



HENRY HUDSON TRI-DISTRICT

Atlantic Highlands Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and Henry Hudson Regional School Districts

One Grand Tour, Highlands New Jersey 07732-2039

TELEPHONE: (732) 872-0900 FAX: (732) 872- 1315

Dr. Susan E. Compton, Superintendent of Schools
scompton@henryhudsonreg.k12.nj.us

January 29, 2020

Dear Mayors and Council Members,

On behalf of each of our respective Boards of Education, we have appreciated the opportunity to work over the last couple of months with officials from Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Sea Bright on the possible establishment of a new regional school district. We respectfully decline the invitation to form a new regional school district with Sea Bright.

We have reviewed the preliminary concepts presented over the last couple of months and have undertaken a thorough review of the confidential feasibility study. While the headline savings proposed by the plan appear significant, they fail to take into account a variety of potential hidden costs and liabilities that could, over time, significantly reduce the proposed benefits. In particular, we believe that our potential involvement in a joint arrangement with Sea Bright at this time is likely to expose our respective Boards to an increased threat of costly litigation at the expense of our taxpayers. Furthermore, as currently proposed, the savings are unequally distributed across the three boroughs, which would result in disproportionate benefit to certain taxpayers. Finally, and more importantly, we do not feel the proposal would have an incremental effect on student achievement.

As you know, our three Boards are fully committed to fiscal responsibility and continue to explore shared services and cost savings through a dedicated Tri-District Committee. Current shared services include but are not limited to:

- Superintendent of Schools
- Supervisor of Special Services
- Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Technology Administrator
- Media Center Specialists
- Community Involvement/Public Relations Coordinator
- Business Administrator/Board Secretary (shared between two Boards)
- Learning Disability Teacher Consultant (shared between two Boards)
- School Psychologist (shared between two Boards)
- World Language Teacher (shared between two Boards)
- Instrumental/Music Teacher (shared between two Boards)

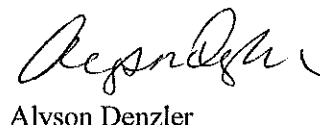
We are in touch with Nicholas W. Platt, the Governor's Co-Czar for Shared Services, who has agreed to work with us to identify additional ways that our Boards can share a variety of resources, including the concept of a new regional board comprised of our three districts.

We appreciate your understanding of our working to serve the best interests of our communities.

Sincerely,



Gail Woods-King
President
Henry Hudson Reg'l. Bd. of Ed.



Alyson Denzler
President
Atlantic Highlands Bd. of Ed.



Diane Knox
President
Highlands Bd. of Ed