NORTH CALDWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The State of Our District: Strong, Stable, and Moving Forward.
A Message from Superintendent Chris Checchetto and the North Caldwell Board of Education.

June 17, 2026

Dear Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As we conclude another successful school year, we want to take this opportunity to reflect on where we are as a district, recognize what we have accomplished together, and share our continued focus for the future.

Throughout the year, our schools have been filled with the moments that make North Caldwell special, from classroom achievements and academic success to concerts, performances, athletic competitions, school traditions, and graduation celebrations. These experiences, together with the dedication of our students, staff, and families, continue to make our schools a source of pride for our entire community.

A Year of Progress and Stability

This year brought important transitions and meaningful investments in our schools. We welcomed new leadership at Gould School, continued to strengthen our learning environments, advanced the Grandview School expansion project, and enhanced school safety through the addition of Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers.

One of the most significant initiatives this year was welcoming Officer Mike and Officer Joe to our school community. While their presence strengthens the safety and security of our schools, they have quickly become much more than that. They have built positive relationships with our

students and staff, become familiar and trusted faces in our hallways, and are now an important part of the fabric of our school community.

Their arrival followed months of thoughtful planning and collaboration. Board members and district administration consulted with neighboring districts and superintendents across the state to better understand how similar programs work in practice. The district worked closely with the Town Council, local public safety leadership, and sought input from families and staff before moving forward.

From the beginning, the focus was clear: the safety and well-being of our children. This was about making sure our students walk into buildings where they feel secure, supported, and able to simply be kids. We are grateful to our partners in the Town for treating this responsibility with the seriousness it deserves, and we look forward to continuing that collaboration on issues that matter to our schools and our residents.

Board members also devoted significant personal time this year to continued development and training. Members attended Board of Education seminars, governance workshops, and ethics training to strengthen their understanding of best practices in school district leadership. This commitment reflects our shared responsibility to govern thoughtfully, make informed decisions, and continue improving the way we serve the students, families, staff, and taxpayers of North Caldwell.

Financial stewardship is one of the Board of Education's most important responsibilities, and it is one we take seriously. Through careful long-term planning and responsible budgeting, we have maintained the financial stability of our district while preserving all educational programs, student services, and opportunities.

At a time when many school districts have faced extremely difficult financial decisions, North Caldwell has remained on solid footing. We protected our staff, maintained the programs and supports our families rely on, and avoided layoffs, ensuring continuity for our students and stability for our schools.

That same commitment to thoughtful planning is reflected in the Grandview School expansion project. This work addresses a real facility need while keeping the district focused on responsible long-term planning, student experience, and the future needs of our schools.

Communication

Transparency and open communication have been central to our work throughout the year. We recognize that families juggle busy schedules filled with work, school activities, homework, and countless daily responsibilities, making it difficult to follow every Board meeting or district update. That is why we have worked to make district information more accessible, timely, and easy to find.

This year, we expanded opportunities for families to connect directly with district leadership through Coffee with the Superintendent, where parents and community members can ask questions, share feedback, and engage in open conversation. We also introduced a dedicated construction updates section on the district website to keep families informed about the progress of the Grandview expansion, along with regular FAQs and district communications on issues affecting daily school life.

Our commitment is simple: families should never have to wonder where to find accurate information. When questions arise, they should be able to go directly to the source and receive clear, timely, and transparent communication. That commitment will continue to guide the way we serve our community.

Strong School Performance

Our schools continue to perform at exceptionally high levels.

Across a variety of measures, North Caldwell remains among the strongest-performing districts in the state. Recently released data from the New Jersey Department of Education School Performance Reports shows that our students are achieving at levels that exceed neighboring districts and are comparable to some of New Jersey's highest-performing school systems.

These results reflect the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, support staff, administrators, and families. They demonstrate the strength of our academic programs, the commitment of our educators, and the high expectations we set for student success.

While we are proud of these accomplishments, we remain focused on continuous improvement and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Investing in the Future

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the continued progress of the Grandview School expansion project.

As the district reviewed its long-term facility needs, it became increasingly clear that additional space at Grandview remained a priority. After a careful review of available options with our architects and facilities team, the Board of Education determined that an addition at Grandview was the most practical, responsible, and cost-effective path forward.

The project is being funded through a portion of the district's Capital Reserve, allowing us to address an important facility need with no additional tax impact to residents. It reflects our commitment to investing in students while remaining responsible stewards of taxpayer resources.

The expansion will add six classrooms, a new field, a new basketball court, and multiple new playgrounds. More importantly, it will improve the daily experience of our students. For the first time in years, our music program will have a dedicated classroom, and students receiving physical and occupational therapy will have appropriate instructional spaces rather than receiving services in a hallway. These are meaningful improvements that will benefit students for decades to come.

We are pleased to report that construction remains on schedule and is expected to be completed in time for the start of the upcoming school year. We look forward to welcoming students and staff into this expanded facility and to the new opportunities it will create for learning, growth, and success.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of all that has been accomplished and grateful for the partnership of our families, staff, and community. North Caldwell is strong, stable, and moving forward with a clear focus on students.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust as we work together to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student.

Sincerely,

Chris Checchetto
Superintendent of Schools

David Ved, Sapna Malige, Eric Finkelstein, Matthew Whitford, and Michael DiGirolomo
North Caldwell Board of Education