



Evesham Township School District

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

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

October 27, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Superintendent Comments from October 26 BOE meeting; New Business Administrator/Board Secretary & Transportation Coordinator, Jan. 2024; Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) survey now available; In-Person Early Voting Opens Tomorrow; Ballot Questions Flyer Hard Copies available; Opportunities and Resources

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– proverb with variations tracing back to multiple continents

(our 2023-24 District Theme is “Cooperation is Key”)

AWESOME UPCOMING EVENT: [Brick Build w/Cherokee's Robotics Team!](#) **Nov. 18**

[VAN ZANT PTO HOLIDAY SHOPPING VENDOR EVENT.pdf](#)

Superintendent Comments from October 26 BOE meeting

I'd like to start my comments by affirming that Evesham Township School District is committed to the safety of all our students and staff. Recent events in the Middle East, the situation there, is horrific and terrible. Families and staff in our district, the largest K-8 district in the county, serving the largest town in the county, have connections, even some direct connections, to that region and situation, as well as connections to many conflicts worldwide. In light of all that is going on globally, I just want to affirm that our schools are and will always be communities of support and care for all people, all students, of all backgrounds. Our mission, now as before, is to do whatever we can to support children, to foster safe and welcoming school environments for everyone, and to take appropriate and swift action to combat hate. Our staff and counselors are resources for students who may be dealing with stress related to these horrible and tragic ongoing events.

The work of our staff in supporting students and fostering kindness, the work of our parents and families in supporting our schools, has tremendous and real value, locally and in the world, as our children carry forward with them that kindness, empathy, and care, into every



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conversation, every interaction, every encounter and situation and experience, here and anywhere on the globe.

As this is our last Board meeting before the Nov. 7 vote, I'd like to give an update for the Board on our work toward our #1 District and Board Goal of achieving tuition-free full day kindergarten for all. Our schools, our PTAs, ETEA, and our FDK Committee, have been working to spread the word about our ballot questions. Committee and community members are attending this evening. We appreciate every ounce of that effort and every person helping, in whatever capacity, including through just having a conversation with a neighbor, about why these ballot questions matter. Our district homepage has more information. I'd encourage everyone to learn more, and remember to vote.

Lastly, I feel it prudent to share a few words about a personal matter, simply because I do live in town, and am grateful for living here, and how it may help me hear, see, and understand our community. A For Sale sign may appear in front of our house in the future. Now, that may not be of interest to anyone, probably not, but just in case, so no one would waste even one moment wondering why, my wife and I are looking to buy a house on Main St. in Medford. When I met Elissa nearly 30 years ago, she was managing a bakery and coffee shop in Eugene, Oregon. That was before her path to law school, before marriage, kids, juggling family and career, and all the while there was this maybe someday dream of a bakery. She has made sacrifices, most of all for me, with many hours not at home. Her dream, our dream. So we may be moving, but close enough I can still drive Marlton roads before making a snow call.

New Business Administrator/Board Secretary & Transportation Coordinator, Jan. 2024

I'd like to congratulate all our new hires at our Board meeting last evening and share some words about two appointments in particular. First, Jonathan Yates was appointed as our new Business Administrator/Board Secretary, starting in January 2024. Mr. Yates is currently the Business Administrator in Medford Twp. School District, prior to which he was BA in Pinelands Regional and Little Egg Harbor School Districts. As can be seen in our [District Organization Chart 2023-24](#), the Business Administrator role is responsible for many important facets, overseeing the Business Office, Budgeting, Facilities, Food Service, Transportation, and more, involving not just experience and skills, which Mr. Yates has in abundance, including dealing state aid losses, but also integrity and judgment, qualities that shine through in what he does



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and says. And to top it all off, Mr. Yates is a Marlton and ETSD dad. And that detail has real value, as the lenses we look through in our work are manifold, as we seek to walk in the shoes of any stakeholder affected by decisions we make.

Second, Rob Sidor, our new Transportation Coordinator beginning Jan 2, 2024, brings a wealth of skills to this important role, as well as a bifocal lens of experience within and beyond our district. He is currently the Transportation Coordinator in Voorhees Twp. School District, prior to which he was Assistant Transportation Coordinator in ETSD and before that was an ETSD bus driver. We are super excited to have Rob back, even though in a sense he never left, as throughout all these steps he has been a Marlton and ETSD dad.

Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) survey now available under the "Forms" tab in [Genesis Parent Portal](#). Deadline: Sat. Oct. 28, 9 am

In-Person Early Voting Opens Tomorrow at the Gibson House Basement, 535 Main St., Mon.-Sat. 10 AM–8 PM and Sun. 10 AM–6 PM. No appointment is necessary.

https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml?WT.mc_id=Campaign_EarlyVoting-Flyer

Ballot Questions Flyer Hard Copies available

Please just reply to my email if you would like hard copies (goldenrod) of our [Ballot Questions Flyer](#) (also linked on our homepage). The flyer is being shared in multiple ways. I'd encourage everyone to take a few moments to have at least one conversation with a neighbor about the importance of these ballot questions. Conversation = connection = understanding.

Opportunities and Resources

- [Community Activities](#)
- **Rescheduled for April (date TBD):** Autism Awareness Color Run & Sensory Walk
- TODAY: Deadline for [Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest](#)
- Oct. 29: [Little Chiefs' Trunk or Treat!](#)
- Nov. 3: [Designer Bag Bingo, DMS, 11.3.23, 6-9 pm](#)



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- Nov. 3, 5-8 pm: [youth-focused Diwali event](#) with fun activities and educational aspects geared toward student-aged residents, hosted by the Evesham Youth Advisory Council at the Gibson House Community Center (535 E. Main St.)
 - Nov. 18: [Brick Build w/Cherokee's Robotics Team!](#)
 - Every Monday, 7 pm: Scouts BSA, Troop 49 meeting at St. Joan of Arc cafe

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools