



West Orange Public Schools
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Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

Good Evening West Orange Public School Families,

June 4, 2021

I hope this finds you all well and having had a restful Memorial Day weekend. This correspondence serves to provide some follow up on previously shared items as well as some points of new business.

First, please join me in acknowledging the month of June as LGBTQIA+ Pride month. It was June 28, 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising that the first pride march was held in New York City. This first march was a demonstration against centuries of abuse, from government hostility, to employment and housing discrimination, and anti-homosexual laws.

In our mission of building and nurturing a school community which honors and celebrates diversity and equity for all, we stand in solidarity with all of our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters in our community, staff, and students. Further, as we work to evaluate and shape our curriculum to be more culturally and racially inclusive and sensitive, we seek to make the same strides in recognizing not only the history of the LGBTQIA+ community but also their contributions in the history of our country.

June 7 Board of Education meeting: As previously indicated the June 7 public board meeting will be in-person. A live stream feature will be offered. Further, those community members not wishing to attend in person may submit questions on both agenda and non-agenda items utilizing the provided Google form which will be activated Friday evening, June 4th. The link below will take you to a landing page at which you may obtain access to the form, as well as the instructions for viewing the live stream option. [BOE Meeting Information](#)

June 8 Primary Elections: Just a reminder that the school facilities will be closed to students on June 8 to accommodate the polling locations for the primary elections.

June 16 Goal Setting Town Hall: Again, just a reminder that the board will hold their Goal Setting Town Hall on June 16. The survey was shared earlier this week, the link is included below. If you have not already filled it out, you are encouraged to do so and in order that your feedback can be included in the presentation and successive setting of the district goals for next year. [Goal Setting Survey](#)

Safe Return Plan: As previously indicated, the administration is finalizing the draft of the safe return plan. This draft plan will be posted on Monday, June 7, along with a Google form in which stakeholders may enter feedback.

Finally, this morning I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Betty Maddalena Early Learning Center preschool graduation. Like for our parents and families, this is a special time of year and my favorite time of year as an educator. This ceremony for our little learners was the first of many to come in the upcoming weeks. If we recall back to last year, we could hardly gather together. While our staff and administrators did an amazing job in organizing drive-bys and the like, we all knew that it wasn't quite the same. I can tell you that the joy of this ceremony was not diminished by the hardships and challenges through which we have all lived and worked this year. Rather, the students, staff and families beamed brighter than ever, uplifted by what their children and we as a community had accomplished against great odds. I look forward to joining many more ceremonies and events in the upcoming weeks and seeing you all there.

I wish you a restful weekend and thank you for your time, attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent