



**CANFIELD AVENUE SCHOOL
MINE HILL, NEW JERSEY 07803-3085
PHONE 973-366-0590
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April 16, 2010

Dear Parents,

I want to thank all of you who, over the past couple of weeks have attended our Board of Education meetings to hear about the budget and plans for next year, ask questions of your Board, or had concerns and came to the meeting to discuss them. I want you all to know that we are an open Board of Education consisting of seven members of the community who only wish to assist, where we can, in the betterment of education in our community. That being said, we need the input of everyone to understand where there are problems that need attention and where we can improve our already excellent education system.

There is a misconception that has come to my attention that I would like to clear up. In our budget presentation we discussed the return of some special education students to Canfield Avenue School. Please understand that this affects approximately 6 students that currently attend a program in Wharton. We are not returning all out of district placement students. Thank you to those who notified me of this issue.

Another thing that was brought to the Board's attention at our last meeting is that there is a need to explain the correct procedures to bring concerns to the Board's attention. Issues that concern policy, programs, facility, awards, contest and such can be brought directly to the Board at a meeting or by a letter to the Board of Education President. Issues concerning your child, teacher or any staff member need to go through the following chain of command. First you bring the issue to your child's teacher's attention. If you do not receive a satisfactory response, you then meet with our Principal, Gregory Hobaugh. If, after that, you still need further intervention, please contact our Superintendent, Dr. Ernest Palestis. It is only after this process is completed that issues of this type can be brought to the Board either by Dr. Palestis or a written letter to the Board President. While I understand that this may seem like a long process, it can be accomplished quickly. Please understand that we are not trying to make things difficult for you and we don't want to be seen as uninterested, but we are under obligations to follow state and federal guidelines when dealing with these types of issues. I hope this will help to alleviate frustrations some of you have experienced.

I would like to strongly encourage each and every parent in this school to vote on the school budget this year. Historically in Mine Hill this has NOT happened and our budgets have always been close. If you know you will not be able to vote in person on Tuesday, April 20th, please take the time to complete and absentee ballot. At this point you will have to go to the County Clerk's Office in Morristown to complete this process. The last day to be able to complete this paperwork is the end of the business day, Monday, April 19th. We are asking everyone at Canfield Avenue School to assist in getting out the vote. Please contact the Board of Education office for useful information to help in this process.

The Mine Hill Township Board of Education is extremely proud of Canfield Avenue School and our community and hope you are too. Please come out to support our school budget on Tuesday, April 20th, at the Civic Center from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm! If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Dr. Palestis.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Walilko
President, Mine Hill Township Board of Education