

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 10:20 AM
To: 'Collingswood OPRA Requester'
Subject: RE: OPRA request - OPRA Request – Garfield School Closure Communications

Your request requires additional time beyond the seven (7) business days to fulfill because request size and time required to read and redact.

OPRA allows custodians to seek extensions of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.i. Specifically, OPRA states that, "the requestor shall be advised by the custodian when the record can be made available. If the record is not made available by that time, access shall be deemed denied."

Your request requires an extension of time until April 17th as the school district is closed April 3rd to the 12th.

If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the [insert name of Agency] to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council (GRC) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The GRC can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County.

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School) Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723

-----Original Message-----

From: Collingswood OPRA Requester <opra+request-88844-31db2ac4@requests.opramachine.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:12 AM
To: OPRA requests at Collingswood Board of Education <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: OPRA request - OPRA Request – Garfield School Closure Communications

Dear Collingswood Board of Education,

Please accept this electronic request for public records made pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the common law right of access. As permitted under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(f), this email constitutes a valid request.

I certify that:

I have not been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the United States.

I will not use the requested records for a commercial purpose.

I am not seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding.

Records requested:

All emails, including attachments, sent or received by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and other central administrative leadership of Collingswood Public Schools (including but not limited to business administrator and members of the superintendent's cabinet), that reference or relate to the proposed or announced closure of Garfield Public School.

This includes communications containing the terms "Garfield," "Garfield School," "school closure," or similar language.

Date range: 1/1/2026 to 3/27/26

My preferred method of delivery is via reply to this email with responsive records provided as attachments.

Please confirm receipt of this request. If you are not the custodian of records, please forward this request to the appropriate person and provide their contact information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Collingswood OPRA Requester

Please deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:

opra+request-88844-31db2ac4@requests.opramachine.com

Is bcoleman@collsk12.org the wrong address for OPRA requests to Collingswood Board of Education? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=collingswood_board_of_education

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:

https://opramachine.com/request/opra_request_garfield_school_clo

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an OPRA custodian, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's website.

"OPRAmachine's mission is to give people easy and affordable access to New Jersey public records.

For more information, contact us at: (732) 707-1628 or PO Box 3180, New Brunswick, NJ 08903."

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 4:26 PM
To: Collingswood OPRA Requester
Subject: RE: OPRA request - OPRA Request – Garfield School Closure Communications

Received.

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
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https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=collingswood_board_of_education

From: Staff Shout Outs <staffshoutouts@collsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 3:21 PM
To: emta; oaklynstaff@oaklynschool.org
Subject: [EMTA] Happy Friday!! Staff Shout Outs!

Way to go Colls and Oaklyn!!! Thank you to everyone who shouted out colleagues who showed our core value of **team and family!!**

Faith Hvisdas for sending a fresh book stack to go with the unit we're working on! Thank you for keeping things fresh in our classroom!

Katie Lynch- A super caring teacher who always advocates for her students. Our conversations and laughs keep me sane!

Faith Hvisdas- For all you did for our March book bracket competition!

Joe Meehan, thanks for making me laugh on a daily basis. I appreciate you!

Jonna Karetny, thanks for being solutions-oriented and positive in challenging circumstances.

Denise Tinges, thanks for staying committed to district improvement even when it takes so long to make change

Siobhan Funches, thank you for coordinating a fun underground spirit week at the middle school!

Bryan Gross, CJ Hartung, and Cristin Introcaso, the choir concert was wonderful. Thank you for the time you devote to our students!

Arden Niessner, your leadership in all Panther Pantry efforts is so admirable, and you do it with humility and kindness. Bravo!

Karla Dickerson, you are an adaptable queen and you do all the things with a smile. The world needs more people like you!

Amber Zickler, Rachel Povell, Sabrina Morales, and all CST staff at CMS for all you do! Your behind-the-scenes efforts and support don't go unnoticed.

Rod Pierce for always being the answer man!

CMS office staff: you are superheroes! Thank you!

Garfield Staff - each and every one of you showed resilience, grace, and passion during a difficult week. I am proud of you and love what you bring to the table each and every day.

Mary Hopkins-I appreciate your collaboration and support, thank you!

Garfield Staff. You all care so deeply about your students and have so much pride in your school. Our hearts break for you as you navigate the uncertainty of what's to come with the closure of your beautiful school. We are here for you ❤️

Kiersten Plath for always appearing when she is needed.

Sue Miller and Tina Olsen for an amazing and insightful presentation on behavior.

Heather Murray for already starting to plan testing season.

Jen Conley for helping with a challenging situation long after contract hours.

Cecilia Taglang for helping to problem solve those pesky lunch balances.

Lois Beatty for keeping Tatem stocked with amazing homemade baked goods.

