

# Millstone Township School District

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June 13, 2018

Dear Millstone Families,

As the school year comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to lead your school district. While the past ten months have certainly presented their fair share of challenges, it has been a fantastic experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to observe kindergarteners learn letter sounds in the morning and 8<sup>th</sup> graders solve quadratic equations in the afternoon. I have marveled at the creativity and progressive thinking our teachers bring to their classrooms each day. And I am in awe of how diligently our support staff members work behind the scenes to make the district function so well. In addition, I am grateful for the newfound skills I've acquired such as interpreting weather maps, tracking radar, and predicting snow.

As you all know, unfortunately, the Board, administration, staff and I have spent a significant amount of time this year auditing our safety and security policies, practices, and procedures. The unfathomable increase in school violence has motivated us to look at things differently and more intently. As a result, we've made a number of changes to help better secure our buildings and protect our most precious assets. Some of these changes may be noticeable while others are more subtle and discreet.

In the months ahead, this process will continue, and additional security measures will be put in place for the start of school in September. While some of our enhancements will remain confidential, others will be visible and noticeable. For instance, we are planning to upgrade security cameras in all schools and further improve the security of entryways. In addition, the Board approved, at Monday night's meeting, a shared service agreement with the Manalapan Police Department. This agreement allows the Manalapan Police Department to provide the district with a law enforcement presence every day during school hours. This resource will complement the arrangement currently in place with the New Jersey State Police and provide us with additional resources and support. We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to the opportunities it presents.

Again, thank you for a wonderful year. I know that our schools are the special places they are, in large part, because of the community we are located in and the partnership that we've developed among parents and staff. Your trust and confidence are greatly appreciated.

Over the summer, please reinforce the importance of safety, "street smarts", and digital citizenship as your children enjoy the freedoms that come with being out of school. Stress the importance of reading continually and remind your children that their character is what defines them. And above all else, have fun and enjoy one another's company as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Huss