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Ocean City School District
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September 15, 2022

A Message to the OCSD Community:

In recent weeks, many parents, students, alumni and community members have expressed deep and genuine concern about the Ocean City School District and the community we serve. We want you to know that we've heard all of you.

On behalf of the Board of Education and administration we want to assure you, as a public school district, we have an unwavering commitment to unequivocally welcome and educate every child. From our youngest preschoolers to our seniors on the brink of adulthood every child is important, and every child is deserving of a safe and top-notch learning environment. We believe that public education unites us as a nation and sets us apart from other countries that do not put as high a value on educating its citizenry.

In recent weeks, the New Jersey Department of Education's (DOE) 2020 Health and Physical Education Standards have been receiving increased attention by communities all over the state. Much of that attention has focused on what divides us, rather than what unites us.

New Jersey public schools are required to teach the health curriculum according to the state standards, however the curriculum and instructional resources used to meet these standards is a local decision made by each district. In Ocean City School District, we strive to reflect the values of every family we serve.

We'll reiterate that we respect every parent's personal choice concerning their child's health education and assure you that lessons are planned in an age-appropriate manner. However, parents can always opt-out of a specific part of the health curriculum. The opt-out option exemplifies our commitment to collaborate with our Ocean City families and we will continue to provide that option as education evolves.

We believe strongly that what unites us as a community far outweighs our differences. We strive to provide a welcoming, inclusive school district for every child and every staff member.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either one of us at:

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Respectfully,


Dr. Matthew B. Friedman
Superintendent of Schools


Dr. Patrick Kane
President, Ocean City Board of Education