Matt Genna for keeping our buildings staffed with nurses!

Rebecca Davis- thanks for keeping me afloat this week and for the retail therapy

Jen Conley- your unconditional love for each student shines every day

Brian Kulak- your positivity & grace go further than you know.

Marie Dezii- thank you for always going above & beyond!

Brittany Van Emburgh, Jen Conley, Taylor Gavin, Kate Nicely- thank you for stepping up for the WHM Fair!

CHS Theater Team: Latoya, Kaitlin, Cristin, CJ, Chuck, Amy! The show would not have been a great success without you!

<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:

https://opramachine.com/request/opra_request_garfield_school_clo

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All the women in the district in honor of the close of Women's History Month. Historically, women didn't just work in schools—they built them, held them together, and led the way, often without recognition or reward. Today, we honor the fearless women in education who continue to disrupt, lead, and fight for the equity our students deserve.

Ms. Ambrose- you aren't here for a long time, but you are here for a good time! Thank you for continuing to listen and keeping our systems and students accountable.

To **James A. Garfield Elementary School** for being a community staple for 111 years. A place for students and staff to learn what it takes to be a part of a team and a family.

Amber Zickler- thank you for awesome IEP meetings this week. It went smoothly and everything truly felt like a team approach as we plan for our students' futures.

Ms. Hall goes above and beyond everyday for her students. She consistently makes herself available for extra help during her flex period, lunch and both before and after school. Her passion for math shines through in everything she does, and it's clear how deeply she cares about each of her students. She truly wants to see them succeed and works tirelessly to support them in reaching their full potential.

CHS is very lucky to have Ms. Hall amongst its ranks!

Mark and the Garfield Staff, for your grace and determination during a very challenging time.

Steve, thank you for a great pep talk, when I didn't even realize I needed one, but I did!!

Madalyn, thank you for your support and guidance through a challenging circumstance. It is very much appreciated.

Eileen, Christy and Lisa, your support and collaboration is tremendous. Thank you so much!!!

Marybel Mantilla - for her dedication, support, and the countless hours she pours into our students and school community. From late nights planning events to always creating a safe and welcoming space, she goes above and beyond in every way. I am so grateful to have her not only as a co-teacher, but as a true friend.

Angela Robinson - for her constant support, guidance, and kindness. From helping with parent communication to always being there to listen, she has made navigating a new environment feel so much easier and more welcoming.

Theresa McErlean - for her constant support and kindness. From helping coordinate field trips and coverage to keeping everything running smoothly in the office, she is always willing to help and does it all with a smile.

Doug Newman - for his continued support of the many initiatives that make our school a more inclusive and engaging place for all students. His openness to new ideas and willingness to embrace creative ways to connect with our school community truly make a difference.

Laura Spencer and Jen Cartella Thank you for being incredible therapists for our students. Your care, creativity, and dedication make a difference every day. The fun and engaging activities you create support growth and bring joy. We're so grateful for all that you do!

Madigan O'Neil for being dependable and coming to my rescue this week. I appreciate it more than you know!

Kaitlin Hartmann - for always being a supportive colleague and friend, and for her willingness to help with everything from Powderpuff to Snow Ball and chaperoning field trips. I am so grateful for her constant support and positivity and for always being someone I can count on.

June Kasilowski- for taking time out of your day to help with printing mishaps!!

JeNN Gotthelf - Thanks for the help! I know you'll think this is fishy, but if you and Jeff hadn't shown up with those raccoon and dog jokes, I'd still be stuck in a bowl of Froot Loops trying to hum Journey and Def Leppard songs to stay sane! You're a bigger legend than a Phillies walk-off win.

Melissa Fisher - Always someone I can lean on and who is willing to offer her help and expertise at any given time!

Lauren Nixon - For checking in on everyone even when her plate is already more than full :)

Patrick Rader, Nicolette Gill, & Sara Lairmore - For being the best upper elementary team & offering advice, help, or a laugh when needed!

Sabrina Morales - for your vibes and energy and for always putting so much into us (the interns), motivating us, lifting us up, and giving us confidence. You are absolutely the best!

Lori MacDermot - Thank you for being the best supervisor! I'm better at this job because of you!

Jillian Matysik - Thank you for taking the time to support and teach us. You are my favorite!

Olivia Hoban - you work so hard and still find the time to help us all grow! You are doing amazing, keep working hard!

Reanna Penn - you are genuinely one of the nicest people I have ever met. You always want what's best for everyone and are always willing to give a helping hand

Lauren Berck - you are smarter than what you think. I'm wishing you the best in your life and career, and I know that you will do your best wherever you go

Nicole Adamski - overachiever, hard-worker, and still the best co-worker anyone could ever wish for
Vivian Barnett thank you for ALWAYS supporting my students at a moments notice.

Faith Hvisdas thank you for the awesome STEAM

building games for our K architecture study! Students are having a blast.

Emily Curcio - Thank you for the sweet treat and for thinking of me!

Kamilah Hinson and Brian Kulak - Thank you for being so unbelievably supportive! Your guidance is so valuable.

Lisa DeAngelis - Thank you for helping to organize a visit with Mr. Santo and for on-the-fly tech help! My 4th Graders loved the experience, I'm so glad we were able to make it work even when planning it was hectic!

Lila Andujar for holding down the fort this month! I know it has not been easy, but you manage to do it with a smile all day long!

Mary Hopkins and Jennifer Yoder, for taking such good care of our students and staff. The two of you treat us like your own family members. We appreciate all that you do for our OPS family.

Jennifer Gotthelf for organizing another successful Cereal Box Challenge and for always coming up with fun and creative ideas for our building.

Anna Pallero for organizing an amazing month full of activities and events for Music in Our Schools Month.

Vivian Barnett for making sure every single student has the social and emotional support they need to succeed. Our students, staff and families are so lucky to have you in their corner.

Chris Gaffney for joining our team a little late this winter and jumping right in like you have been here forever. We appreciate all of the help you offer our students inside and outside of the gym!

Sandy McDevitt and Tracy Pellegrino for supporting our 4th grade students during NAEP testing, and always going above and beyond to make sure our students have what they need to learn and grow!

Mel O'Donnell, Lisa Stibbard, and Kate Marrocco for organizing the Home Connection/Friday Activity for Neurodiversity Week. The mural is beautiful!

Todd Weisenstein thank you for all the hard work you put in each day.

Erika Hennessy thanks for helping out with the 1st grade field trip. You're the best!

Tracy Miller, your care and concern for your students is evident. You make a difference everyday.

Loretta Olszewski - Thank you for working so hard to keep our school clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Your kindness and the way you connect with students make a big difference. It's clear the kids truly adore you. You're always ready to lend a hand, no matter the task. Your willingness to step in wherever and whenever we need you shows a true collaborative spirit. Colls at Parkview is so lucky to have you!

Mike Brown: Even in the Pitt of chaos, your understanding of what helps make a classroom run like Paradise is as calming as a nocturnal raccoon during the day. Keep being that Maximus Decimus Meridus that Jeff knows you are.

Brian Kulak: For leading us through this difficult and uncertain time with honesty, kindness, and transparency.

Michelle Hill: No matter how busy she is or how many more things are thrown her way, she continues to show up for her students.

Collingswood Security Team for answering calls all day and always going beyond the call of duty. Whether it's handling altercations, providing escorts, conducting HIB investigations, CPI training, attendance matters, or residency investigations, your hard work, dedication, and professionalism never go unnoticed. We truly appreciate everything you do to keep things running smoothly and everyone safe.

Colls Elementary EST Team: Erica Berti, Katilin Suders, Kim Pham, Melissa Fisher, Heather Murray, Linda Feeley (honorable mention to Kira and Jess). Great collaborative meeting today!

Working across all tiers of instruction, always focused on getting the best supports in place for our students across the district. This team is the best!

All of our wonderful PE Teachers- thank you for all that you do keep our students in good form, and for all that you do that goes above and beyond to make school a fun and inviting place for our kids. Thank you for everything that you do to support the teaching staff, support the child study team, and for every time you pitched in to help our custodians. THANK YOU.

Deidre Hill- thank you for making this a team effort. You do more for students and staff than you know. Keep on showing up and showing out! You got this!

Mr. Mack- keep on helping when needed and stepping up all the time. You really do make us feel like family and I am so grateful to you for that!

All our school psych interns - THANK YOU! You are all such important members of our team! You jump in on any tasks, always give your best, and are making meaningful connections with students and staff. We are lucky to have you :)

Elyse Brown - for your collaboration and kindness!

Danielle Patterson - for being willing to get creative to support a student! I am grateful for our team approach to helping students at Newbie.

Angela Robinson. - Just wanted say you rock. And you deserve.to be appreciated a little more for everything you do. .

Mr Mack - my buddy I love your energy you keep my day going. Even when it's a bad one. Your amazing

Heather brown. - I love the energy when I come to classroom in morning it's so amazing. I make it my duty to make sure. I come by every morning

Steph Fitz- Thank you for helping me create such a positive classroom environment. We work so well together and I'm so thankful for that!

Narci Alwan- Thank you for caring for each and every student. Your kindness never goes unnoticed!

Lisa Doolin- Thank you for always being a helping hand and jumping right in to help me in my classroom.

