



# 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

September 29, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Cliff's Notes Re: ETSD's 2 Separate Proposal Ballot Questions; Superintendent Comments from Sept. 28 BOE meeting; Evesham Education Foundation Upcoming Events; 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")

## [Cliff's Notes Re: ETSD's 2 Separate Proposal Ballot Questions](#)

### **Superintendent Comments from Sept. 28 BOE meeting**

I'd like to start by recognizing points of light. First congratulations to our Board Member Dr. Cappello, in her first regular board meeting since earning her doctorate. Since school started seventeen days ago, we've seen our staff work in all roles to help our students make a smooth transition to school, routines, expectations, and begin to develop the relationships and connections that are the lifeblood of learning and the positive impact that we strive for in our mission as a district. This is palpable across our district. And so thank you to everybody, from our teachers, to our paraprofessionals, to our administrators, clerk typists, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, and more, to everybody, for seeing our kids, for hearing our kids, for valuing our kids, and making them feel that, so they can learn. Thank you to our staff as well for their efforts in the excellent Back to School Nights which extended over two weeks. Thank you to our parents and families for their attendance at Back to School Night and their support of the work of our staff, as the partnership of schools and families is key to student success.

Another point of light: on the agenda for approval tonight is our first batch of extracurricular activities for the year. Our extracurricular programming is second to none. I would encourage all families to talk with your children about signing up and discovering the fun, the belonging, the growth that comes with after school activities. The activities look a little different at each school depending on variables like staff availability and expertise. Gratitude to our staff who have committed to serving as advisors and coaches.



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I'd like to recognize that it is currently National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15, and celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Our schools recognize this month in varying ways throughout.

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to check out the link on our homepage to information about our separate proposal ballot questions, up for community vote on Nov. 7. More information will be added. The goal of Question 1 is to make tuition-free full day kindergarten a reality for all students, supporting student growth and equal opportunity (and, it bears mentioning, strengthening property values). The goal of Question 2 is to increase mental health services for elementary and middle school students including prevention, intervention, and support. Thank you to the parent, staff, and community volunteers involved in our Full Day Kindergarten Committee, which met earlier this week. Our website flyer will be shared in various ways at events and in neighborhoods over the weeks ahead. I'd encourage everyone to take a few moments to have at one least one conversation with a neighbor about the importance of these questions, and this effort. If we all do that, thousands of person to person conversations, understanding will spread like sunshine. In that spirit, I'm bringing back Tent Day with the Superintendent in front of our administration building. I last did that back in August 2020. Pending weather, as it's been crazy rainy lately, on Saturday Oct. 7 from 9 to 3, I'll be sitting outside our admin building for anyone who wants to come by, especially anyone who has questions about or wants to talk about our ballot questions, and especially especially anyone who may be on the fence about either one. A chance for a conversation would be wonderful. It is so exciting for our district and community to be working on this goal, our #1 District and Board goal of Tuition-Free FDK for All.

## Evesham Education Foundation Upcoming Events

- [EEF Annual Fall Dinner, 10.5.23](#)
- [EEF Movie Night, Savich Field, 10.13.23, Super Mario Bros](#)
- FANTASTIC NEW EVENT: [Designer Bag Bingo, DMS, 11.3.23, 6-9 pm](#)



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## Opportunities and Resources

- [Community Activities](#)
- Oct. 7: Conversation w/Superintendent, 9 am - 3 pm, 25 S. Maple Ave. (please feel free to stop by to chat with me about our ballot questions, especially for anyone uncertain about voting)
- Oct. 21: [Autism Awareness Color Run & Sensory Walk 10.21.23](#) @ Rice
- Oct. 26: [BCIT DISCOVERY NIGHT 2023](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools