



### **Joint Meeting of the SG and SL Board Leadership**

Over the course of a number of years, both the Spring Lake and the Sea Girt Boards of Education have experienced declines in the resident student population within their respective PK-8 schools.

In response, each Board has established a non-resident tuition policy through which children from neighboring districts can enroll within these public schools at a tuition cost that is established and approved by each Board on an annual basis.

Additionally, each school's administration, driven only by the effort to enhance the social experiences of the small student bodies, has orchestrated a number of events and academically driven experiences to bring students together. Examples of these experiences include but are not limited to the following:

- 3rd-6th Grade after-school clubs and enrichment hosted by SG attended by SL students
- 7th Grade train ride and pinball experience in Asbury Park (Outsiders)
- 7th Grade Unit of Study in poetry and rap through which students worked in collaborative, combined teams remotely and in-person to ultimately develop a published piece (Greek Mythology)
- 8th Grade end-of-year boat ride on the River Queen (w/Avon as well)
- 8th Grade Sending District Dance (w/all seven districts)
- 8th Grade Unit of Study named "What Defines a Hero" where students will all read the same novel and then come together for an assembly by local hero, Eric LeGrand (w/all seven districts)
- Sending district convocations hosted for students from each of the Manasquan sending districts for various grade levels on a variety of topics

To further discuss potential joint efforts, a leadership team from each district came together for a meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2024 at the Sea Girt School.

Present for the meeting were:

- Todd Leonhardt, John Lajewski, Rick Papera (Sea Girt)
- Noelle Giblin, Karen Matuch, Steve LaValva (Spring Lake)

Agreed at the outset of the meeting is that the overall genesis remains a holistic one focussing on the social and emotional needs of our students and offering the most positive school experience possible.

The administrators highlighted the aforementioned activities as examples of efforts that have been made to date and the group brainstormed future possibilities of partnering for enrichment/elective activities or sharing personnel where feasible.

The meeting concluded with the following charges:

Dr. LaValva & Mr. Papera:

- ☐ Continue to communicate and work together
- ☐ Review schedules for potential tweaks to ease collaboration
- ☐ Explore future opportunities for collaboration

Boards:

- ☐ Share what was discussed with the other Board members at next meeting
- ☐ Compile a list of wants and needs that may be able to help target future collaboration
- ☐ Explore surveying stakeholders to gather data
- ☐ Set regular (once or twice per year) meetings to keep an open line of communication