Jaclyn D'Agostino- Thank you for always being a helping hand, we are so grateful you joined our team!

Amanda Ngo- Thank you for collaborating with me to help our students!

Sunny Nipe- Thank you for being a great grade partner and always there to talk.

Carly Ryan for going the extra mile to ensure your struggling learners feel like successful, capable readers! Your patience, dedication, and willingness to give extra time and support to students who need it most does not go unnoticed. 🍷🌟

Jenn Floyd- Thank you for calming our nerves this week!

Ms Loretta- Thank you for caring for our students!

Anastasia Pallero- The hallway choir performance was fantastic, the students did an amazing job.

Kristen Tosh- thank you so much for validating me this week

Hollie Vitagliano- thank you for the spider 😊- brought a big smile to my face and the office

Nicolette Rath- you know why, all of it! KUDOS.

Colls and Oaklyn District Nurses- you guys ALL rock- this profession (in THIS setting especially) is not for the weak- thanks for wearing your superhero capes every day, glad to work with you all 🦸❤

Mrs. Mac and Taryn Silverman- Thank you for the chat this week- it was necessary and it felt good

Huge shout out to **Mrs. Madden-** not just for her kindness and student advocacy, but also for her graciousness to staff and students. And thank you for sharing your lovely library space with IGNITE!

Huge shout out to **Colleen Harte-** for always finding a solution to my problems!

Ms. Castilla- Thank you for making this rainy day so much brighter

Mr. McRory- Thank you for always stopping by just to say hi

The CHS Guidance Department - Thank you for showing up and supporting our students every day

Zach Wright - Thank you for your attention to our students, you are doing an incredible job

Isaac Mendelsohn - Thank you for your tireless efforts with our students

Erika Morante - You are doing a fantastic job!

Steve Buccelli - Thank you for showing up every day with a smile!

Tech Department - Thank you for your assistance every time we reach out

CHS Principals - Thank you for your support every day

To Kindness Crew - Thank you for bringing a smile to all of our faces!

And the winner is...

Kate Nicely

Keep your eye out for some super sweet interoffice mail!

As always, we'd like to thank everyone for your dedication to our students, their families, and each other!

We hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Patrick Weisgerber <pweisgerber@collsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 12:41 PM
To: bcoleman@collsk12.org
Subject: Read: FW: OPRA request - OPRA Request - Garfield School Closure Communications
Attachments: ATT0000181n [REDACTED]

Your message

To: Patrick Weisgerber
Subject: FW: OPRA request - OPRA Request – Garfield School Closure Communications
Sent: 3/24/26, 9:17:12 AM EDT

was read on 3/27/26, 12:41:00 PM EDT

[REDACTED]

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 1:27 PM
To: Garrison, Robert Jr
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

YTB

#bekind
Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
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From: Garrison, Robert Jr <rngjr@GarrisonArch.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Respectfully,
Bob

Robert N. Garrison, Jr.
 **GARRISON**
ARCHITECTS

713 Creek Road

Bellmawr, NJ 08031
856-396-6200 ext. 3006
856-396-6205 (fax)
RNGir@garrisonarch.com

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Garrison, Robert Jr <rngir@GarrisonArch.com>
Subject: RE: amendment to lrfp- closing Garfield

I don't see the checklist

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
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From: Garrison, Robert Jr <rngir@GarrisonArch.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

BA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,
Bob

Robert N. Garrison, Jr.



GARRISON
ARCHITECTS

713 Creek Road
Bellmawr, NJ 08031
856-396-6200 ext. 3006
856-396-6205 (fax)
RNGjr@garrisonarch.com

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 12:29 PM

To: Garrison, Robert Jr <rngjr@GarrisonArch.com>

Subject: amendment to Irfp- closing Garfield

Can you do an amendment closing Garfield to show the new capacities?

Disclaimer

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Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 12:32 PM
To: Garrison, Robert Jr
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
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From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
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To: 'Garrison, Robert Jr' <rngjr@GarrisonArch.com>
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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Bob

Robert N. Garrison, Jr.
 **GARRISON**
ARCHITECTS

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Bellmawr, NJ 08031
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[REDACTED]

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Beth Ann Coleman

From: Joye, David <David.Joye@doe.nj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Collingswood / Oaklyn BA - Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: FW: [REDACTED]

See below. Can we talk about Garfield?

David Joye

*New Jersey Department of Education
Gloucester County Office of Education
Executive County Business Official*
115 Budd Blvd.
West Deptford, New Jersey 08096
Work: (856) 686-8372 / Fax: (856) 686-8387
609-240-1123 cell
David.Joye@doe.nj.gov

From: Kutner, Susan <Susan.Kutner@doe.nj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Bumpus, Robert <Robert.Bumpus@doe.nj.gov>; Joye, David <David.Joye@doe.nj.gov>
Cc: Colner, Leonard <Leonard.Colner@doe.nj.gov>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Best,
Susan

Susan Kutner

Director, Office of School Facilities
New Jersey Department of Education
100 Riverview Plaza | Trenton, NJ 08625
Work: (609) 376-3686
Email: susan.kutner@doe.nj.gov
Web: <https://www.nj.gov/education>

Click [here](#) for LRFP information.
Click [here](#) for Project Application information.
Click [here](#) for CEFM program information.



From: Bumpus, Robert <Robert.Bumpus@doe.nj.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 11:13 AM

To: Kutner, Susan <Susan.Kutner@doe.nj.gov>

Cc: Altringer, Richard <Richard.Altringer@doe.nj.gov>; Joye, David <David.Joye@doe.nj.gov>

Subject: [REDACTED]

Robert L. Bumpus

Cumberland County/Gloucester Executive County Superintendent

Division of Field Support and Services

New Jersey Department of Education

Work: 856-451-0211

Email: robert.bumpus@doe.nj.gov

Web: <https://www.nj.gov/education/>



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From: Meredith Howell-Turner <mhowellturner@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Erik Nelson
Cc: fmcowell@collsk12.nj.us; camden@doe.nj.gov; bcoleman@collsk12.org; CBOEcontact@collsk12.org
Subject: Re: FORMAL INQUIRY: Garfield Elementary Closure & March 27 Budget Submission

Good morning Erik,

Thank you for reaching out—I truly appreciate you taking the time to

I know this news about Garfield has been very difficult, and I hope you and your family are finding ways to navigate what is understandably an unsettling time. Please know that your concerns are heard and taken seriously.

As Principal Wiltsey shared, all Garfield families are invited to an in-person meeting on Monday, 3/30 at 6:00 p.m. at the Collingswood Senior Center. The questions you raised will be addressed during that time.

At the meeting, I will walk through detailed information about the proposed school closure, including the reasoning behind it, how decisions are being made, and what families can expect moving forward. It's important to us that everyone receives the same clear and complete information, and that there is space for questions and conversation together.

For anyone who is unable to attend, we will be sure to share follow-up communication so that all families have access to the information discussed.

I understand how emotional this situation is, and I want you to know that your perspective matters. Please don't hesitate to reach out in the coming weeks if additional questions come up or if there is any way I can support you.

Thank you again for your message,
Meredith



On Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 2:10 PM Erik Nelson <erik.d.nelson9391@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Dr. McDowell and Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing as a Collingswood parent and community member regarding the announcement to close Garfield Elementary School. While I acknowledge the severity of the budget constraints and the \$3.3M funding gap, the suddenness of this decision — announced the same week the budget is being submitted to the state on March 27 — has come as a significant shock to our families.

Beyond the emotional loss of a neighborhood school, we have urgent concerns about the feasibility and legality of this transition. I respectfully request clarification on the following:

1. REQUIRED STATE APPROVAL

Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, the district is legally required to obtain written approval from the NJDOE Division before closing any school. To receive that approval, the district must demonstrate to both the NJDOE and the

Executive County Superintendent that sufficient school-building capacity exists to house all redistributed students for the five years following the closure. I am asking directly: Has this approval been applied for? Has it been granted? The community deserves a clear answer before this process moves forward. We also note that including this closure in the budget submission does not constitute the required approval under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, which is a separate legal process. The community expects full compliance with both.

2. BUILDING CAPACITY & CLASS SIZES

The district has not publicly released any data showing that our remaining elementary schools can absorb 113 additional students without significantly increasing class sizes. We are asking the district to release the specific capacity analysis for each receiving school — including current enrollment, available classroom space, and projected class sizes for the 2026–2027 school year.

3. THE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (LRFP)

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 also requires that any school closure be consistent with the district's approved Long-Range Facilities Plan. Has the LRFP been updated to reflect this closure? Where can the community access this document and the supporting analysis?

4. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Decades of research, including the landmark Tennessee STAR study, demonstrate that class size in early elementary years is one of the most significant factors in long-term student achievement. Redistributing 113 students without a clear capacity plan risks a measurable and lasting decline in educational quality across all of Collingswood's elementary schools — not just Garfield. How does the district plan to protect instructional quality and student support services under the proposed redistribution?

5. IMPACT ON THE ENTIRE DISTRICT

This is not only a Garfield issue. The redistribution of students affects resources, staffing ratios, and learning environments at every elementary site in the district. What is the district's mid- and long-term plan to ensure that educational quality does not decline across Collingswood Public Schools as a result of this decision?

