



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

Michael LaSusa

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Dear Staff and Parents,

Earlier this evening, our Board of Education approved a series of recommendations I made in order to arrive at a balanced budget for the 2022/2023 school year and address a number of the changes in administrative personnel we are facing. Below is an enumeration of the approved changes:

Washington Avenue School

Our current Supervisor of Science, Kristen Crawford, will assume the position of Acting Principal during Ms. Dudlo's upcoming leave of absence. Ms. Crawford has been a part of our leadership team since 2015 and often covers our schools when a principal is absent. She will work closely with Ms. Dudlo in the coming month so that the transition is a smooth one.

Southern Boulevard School

Marco Freyre will assume the role of Principal at SBS. Mr. Freyre has served as Assistant Principal at Lafayette Avenue School for the past ten years. Last school year, when we opened our buildings in the midst of the pandemic, he served as Acting Principal at WAS for six months. Mr. Freyre will work with Ms. O'Connor as we wind down this school year so that we have a smooth transition. We will not immediately fill the position of Assistant Principal at LAF in order to realize budgetary savings.

Chatham High School

Doug Walker will assume the position of Principal at CHS. Mr. Walker has been an Assistant Principal at CHS for the past ten years and is closely involved with all aspects of building administration, including master scheduling and the college admissions process. Connor Henderson, our current Dean of Students, will transfer into the position of Assistant Principal that Mr. Walker is vacating. We will not fill the position of Dean of Students, and thus we will realize budgetary savings.

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Mary Donohue will assume the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Donohue currently serves as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction / K-8 Principal in Harding Township. Dr. Donohue emerged as the strongest candidate for this position in a very talented and experienced field of educators. We are excited to welcome Dr. Donohue to our team.

Other District Positions

In reviewing our staffing needs, we will create a new position titled Director of Arts and Languages, which will consolidate the positions of Supervisor of Performing Arts and Supervisor of World Languages. This position will span 12 months and will direct and oversee the performing arts and world language programs in the district. The consolidation of these positions into one will result in additional budgetary savings.

We will continue to fill positions that are currently open through the balance of this school year and into the summer. Our goals in all of the above decision-making are to place the most qualified individuals into key positions and to realize budgetary savings in a way that protects programming and instruction at the classroom and student levels. I am excited to welcome all of these individuals into their new positions and I am confident they will do a great job. Thank you as always for your flexibility and partnership as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Michael LaSusa

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