

**STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS**  
**Read August, 2022 during BOE Meetings**

Over the last week and a half, our school board members learned of significant misinformation related to the regionalization process that is being shared with the community and appears on social media. Some of this information was even shared by public officials. In view of the complications associated with regionalization and the newly revised regionalization laws, it is understandable that there may be some confusion as to what residents can and should expect. However, it is also essential that ALL of the information that is shared with members of our respective communities be truthful and factual.

For example, we have heard some say that the Board has no role in negotiating the apportionment formula. However, N.J.S.A. 18A:13-34 specifically says that it is the school boards who are responsible for proposing “the amounts to be raised for annual or special appropriations for [a] proposed regional school district . . .” to be presented before voters.

The school boards always intended to include the municipalities’ input in their apportionment determination, having also agreed to cooperate with them by deciding to jointly petition the Commissioner of Education to request regionalization, rather than proceeding separately. In fact, we met in good faith with municipal officials on July 11 but we were since asked to push off any additional meetings. Then, on August 11, without any further consultation and despite requirements of State law, we discovered that Council meeting agendas reflected the municipalities’ intention to act on apportionment last week. After raising significant concerns with municipal officials, and the intervention of our attorney, financial consultant and Superintendent, as well as the author of the revised regionalization law, the agenda items related to apportionment were, in some cases, tabled and ultimately altered. Subsequently, the municipalities moved forward and adopted apportionment formulas based on those discussions, although it was consistently made clear that the Boards have not yet approved them.

To be clear, the school boards have not yet taken ANY formal action on the apportionment formula. We will consider those actions during our joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, in accordance with State law.

If we are to continue to successfully work through this process, we must do so while operating under facts. Everyone can help do their part by correcting any misinformation that they may see or hear. Regionalization is within our grasp but it is only achievable if we work together.