



Westwood Regional Board of Education

701 Ridgewood Road
Township of Washington, New Jersey 07676

Tel 201-664-0880, ext. 2000

Fax 201-664-7642

January 6, 2023

Dear School Community Members,

As the newly elected president of the Westwood Regional Board of Education, I am incredibly honored and excited to serve in this capacity. I would like to thank my board colleagues for having the faith in me to serve them and our community.

There is nothing more important than a quality education and the advancement of young minds. I am eager to help our board and our students reach their respective goals with the primary objective being to ensure that every child in our community has access to quality education.

As we take this opportunity to reframe how we work, I am confident this board will serve the students and the people of this district proactively and with tireless commitment. Through transparency in operations, openness to discussion, effective communication, and constant reinforcement of trust with the communities of Westwood and Washington Township, we are poised to elevate our district to higher levels of achievement.

As we look to the future state, it is with a sense of inspiration. Each individual member of this board is committed to remaining steadfast in their goals for the district. In working together for the common good, it goes without saying that regardless of individual position on an issue, we are one of nine. We work and act in concert with one another. Our covenant to the community and to one another, needs to be built on a foundation of integrity, credibility, trust, respect, and mutual reliance. Simon Sinek, an author, and motivational speaker said, "A team is not a group of people who work together, it is a group of people who trust each other."

This group needs to be able to trust one another, to believe in the integrity of one another, to be sure that we can depend on one another. The viability of this district depends on this. My goal, as president of this board, is to quickly get us to a place of operational harmony where we can make efficient and productive outcomes for the benefit of this district and the well-being of the students.

My goal as President is to keep a laser focus on what should be our collective priorities, through our allowable practices:

1. Student Academic Achievement & Special Education
2. Improving the district's overall performance
3. Empowering our administration and supporting teachers
4. Financial discipline
5. Reduce HIB occurrences and improve socialization
6. Effective policymaking that solves issues, closes gaps and aligns expectations.

"Excellence in Education"

www.wwsd.org

January 6, 2023

Page 2

I would like to thank the recently resigned BoE members, Frank Romano and Maureen Columbo for their service to this board and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Again, thank you for entrusting me with this position, and I look forward to the work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Michael Pontillo

Michael Pontillo
Westwood Regional School District
Board of Education President