



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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JOHN J. NIESZ
Superintendent

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The Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Governor Murphy:

I am reaching out to you for help for the children of Bayonne, New Jersey. Our students have been out of school buildings for close to a year now; and cannot return safely until our faculty and staff receives their COVID-19 vaccines. I am requesting that education staff be moved up on the list for those citizens eligible to receive the vaccine.

I am extremely proud of my faculty and staff for how they pulled together and began instructing their students virtually. It was not easy but they stepped up and did what was expected of them. As you are aware, virtual learning is not optimum for students and difficult for many of our parents but they also have done what needed to be done to support our children. Although we have tried to open athletics for students, we had no choice but to shut down due to repeat outbreaks.

The average age of the school buildings in Bayonne is 87 years and that makes it impossible to upgrade our buildings for COVID-19 to the degree necessary. But it is critical that we open our buildings in some capacity as soon as possible.

Today we had another Pandemic Response Team meeting, where all agreed that vaccinating our faculty and staff is essential to the opening of our buildings. Attached you will find a list of our Pandemic Response Team consisting of administrators, teachers, health workers, and parents.

If you have any questions, or would consider discussing this issue with me, my office number is 201-858-5817 or you could email: mailbag@bboed.org.

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider this dire matter for the citizens of Bayonne.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent

BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM MEMBERS

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| Michelle O'Reilly, City Health Department | Tina Fedrow, City Health Department |
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| Eric Ryan, BHS Assistant Principal | John Rickard, BHS Assistant Principal |
| Annie Healey, Teacher | Gene Woods, Teacher/BTA President |
| Dennis D'Angelo, Bus Driver | Matt Ruttler, Teacher/BTA Vice President |
| Tracie Fogu, Teacher | Stephanie Woods, Teacher |
| Christine Ellerson, Administrative Assistant | Brian Hampton, Teacher |
| Jason Scudder, Teacher | Erin Aidukas, Parent |
| Elisha DeMaria, Parent | Amy Vieira, SEPAC President |
| Jeannine Farber, PTA President | Christine Sorrentino, PTA President |
| Tim Carey, Security Director | |