6. THE URGENCY OF THE TIMELINE

Many families are struggling to understand why an immediate closure was chosen over a more gradual transition strategy. We are asking for a transparent explanation of the constraints that made this timeline necessary, supported by the data and legal analysis that informed this decision.

This decision will have a profound impact — emotionally, logistically, and academically — on hundreds of Collingswood families. Trust in the district depends on transparency and on following the legal process fully and openly. We look forward to a detailed response and to meaningful opportunities for community engagement in the steps ahead.

Sincerely,
Erik Nelson

From: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. (via Google Drive) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:39 PM
To: bcoleman@collsk12.org
Cc: dwalker1@collsk12.org; mhowellturner@collsk12.org; sburns@collsk12.org
Subject: [REDACTED]

Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. shared a folder

Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. (fmcowell@collsk12.org) has invited you to **contribute to** the following shared folder:



Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because fmcowell@collsk12.org shared a file or folder located in Google Drive with you.



Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:47 PM
To: John Longo
Subject: RE: Garfield

Ok.

We'll need to move some furniture with the staff too

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723



From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: Re: Garfield

I'll get boxes ordered now so we can have them on hand

John Longo
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Collingswood/Oaklyn Public Schools
jlongo@collsk12.org
Office: (856) 962-5702 ext: 6145
Cell: (609) 820-2584

On Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 3:35 PM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

Boxes, labels etc.

Place to put boxes

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)

Collingswood, NJ 08108

p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001

f- 856-962-5723



From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 11:42 AM

To: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>

Subject: Garfield

[REDACTED]

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)

Collingswood, NJ 08108

p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001

f- 856-962-5723



From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: Re: Garfield

I'll get boxes ordered now so we can have them on hand

John Longo
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
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On Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 3:35 PM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

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Place to put boxes

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Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)

Collingswood, NJ 08108

p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001

f- 856-962-5723

From: Meredith Howell-Turner (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:03 PM
To: bcoleman@collsk12.org
Cc: dwalker1@collsk12.org; fmc dowell@collsk12.org; jhowlett@capehart.com; jlongo@collsk12.org; lperlow@htsd.us; sburns@collsk12.org
Subject: [REDACTED]

Meredith Howell-Turner shared a document

Meredith Howell-Turner (mhowellturner@collsk12.org) has invited you to **edit** the following document:



Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because mhowellturner@collsk12.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.



From: Meredith Howell-Turner <mhowellturner@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 12:02 PM
To: Chiara Scopa
Cc: Fmcdowell@collsk12.org; Bcoleman@collsk12.org; Kmaia@collsk12.org; Zdevine@collsk12.org; Marco Camponeschi
Subject: Re: Request for clarification and community input regarding Garfield Elementary closure and district planning

Hello again, Chiara - I replied earlier to your other email, but am writing to say that I've also read and reviewed this message as well.

Thank you again and please reach out with any additional questions or needs at this time,
Meredith



On Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 2:10 PM Chiara Scopa <chiarascopa@yahoo.it> wrote:
Dear Dr. McDowell and Members of the Board,

I am writing as a Collingswood parent and community member following the announcement regarding the proposed closure of Garfield Elementary School.

First, I want to acknowledge the seriousness and difficulty of the budget constraints outlined in your communication. I understand that the combination of reduced state aid, rising fixed costs, and long-term funding gaps creates very real challenges for the district, and I appreciate the effort that has gone into presenting this information transparently.

That said, I would like to respectfully express that this decision has come as a significant shock to many families and staff. Beyond the emotional impact of closing a neighborhood school, there are also substantial concerns about the logistical consequences for students, teachers, and the broader Collingswood school community.

In particular, I am hoping you can help the community better understand the decision-making process and the alternatives that were considered. Many of us are struggling to reconcile the urgency of a full closure with the possibility of more gradual approaches, such as a phased reduction in enrollment at Garfield over few years. This would allow for a more natural transition and help minimize disruption to class sizes, staffing, and student support systems.

It is also deeply concerning to many families that such a significant structural decision appears to be moving forward without a clearly communicated mid- or long-term plan for the future of Collingswood Public Schools. It is difficult to understand how a decision of this magnitude can be made responsibly without a transparent vision for how the district will maintain educational quality and stability over time.

Given the current plan to redistribute approximately 113 students across remaining schools, there is also concern about the capacity of those schools to absorb additional enrollment without significantly increasing class sizes or reducing the quality of instruction and support services. As was already expressed during the BOE meeting, this raises concerns about the potential for significantly larger classrooms and its impact on learning conditions at the elementary level. It would be very helpful to understand what specific planning has been done to address these impacts.

More broadly, I would like to ask what role families and the community can realistically play at this stage. Many of us feel a strong responsibility to advocate for our children's education and for the long-term strength of public schools in Collingswood, but it is not yet clear where community input can meaningfully shape or influence the current direction of the plan.

Finally, I would appreciate clarification on the timeline and constraints that made an immediate closure necessary, rather than a multi-year transition strategy. Understanding the reasoning behind the urgency would help the community better engage with the process and contribute constructively moving forward.

This decision will have a profound impact not only emotionally, but also practically, on many families in Collingswood. It affects daily logistics, classroom environments, and the overall stability that families rely on in choosing public education. For this reason, I hope there will be continued opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration as the district moves forward.

Thank you for your time and for your continued service to our students and community. I look forward to your response and to opportunities for meaningful engagement in the next steps of this process.

Sincerely,
Chiara Scopa

From: Roger Chu <rchu@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Beth Ann Coleman; Jodi S. Howlett; Meredith Howell-Turner; Dana Walker, Ed.D.
Cc: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.
Subject: Fwd: Garfield Elementary Closure

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jade Myers** <jade.ann.myers@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 10:26
Subject: Garfield Elementary Closure
To: <carmen.rodriguez@doe.nj.gov>
CC: <fmcowell@collsk12.org>, <CBOEContact@collsk12.org>

Dear Ms. Rodriguez,

I am writing to you as a Collingswood parent and community member with urgent concerns regarding the proposed closure of Garfield Elementary School, announced on March 24, 2026.

I respectfully request that your office exercise its oversight authority over this matter prior to the district's budget submission to the NJDOE on March 27, 2026.

Our concerns are as follows:

1. LEGAL COMPLIANCE — N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5

Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, the district is legally required to obtain written approval from the NJDOE Division before closing any school. That approval requires the district to demonstrate — to both the NJDOE and your office — that sufficient school-building capacity exists to house all redistributed students for the five years following the closure. We respectfully ask: has the Collingswood School District submitted a formal closure approval request to your office? Has your office received or reviewed any capacity analysis supporting this closure? We note that including this closure in the budget submission to the NJDOE does not constitute the required approval under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, which is a separate legal process.

2. BUILDING CAPACITY & CLASS SIZES

The district has not publicly released any data demonstrating that its remaining elementary schools can absorb approximately 113 additional students without significantly increasing class sizes. As the office responsible for the review and oversight of school facilities in Camden County, we are asking your office to scrutinize whether the district has demonstrated the required five-year capacity to support this closure.

3. LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (LRFP)

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 further requires that any school closure be consistent with the district's approved Long-Range Facilities Plan. We are asking your office to confirm whether the Collingswood LRFP has been updated to reflect this closure and whether it has received the required approvals.

4. TIMELINE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

This decision was announced less than six months before the intended closure date, with no clear long-term plan for the future of Collingswood Public Schools. Families, staff, and the broader community are being asked to accept a significant and permanent structural change with neither adequate time for meaningful engagement nor any transparent vision for how the district will maintain and improve educational quality once the closure takes effect.

We are not asking your office to reverse the district's budget decisions. We are asking that your office ensure that the Collingswood School District has fully complied with all legal requirements before this closure proceeds — and that the community's right to a transparent and evidence-based process is protected.

Thank you for your time and for your continued oversight of our schools. We would welcome any guidance your office can provide on how the community can formally engage in this process.

Respectfully,

Collingswood Parent,

Jade Myers

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 9:19 AM
To: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.; Perlow, Lori
Subject: FW: FORMAL INQUIRY: Garfield Elementary Closure & March 27 Budget Submission

Importance: High

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723



From: Christine Krawiec <christinekrawiec@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:57 PM
To: CBOEContact@collsk12.org; fmcowell@collsk12.org; bcoleman@collsk12.org
Subject: FORMAL INQUIRY: Garfield Elementary Closure & March 27 Budget Submission

Dear Dr. McDowell and Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing as a Collingswood parent regarding the proposed closure of Garfield Elementary School. I understand the district is facing serious budget challenges and a reported \$3.3M gap, but the timing of this announcement—so close to the March 27 budget submission—has been very difficult for families to process.

Like many parents, I'm trying to understand both the process and the impact of this decision. I would appreciate clarification on the following:

1. REQUIRED STATE APPROVAL

Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, the district must obtain written approval from the NJDOE Division before closing a school. This requires demonstrating that there is sufficient capacity to house all reassigned students for five years following closure. Has this approval been applied for, and has it been granted? My understanding is that including the closure in the budget submission does not replace this separate requirement.

2. BUILDING CAPACITY & CLASS SIZES

I have not seen detailed information showing how the remaining elementary schools will absorb approximately 113 additional students. Can the district share a capacity analysis for each receiving school, including current enrollment, available classroom space, and projected class sizes for the 2026–2027 school year?

