

Wall Township Public Schools

Office of the Board of Education 1620 18th Avenue Wall, New Jersey 07719

Christine Steitz Board President

May 23, 2024

Dear Wall Township Public Schools Community,

The Wall Township School District is a source of pride for many in our community. Our district has seen its share of challenges, however, the Board of Education, together with district leadership, has worked diligently to explore avenues for forward advancement of our students and staff. There is no question that the much-needed definitive steps taken to expand our organizational structure at Central Office, with emphasis on Curriculum & Instruction, Student Wellness, and Special Education have secured opportunities to better serve our students. The district has made tremendous gains on behalf of our outstanding staff which has advanced the climate and culture of their experience, further translating into positive student outcomes. There has been a dedicated focus on expanding the district's ability to connect with our community with the creation of an award winning district website, the introduction of individual school building newsletters, and with monthly celebrations of school, student, and staff success at Board of Education meetings. The amount of positive achievements and initiatives occurring in Wall Schools is impressive and deserving of accolades a thousand times over.

The Board of Education recognizes that unfortunately, some of these incredible strides are shadowed by frequent allegations of wrong-doing in any number of areas of practice. We recognize that community confidence in the Board of Education and our district is central to achieving a shared goal of providing educational excellence for all of our students. In an attempt to demonstrate the Board's commitment to our stakeholders, we have sent correspondence to the Acting Comptroller of the State of New Jersey requesting certification that our district is in compliance and good standing with that office. We further request support for OPRA reform. The BOE values the rights of American citizens and does not wish to hinder the transparency of government, however, asserts there should be a weight of responsibility imposed upon citizens who feel their rights supersede others. The corruption of the spirit of OPRA results in our students losing the focus and attention of administrators who should be working to improve delivery of education and optimizing student opportunities. Our community loses the focus of district staff who should be working to maximize the use of taxpayer monies to develop state-of-the-art facilities and maintenance of our district assets.

The Board takes the responsibility of serving this community seriously and hopes the correspondence sent will signal to our friends, neighbors, and critics that we are not opposed to partnering with the Comptroller's office. We respect their work and welcome their feedback. We value your trust and hope our fellow community members who may question the practice of the Board and/or district will be reassured by this action. Please use this link to view the correspondence.

Respectfully, The Wall Township Board of Education