



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

June 23, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Recognition of Students and More at Last Evening's Board Meeting;  
Superintendent Comments from June 22 BOE meeting: Opportunity to Help More Students Sooner Through our Separate Proposal Questions; Seeking Submissions for Inspirational Video for Staff Opening Day 2023 (Deadline Extended Till July 1); Opportunities and Resources.

"Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child."

– Unknown

"Be Kind. Be Very Kind."

– T-Shirt worn by an ETSD student

"Kindness Is Power"

– T shirt worn by an ETSD student

**Reminder:** [Summer Literacy and Math Project - Evesham Township School District](#)

**June 27: [ETSD ECC Hiring Event](#) (ages 16 and up)**

**[ECC Registration \(deadline Aug 20\)](#)**

## **Recognition of Students and More at Last Evening's Board Meeting**

139 students, plus staff, Board, and community members, were honored at our Board meeting last night. Names and more information are listed on our Board agenda ([Items 4.1 and 4.2](#)).

These amazing achievements are:

- Transportation Coordinator Barbara Olt retiring after 56 years of service to our School District
- Evesham Education Foundation for donating over \$71,000 to our School District
- Board Member Joe Fisicaro, Jr. for earning the New Jersey School Boards Association Milestone Award for 16 years of Board of Education service
- 2 students for having their artwork selected for the Evesham Education Foundation's silent auction
- 6 students as 2023 NJ Competitive Season Math League Winners
- 16 students as 2023 NJ Competitive Season Stock Market Winners



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

- 9 students as 2023 Elks Essay Contest winners
- 22 students for the DeMasi Girls' Soccer Team's undefeated season
- 23 students for the DeMasi Boys' Soccer Team's undefeated season
- 61 students for earning 2023 District Elementary Honors Band placement

## **Superintendent Comments from June 22 BOE meeting: Opportunity to Help More Students Sooner Through our Separate Proposal Questions**

After all those recognitions of so many students and stakeholders this evening, I would be tempted to forgo my Superintendent Comments, but I have another positive to share, about something that benefits kids, about how our district will be able to help more kids, and sooner, than we planned. I will dedicate my comments this evening to sharing a positive update on our separate proposal questions for tuition-free FDK and mental health services. The bottom line, passing the questions in November means we get the additional money earlier than anticipated. Agenda item 9.20 is a resolution to adopt the same two separate proposal questions that were already adopted as part of our 2023-24 Final Budget approved by our Board on April 27. The difference between the wording then, and the wording now in item 9.20, is the school year. The previous version stated that these funds would be raised in the 2024-25 school year. This evening's recommended version states these funds would be raised in the 2023-24 school year. This change is required by the State of New Jersey, which also requires that the additional taxes approved by the passing of this separate question must start in January, 2024, meaning our district must begin using that money in January, 2024 as well. The state will not let those taxes start in July, 2024. The annual \$98 in additional taxes for the average assessed home in Marlton will be taken in full from January through June 2024 if question passes, at \$49 each of the first 2 tax quarters of January 1 and April 1. And then starting in July 2024 and for each year moving forward, the annual taxes will be distributed across all four yearly tax quarters, at \$24.50 per quarter.

What would we do with the additional money (\$1.9 million) we would now receive earlier (from January through June 2024)?

First, we would refund FDK tuition on a prorated basis covering from January through June 2024, amounting to \$3300.48 refund per student, if paid in full by Jan. 1, 2024. This would make the 2023-24 cost of full day kindergarten tuition per student \$2,200 instead of \$5,500, if



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

the separate proposal passes. If it doesn't pass, then naturally, there is no refund, and 2023-24 tuition would remain \$5,500. This refund in total would be about \$819,000, anticipated based on past full day kindergarten numbers. \$1.9 million, minus \$819,000 equals \$1,081,000, which would go into Excess Surplus to address important challenges ahead.

The first dire challenge is that our district is facing a projected state aid loss in 2024-25 of \$602,869, due to S2. While 2024-25 is the last year of S2, we cannot cut what has already been cut, and for the 2023-24 school year we only avoided cutting an educational program by the narrowest of margins. The State has not said what will happen with state aid after 2024-25. Based on the State's refusal to share their state aid formula, and their lack of response to the question of why our state aid has fallen 49%, with more to come, from its peak, while our student enrollment has dropped 19% from its peak, state aid for Evesham Township School District may not improve after 2024-25.

The second important challenge is capital projects, totaling over half a million dollars, including replacing the HVAC system in the Beeler cafeteria and in the Van Zant cafeteria and library, as well as roof replacements throughout the district, bathroom renovation at Marlton Middle School, and more. For the first time in many years, the State has made capital projects grant money (ROD grants) available for districts to apply for, and we applied for many projects including at DeMasi, Jaggard, MES, Rice, and Van Zant. If the state approves these grants, they pay for 40% of the cost. The problem is, the State is saying they've been flooded with applications and won't have money for all of them, which means our district will be left to make up the shortfall for any application not approved, up to \$732,000 total for any ROD Grants not approved.

So, any additional money from January through June 2024, through the approval of the tuition-free FDK separate proposal question, and more, is already desperately needed. And even with these additional taxes, our annual budget will still be millions lower than the state average for districts our size.

Again, bottom line, passing these questions means more help for more students sooner. And exponentially, it means being able to provide more support for students in more ways moving forward. Big example, pending the approval of the Fiscal Year 24 state budget, all public school districts that provide full day kindergarten, regardless of Free and Reduced Price Lunch percentages, will be eligible to apply for preschool expansion grants for the 2023-2024



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

school year. The catch here, our district is NOT eligible for this grant money, because we are the only district in all of South Jersey still charging tuition for FDK.

Communication about the potential prorated FDK tuition refund will be going out specifically to families of incoming kindergarten students next week.

## **DEADLINE EXTENDED TILL JULY 1: Seeking Submissions for Inspirational Video for Staff Opening Day 2023**

*Are you an ETSD Graduate with a story to share about staff who made a difference for you?*

As part of planning an Opening Day In-Service Kickoff on Aug. 30 with All Staff Together for the first time in 20 years, our district is looking to put together a video of graduates talking about their ETSD experiences, and how our staff made a difference in their lives.

Please spread the word, we'd love to hear from as many graduates as possible. Thank you!!

Anyone interested, two options for how to contribute... 1) email your video (any format) to Cindy Esposito at [espositoc@evesham.k12.nj.us](mailto:espositoc@evesham.k12.nj.us) or 2) stop by our Administration Building (25 S. Maple Ave.) anytime and record your video with us.

Submission Deadline: Saturday, July 1

Ideal video length = +/- 30 seconds

## **Opportunities and Resources**

- [https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community\\_activities](https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities)
- [South Jersey Innovation Center](#) (great place for chess player development too)

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith  
Superintendent of Schools