Fire Island Union Free School District
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Dear Fire Island School District Families, Community Members, and Residents,

There are certain moments that remind us what makes the Fire Island School District so special.

Last winter, our students transformed record snowfall into an adventure, digging tunnels through mountains of snow after pathways had been cleared by our maintenance team. This spring, families, neighbors, and visitors lined the streets of Ocean Beach to cheer on our inaugural marching band as it joined cherished traditions such as our Winter Musical, Lunchbox Parents, the Thanksgiving Feast, and the many acts of service led by our Student Council.

Those moments represent far more than memorable school days. They reflect who we are as a community: a school district that proudly honors its traditions while continually embracing new opportunities that enrich the lives of our children. For more than 100 years, Fire Island has remained committed to providing an exceptional public education where every student is known, valued, challenged, and supported. That commitment continues to light our shores today.

It is in that spirit that I am pleased to share an important leadership announcement.

Earlier this week, the Board of Education appointed **Mrs. Danielle Flaumenhaft** as Principal of Woodhull School.

As she begins her fourth year with our district, Mrs. Flaumenhaft brings extensive instructional and leadership experience, having served throughout her career as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, school administrator, and adjunct university professor. Since joining Fire Island, she has earned the respect of students, staff, and families through her unwavering commitment to children, her collaborative leadership style, and her dedication to instructional excellence. I have every confidence that she will serve our community with distinction in this new role.

Throughout its history, the Fire Island School District has adapted its leadership structure to meet the evolving needs of its students and community. After thoughtful consideration, the Board of Education and I believe this administrative model best positions us for the future.

With a dedicated principal leading the daily life of Woodhull School, our students and staff will benefit from consistent instructional leadership, increased day-to-day administrative support, and an even stronger focus on teaching and learning. At the same time, I will continue serving as Superintendent with an active daily presence throughout the school while dedicating additional time to districtwide priorities, including long-range planning, educational innovation, fiscal stewardship, partnerships, facilities, and ensuring that every aspect of our school system continues to serve students and families at the highest level. This change expands our leadership capacity while maintaining the close relationships and accessibility our community has always valued. **Strong schools are built not by titles, but by teams of dedicated professionals working together on behalf of children. This leadership model strengthens that team and allows each member to focus more intentionally on the work they do best.**

I also want our community to know that this leadership transition has been accomplished **within the voter-approved budget**, reflecting the Board of Education's longstanding commitment to thoughtful financial planning and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. Fire Island has long balanced innovation with fiscal responsibility, and this transition reflects that same philosophy.

At the same meeting, the Board of Education also appointed **Mrs. Peggy Horton** to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Education. Ms. Horton is a respected member of the Fire Island community, a former member of the Board of Education, and the parent of Woodhull alumni. We are grateful for her willingness to once again serve our school community and thank her for sharing her time, experience, and commitment to public education. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to all members of our Board of Education for their continued service and thoughtful leadership on behalf of our students, families, and community.

For our students, the faces they know and trust will remain the same, even as responsibilities evolve. For families, this means an additional layer of support and leadership available each day. And for our broader community, it represents another investment in the continued strength of our district. While Woodhull remains at the heart of our work, we also remain deeply committed to supporting our secondary students, our Coast Guard families, and every child entrusted to our care throughout their educational journey.

This leadership transition also reflects the vision our community affirmed through our Strategic Plan: to nurture a welcoming and familial learning environment where engaging and personalized experiences ignite a lifelong passion for learning. Within this distinctive and dynamic setting, we cultivate imaginative and critical thinkers while fostering caring, innovative, and future-ready citizens. Every decision we make is measured against that vision and our responsibility to prepare today's students for tomorrow's opportunities.

As we prepare to welcome students back for another school year, I could not be more optimistic about what lies ahead. With Mrs. Flaumenhaft's appointment, the experience and dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff, the energy of our newest team members, and the unwavering support of our families and community, Fire Island enters this next chapter from a position of strength.

In the coming weeks, families should watch for our annual summer mailing, which will include important information to help prepare for the opening of the new school year. We look forward to welcoming our students back soon and to another year of learning, growth, and memorable experiences together.

Thank you for your ongoing trust in our school district. It is a privilege to serve this extraordinary community, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Travis Davey
Superintendent