginning at the 17:00 minute mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg0QPXHKURk>

### **Heartbeat: 2nd Annual Pops Concert & Art Show**

On April 15, 2026, the Haddon Township School District will present our 2nd Annual *Heartbeat Pops Concert & Art Show*, featuring the incredible talents of our students from elementary through high school. The evening will include both visual and performing arts, showcasing the depth and creativity of our programs across the district. Art galleries will open at 6:00 PM in the high school media center, followed by the concert at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. This event also serves as a fundraiser to support the arts in our schools. **Donations** per family are suggested. We hope to see many of you there for what promises to be a great night celebrating our students and their work.

## **Staff Retirements**

At last night's meeting, the Board of Education accepted two retirements. We thank Ms. April Tomaski, our Transportation Coordinator, and Ms. Maura McDermott, our high school math teacher and varsity swim coach, for their service and contributions to the Haddon Township School District. April stepped into the transportation coordinator role at a time of real need and did an outstanding job helping to stabilize and strengthen that area of our operations. Maura has dedicated more than two decades to our district, providing leadership in the classroom and as a coach. She has made a lasting impact on countless students and student-athletes over the years. We are grateful for their commitment to our schools and wish them both the very best in retirement.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent