



Brick Township Public Schools

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PRESS RELEASE

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Brick Schools Calls for Governor to Return Local Control and Unify

Brick, New Jersey - The Brick Township Public School District is requesting, once again, for local control regarding the mask mandate.

“Brick Schools, one of the largest public-school districts in New Jersey, has effectively collaborated with teachers, staff, students, parents, and health officials to sustain effective education in our schools in accordance with all State requirements and all of the Governor’s Executive Orders throughout the Pandemic,” stated Brick Township Public School District Board of Education President, Ms. Stephanie Wohlrab.

“This should be a time of excitement for our students, staff, and parents. Instead, we have discord and anxiety.” President Wohlrab continues. “We have been through so much and 18 months later, instead of starting school the way we ended in June, another mask mandate is imposed and the dream of a return to normal – even a new normal – is kicked further away.”

“In June, The Governor listened to us and granted flexible options for individual school districts to act on their own, thus granting more local control. Usurping local control and imposing a blanket mask mandate, statewide, goes against this philosophy. This goes against everything public education stands for,” President Wohlrab states. “Instead of fighting each other, let’s work together Governor Murphy, with local data from the Ocean County Department of Health, so we can move forward in the best interest of the communities we serve,” continued Wohlrab.

Brick Schools, as it has from the beginning, continues to involve all stakeholders, developing procedures to minimize risk and keep health and safety as our focus. Our intent is to implement a flexible plan which can respond to the ever changing data and to utilize these effective procedures to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our schools. During the 2020-2021 school year Brick Schools did not experience any in-school transmission of the virus. Utilizing the protocols put in place from the start of the school year the district was able to remain open in a hybrid mode and even opened full day, 5 days a week, at the end of the school year.

“Brick Schools was ready to start the new school year under the auspices of local control, analyze current data in our District once we re-open, and adjust accordingly with specific decision-making”, stated Brick Township Public School District Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Farrell. “When Brick Schools used data-driven decision-making to implement a flexible mask plan in June due to excessive heat – our existing proactive protocols enabled us to provide a safe-learning environment for students and staff,” Dr. Farrell continued. “At this time, we have every reason to believe Brick Schools can successfully continue our preventative measures, for in-person learning that is safe for both students and staff, while supporting effective education and the social-emotional, health, safety, and well-being of all, utilizing a flexible mask plan. As always, Brick Schools will continue to comply with all State mandates.

For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release, contact our Direct of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Ms. Susan McNamara at ext. 1022 or e-mail smcnamara@brickschools.org.

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