



May 9, 2017

Good Morning,

As the Spring weather provides hope for a warm and relaxing summer, I would like to take this moment to discuss the greatest challenge facing the Cresskill School District. As most of you are aware, our wonderful town has seen a dramatic increase in population over the last few years. Similarly, our school district has also seen rapid enrollment growth as well:

School Year	Cresskill Schools Enrollment
2012-2013	1729
2013-2014	1762
2014-2015	1783
2015-2016	1796
2016-2017	1845

The biggest impact of the increased enrollment has been felt by our two elementary schools: Edward H. Bryan and Merritt Memorial. Due to a lack of available space, our K-5 class sizes have grown well beyond the acceptable Bergen County averages. Some of elementary grades have class sizes that rank among the highest in the state of New Jersey. With growth expected to continue, our school district is in dire need of your help. In addition to increasing class sizes, many programs are in danger of being abolished due to the lack of classroom space.

On Tuesday, September 26th, 2017, we will be proposing a referendum to ask for your assistance to address the increasing enrollment concerns. The Cresskill School District and Board of Education are proposing to create an eight classroom Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten building directly connected to Edward H. Bryan School. We are very fortunate that the land needed for such a building has been purchased by the Town Council. Without their assistance, there would be no available property to address the issue.

This building will house all of our pre-K and kindergarten programs for the entire Cresskill School District. This will provide much needed classroom space for our two elementary schools, allowing both Bryan and Merritt School to remain in a first grade through fifth grade structure.

In addition, the referendum will include replacing the roofs and windows at both elementary schools, which are rapidly approaching the end of their useful life. If the referendum is successful, the district would then be eligible for state reimbursement to offset some of the expenses. Both the roof and window replacements are large scale capital projects that could otherwise only be addressed over a series of years through our annual budget.



I welcome all of you to attend an information session on Wednesday, May 17th at the CHS/CMS auditorium at 7:30 pm. We will be joined by Mr. Jerry Rubino of DiCara/Rubino Architects who will present the design of the new building. Mr. Rubino has over 28 years of experience and has worked with many school districts throughout New Jersey on successful bond referendums.

Thank you for your support of the Cresskill School District. I look forward to seeing you on May 17th.

Kind Regards,

Michael Burke

Superintendent

Cresskill School District

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