

Dear Families and Staff;

In my 13 years of college and graduate education there was not a single class on how to navigate a pandemic while leading a school district. I am sure that this is as true for every teacher and administrator in this district as it is for me. On the anniversary of the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown, I find myself looking back over the last year marveling over what we have accomplished: Our custodians who adjusted to every new cleaning requirement; our nurses who managed to out contact trace the department of health; our CST in finding creative ways to support their students; the administrative team who pivoted on the fly to what seemed liked daily changes in direction from the state; the support staff whose efforts in keeping the administrators on track is so often unsung; the teachers who reinvented teaching time and time again, often from scratch; and finally the Board of Education for supporting us as we navigated all of it. My hope is that we emerge from the Pandemic stronger from the experience and leverage the lessons learned to make the District more dynamic for all of our students.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of two long time Berkeley Heights central office fixtures, Donna Felezzola and Tom Long. I am sad to be losing so much wisdom and experience, but so happy for them and their families.

Donna Felezzola has been our Business Administrator for 15 years and is retiring effective June 30, 2021. I compliment her for all of her hard work over the years and keeping the district in compliance and in the black. But Donna's impact on the district is beyond the numbers - she will be remembered for her kindness, humanity, and her care for everyone. Donna, you will be missed.

Tom Long, the assistant to the superintendent has worked for both the Union County Regional District, and after regionalization, Berkeley Heights Public Schools for 34 years. Tom Long has been an invaluable resource to the district. His understanding of the in and outs of the Department of Education and how to navigate it are masterful. Anyone with any experience with the Department of Education knows how truly impressive this is. Tom will also be missed.

We are in the final stages of wrapping up our investigation from the December 21st, 2020 Board Meeting. At this point, we do not have any former students who have come forward to file a formal report. Before we close the investigation, we are urging anyone who wishes to make a complaint about any current or former situations in Berkeley Heights Public Schools to come forward now.

As required by law, current student concerns have to be investigated through the HIB process. If a student wishes to report an allegation, they may do so through the [district anonymous reporting system](#). Former students can file a report at BHFormerStudents@cgajlaw.com.

In other news:

- If we do not have another snow day prior to our April 8th Board meeting, the board will have the calendar on the April 8th agenda to approve the “give back” days of May 28th and June 1st.

And Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!:

- To the group of women who worked tirelessly to get our staff vaccinated. All of our staff members have had the opportunity to get the COVID 19 vaccine. We are one step closer to normal.
- To thank Principal Han Wu for the Chinese School's donation of thousands of PPE items for our teachers and staff!
- To the BHEF, what would we do without you? Thank you for over \$30,000 worth of grant money for our staff members.

Covid Update:

New Cases (since 3/15 update)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
GLHS	2 Students	Fully Remote Students No in-school exposure
TPH	1 Student	Last day in school 3/15 Close contacts notified

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Varley