

February 27, 2024

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents and Community Members,

On Thursday, February 29, 2024, it is anticipated that the Board of Education will approve my recommendation for Dr. Clifford Burns to be the Assistant Superintendent of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. Dr. Burns will replace Mr. Daniel Bland, who has retired. Dr. Burns' anticipated start date is March 1.

With 20 years of experience in education, Dr. Burns is an educational leader and champion of student success. He began his career in education teaching 4th- and 5th-grades in New York City. He advanced into administration in New Jersey school districts, first as an assistant principal in Stanhope and Vernon, then as an elementary principal in Randolph. In 2021, Dr. Burns was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Andover.

Reflecting on his transition to Flemington-Raritan, Dr. Burns shared, *"I am truly grateful to be joining the team of dynamic educators in the Flemington-Raritan School District. I am also thankful to Dr. McGann, the hiring committee, and our Board of Education members for their confidence in me to serve as FRSD's next Assistant Superintendent of Schools. There is so much good happening here and I am excited to apply my passions and expertise to continue the work of creating the very best educational experiences for our students. I look forward to joining this wonderful educational community very soon."*

Dr. Burns earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in inclusive education with gifted extension from Nyack College. He earned a second master's degree and a doctorate degree in educational leadership, management and policy from Seton Hall University. He is committed to supporting faculty and staff, developing a positive school climate, providing school leadership and vision and working collaboratively to ensure student success.



I am grateful for the many members of our community who assisted in the interview process for this very important position in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. A special thank you to the first round interview committee and the second round of committee members.

First-round committee members are:

1. Mrs. Tanya Dawson, Business Administrator
2. Mrs. Aileen Marsh, FREA President and Teacher at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
3. Joseph Kassick, Reading Recovery Coach, Teacher at Copper Hill Elementary School
4. Dr. Danielle Hamblin, Director of Pupil Services
5. Mr. Bob Castellano, J.P. Case Middle School Principal, FRAA Co-President
6. Mr. Ralph Losanno, Supervisor of Technology
7. Mrs. Melissa Lees, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent
8. Ms. Courtney Angiuli, Francis A. Desmares Elementary School Parent
9. Mr. Chris Smolk, Robert Hunter Elementary School Parent

**Strategic Goals:**

**Goal Area #1:** The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways.

**Goal Area #2:** Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the district to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

**Goal Area #3:** The district will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school district in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

**Goal Area #4:** Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

**Goal Area #5:** Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing district.

Second-round committee members are:

1. Mrs. Michelle Hurley, Board of Education President
2. Mrs. Jaclyn Arce, Board of Education Vice President
3. Mrs. Kristen Wolff, Supervisor of Science and Mathematics
4. Dr. Michelle Cook, Supervisor of Language Arts and Social Studies
5. Mr. Mark Masessa, Francis A. Desmares Elementary School Principal and FRAA Co-President
6. Mr. Jeff Miller, FREA Vice President and Reading-Fleming Intermediate School Teacher
7. Dr. Anthony DeMarco, Reading-Fleming Intermediate School Principal

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Clifford Burns to the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools

**Strategic Goals:**

**Goal Area #1:** The District will provide a comprehensive and rigorous educational experience that connects and expands students' knowledge while engaging and empowering all learners to synthesize and apply their skills and understandings in meaningful ways.

**Goal Area #2:** Develop a continuation of a multi-tiered system of support within the district to target the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

**Goal Area #3:** The district will create opportunities to foster unity between the community and the school district in order to strengthen partnerships and develop a shared responsibility for student success.

**Goal Area #4:** Create an enticing and competitive work environment to attract and retain high-quality candidates representative of students' diverse backgrounds in the Flemington Raritan Regional School District community.

**Goal Area #5:** Ensure the finance and facilities needs are budgeted to upkeep and meet the needs of the growing district.