



July 31, 2024

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

I hope everyone is enjoying summer so far. Here in the District, the weeks are passing quickly. Our team is working hard to prepare for the start of the new school year. We can't wait to see our students on September 5!

At this time, it is important that I notify our families about recent and severe action taken by Hunterdon Central's Board of Education related to bussing. On July 22, 2024, the Hunterdon Central Board of Education voted, 6-3, to dissolve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Established in 1995, the JTC has governed shared transportation services through a joint operating agreement between Hunterdon Central and Flemington-Raritan for nearly 30 years. Unfortunately, this joint agreement will end at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

Rest assured, all Flemington-Raritan students who are eligible for transportation services will be provided bussing during the 2024-2025 school year. The Hunterdon Central Transportation Department will provide bussing information to Flemington-Raritan families in August and they will continue to provide bussing from September 2024 to June 2025.

The Flemington-Raritan administration and Board of Education are deeply disappointed in Hunterdon Central's ultimate decision. Though we cannot speak to another Board's actions, Flemington-Raritan believes that an ongoing dispute regarding preschool transportation was a contributing factor as well as guidelines outlining shared ownership of the JTC. I wrote about this issue in letters to parents on [April 15](#), [January 15](#), [January 5](#) and in a [preschool FAQ published in June](#).

Flemington-Raritan sought to resolve transportation disagreements amicably. Then, it evolved into a significant dispute when not all preschool students were provided transportation. In the spirit of goodwill and to seek a resolution, reduce the risk of litigation, and avoid affecting students, Flemington-Raritan administration and Board of Education agreed to several Hunterdon Central requests. We:

- Extended the Hunterdon Central Bus Drivers Association contract for the 2024-2025 school year, providing a 3.3% salary increase;
- Approved the driver sidebar agreement for the 2024-2025 school year (with a retention bonus);
- Supported the recommendation for a new transportation supervisor;
- Sought assistance from the Hunterdon County Office of the New Jersey State Department of Education to resolve transportation disputes; however, disagreements remained despite Flemington-Raritan receiving the Executive County Superintendent's support.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, Flemington-Raritan must provide transportation that meets the needs of all eligible students without the JTC and the joint agreement in place. I am confident we will rise up to this challenge. We will face this task as we do all others and as our mission statement reminds us - *as a Community of One*. Together, we will seek partnerships to provide safe, efficient and reliable transportation services through a collaborative approach that puts students first with proven best practices and sound procedures.

I will continue to provide updates and information as the school year progresses. As always, I appreciate the support of our entire Flemington-Raritan community as we continue to serve every student, every day, at every opportunity.

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.