

At last night's Board meeting Meghan Haynes was sworn in as a Monmouth Beach Board of Education member. She takes over the seat previously held by Barbara Kay who stepped down from her position.

Our summer programs are proceeding as planned. Our neighbor school district, Oceanport Public Schools, had some unexpected facilities issues related to asbestos abatement which will prevent them from running their summer programs in their district. They will be here in Monmouth Beach July 25 to August 11 using ten of our classrooms. We're happy to pay them back for the kind consideration we received from them during Superstorm Sandy.

At last night's Board meeting there were a number of items approved related to the operation of the district in 2022-2023. Based on the current projected enrollment, the decision was made to consolidate Grade 1 and Grade 3 into one class each. All other Grades K-8 will have two classes (elementary) or sections (middle school). Grade 2 has two classes for core courses (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies), but most of the special classes (i.e. Art, Music, Maker, Spanish) will be conducted as one class.

The Board also approved the weekly instructional minutes for all courses, the teacher assignments and the revised school start/stop times for 2022-2023. Dismissal time will remain 2:45pm for K-8, but arrival time in homeroom for K-8 will now be 8:10am. Instruction will start at 8:15am. The school will all be on an A/B alternating day basis. Mrs. Horr  will have much more details on this and other start of school items when she assumes the Superintendent/Principal position and sends out her welcome materials, class schedules and other information.

Also approved at last night's Board meeting was the reestablishment of a dedicated school library/media center in Room 1 and dedication of regular daily middle school guidance counselor support hours.

In the coming weeks we will be assembling the class lists and loading students into our Real Time student data system. Mrs. Horr  will forward this material home in late August. We expect the Individual Score Reports from the spring state assessments to be released by the NJ Department of Education in early September. We have individual scores from the state assessments given us by the NJDOE that we can use in making student placements, but the data is currently under embargo for public release by the NJ Department of Education.

We still have three openings for staff in 2022-2023 and are actively in the interview process:

- 1) Teacher of Technology Education (Innovation Lab/Computer Literacy)
- 2) Teacher of Spanish (part time) (teaching middle school level)
- 3) Teacher Aide (1 position) (general education support in middle school and support in the Library)

All other staff have been secured for the new year, including a new middle school math teacher and a new school nurse, both of whom have extensive past school experience.

We have curriculum writing ongoing this summer. Under the new master schedule, Health education will occur during the time dedicated to Health and Physical Education. The plan is to teach Health on a shared basis with Physical Education in Quarter 2 and 3 when the weather is colder and to dedicate the time in Quarter 1 and 4 exclusively to Physical Education to take advantage of the warmer weather and our outside facilities. As such, there will be more than sufficient time at the start of the school year for parents to review our new district Health curriculum and materials, long before any instruction is initiated in same.

Earlier this month, schools in New Jersey received updated guidance from the NJ Department of Health for the operation of schools related to the ongoing impact of COVID. I have attached the latest guidance to this email should you want to read it in detail. Clearly the impacts of COVID-19 remain a concern and an ongoing issue for school operations in 2022-2023. Attached for your information are:

- 1) The latest COVID-19 weekly surveillance report in NJ
- 2) Summary from the NJ Department of Health of the updated guidance for K-12 school districts
- 3) Details from the NJ Department of Health of the updated guidance for K-12 school districts
- 4) Details for "test to stay" procedures if employing that option

I want to alert all our families that on Friday, August 5th, our Monmouth Beach Police Department will be conducting police training on our campus. We will have no students in the building. You may note many police vehicles by the school on that day, but this is not an emergency, but instead planned and scheduled training. We are always open to first responders training in our building as it increases their familiarity of our facilities should some real-life emergency actually present itself.

Related to our school leadership transitions, we expect Mrs. Amanda Mergner, our Academic Supervisor, to return from leave on Monday, August 1st. She and Mrs. Meghan Vaccarelli will do a one-week turnover. Mrs. Vaccarelli stepped up and did a wonderful job in this role from late April on. We give her our sincere thanks as she returns to her teaching position duties in 2022-2023.

Mrs. Yelena Horré, our new Superintendent/Principal will also start in the district on Monday, August 1st. She and I will have a two-week turnover planned, which will be complete by Friday, August 12th, my last day in the district. I'm sure she will be communicating with you shortly thereafter as we gear up for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Our staff will be reassembling on Thursday, September 1st and Friday, September 2nd for professional development days (no students). All students report on Tuesday, September 6th (the day after Labor Day). The first two days of school will be an early dismissal.

We are still working to finalize a date/time for Pre-Kindergarten orientation. We will be out with that notice shortly.