

BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mrs. SIOBHAN GRAYSON
Principal/Superintendent

Mr. JONATHAN YATES
Board Secretary

Mr. NICHOLAS K. BROWN
Business Administrator

April 2, 2020

Dear Bass River School Families,

First and foremost, I hope each of you and your families are healthy and adapting as we navigate these unprecedented times. Our staff misses our students and the enthusiasm they bring to each school day. This has truly been an educational journey for us all and I commend all our staff, students and families for working together to provide a continuity of education given our circumstances.

Amidst these challenging times, it is bittersweet for me to confirm that at the recommendation of our School Business Administrator and myself, the Bass River Board of Education voted on March 25, 2020 to engage in a send and receive relationship with the Little Egg Harbor School District. Although this has not been finalized, it is anticipated to take effect July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Since the time that I arrived at Bass River in October of 2018, I was aware that our district was faced with academic achievement challenges and soon learned the vastness of the financial challenges. I have shared my growing concerns with the district's inability to remain operational. You may recall in May of 2019, I sent a parent letter addressing the actions needed for the 2019-2020 budget which resulted in a reduction in non-essential personnel and a significant reduction in discretionary spending. Furthermore, the district engaged in a feasibility study to research the Little Egg Harbor School District in comparison with ours as a critical action step in planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Bass River School District, once known as The New Gretna School, has a long and special history in our community, and this decision was incredibly difficult for all involved. Staff, including myself, are Bass River alumni. We also have many generational families who have walked through our school's doors and take great pride in the uniqueness of our special school.

In the weeks ahead, I will be hosting virtual parent meetings to address questions and concerns and seek your valuable input in creating a successful and comfortable transition to the Little Egg Harbor School District. With the uncertainty of when school will officially reopen for the year, I recognize the added stress this may pose for your family. Over the past few weeks our school staff's dedication and commitment to their students has proven to be nothing short of amazing. As a school community we will continue to be here for you through this pandemic and during this time of transition.

I appreciate your understanding of this difficult decision, and I look forward to working collaboratively as we plan for a successful and positive transition.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Grayson
Superintendent