3. THE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (LRFP)

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 also requires that closures align with the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan. Has the LRFP been updated to reflect this proposed change? If so, where can families access it?

4. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Research, including the Tennessee STAR study, highlights how important class size is in early elementary years. Without a clear plan, it's hard to understand how instructional quality and student support will be maintained. How does the district plan to address this?

5. IMPACT ON THE ENTIRE DISTRICT

This decision will affect more than just Garfield families. It will impact class sizes, staffing, and resources across all elementary schools. What is the district's plan to maintain consistency and quality across the district moving forward?

6. THE URGENCY OF THE TIMELINE

Many of us are struggling to understand why this is being proposed as an immediate closure rather than a phased transition. Can the district provide more context on what is driving this timeline?

I know these are not easy decisions, and I appreciate the complexity of the situation. That said, this has a significant impact on our children and community, and clear, transparent communication is incredibly important.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

From: Christine Krawiec <christinekrawiec@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:57 PM
To: CBOEContact@collsk12.org; fmcldowell@collsk12.org; bcoleman@collsk12.org
Subject: FORMAL INQUIRY: Garfield Elementary Closure & March 27 Budget Submission

Dear Dr. McDowell and Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing as a Collingswood parent regarding the proposed closure of Garfield Elementary School. I understand the district is facing serious budget challenges and a reported \$3.3M gap, but the timing of this announcement—so close to the March 27 budget submission—has been very difficult for families to process.

Like many parents, I'm trying to understand both the process and the impact of this decision. I would appreciate clarification on the following:

1. REQUIRED STATE APPROVAL

Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5, the district must obtain written approval from the NJDOE Division before closing a school. This requires demonstrating that there is sufficient capacity to house all reassigned students for five years following closure. Has this approval been applied for, and has it been granted? My understanding is that including the closure in the budget submission does not replace this separate requirement.

2. BUILDING CAPACITY & CLASS SIZES

I have not seen detailed information showing how the remaining elementary schools will absorb approximately 113 additional students. Can the district share a capacity analysis for each receiving school, including current enrollment, available classroom space, and projected class sizes for the 2026–2027 school year?

3. THE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (LRFP)

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-7.5 also requires that closures align with the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan. Has the LRFP been updated to reflect this proposed change? If so, where can families access it?

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6. THE URGENCY OF THE TIMELINE

Many of us are struggling to understand why this is being proposed as an immediate closure rather than a phased transition. Can the district provide more context on what is driving this timeline?

I know these are not easy decisions, and I appreciate the complexity of the situation. That said, this has a significant impact on our children and community, and clear, transparent communication is incredibly important.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Christine Krawiec

From: Chiara Scopa <chiarascopa@yahoo.it>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Fmcdowell@collsk12.org; Mhowellturner@collsk12.org; Bcoleman@collsk12.org; Kmaia@collsk12.org; Zdevine@collsk12.org
Cc: Marco Camponeschi
Subject: Request for clarification and community input regarding Garfield Elementary closure and district planning

Dear Dr. McDowell and Members of the Board,

I am writing as a Collingswood parent and community member following the announcement regarding the proposed closure of Garfield Elementary School.

First, I want to acknowledge the seriousness and difficulty of the budget constraints outlined in your communication. I understand that the combination of reduced state aid, rising fixed costs, and long-term funding gaps creates very real challenges for the district, and I appreciate the effort that has gone into presenting this information transparently.

That said, I would like to respectfully express that this decision has come as a significant shock to many families and staff. Beyond the emotional impact of closing a neighborhood school, there are also substantial concerns about the logistical consequences for students, teachers, and the broader Collingswood school community.

In particular, I am hoping you can help the community better understand the decision-making process and the alternatives that were considered. Many of us are struggling to reconcile the urgency of a full closure with the possibility of more gradual approaches, such as a phased reduction in enrollment at Garfield over few years. This would allow for a more natural transition and help minimize disruption to class sizes, staffing, and student support systems.

It is also deeply concerning to many families that such a significant structural decision appears to be moving forward without a clearly communicated mid- or long-term plan for the future of Collingswood Public Schools. It is difficult to understand how a decision of this magnitude can be made responsibly without a transparent vision for how the district will maintain educational quality and stability over time.

Given the current plan to redistribute approximately 113 students across remaining schools, there is also concern about the capacity of those schools to absorb additional enrollment without significantly increasing class sizes or reducing the quality of instruction and support services. As was already expressed during the BOE meeting, this raises concerns about the potential for significantly larger classrooms and its impact on learning conditions at the elementary level. It would be very helpful to understand what specific planning has been done to address these impacts.

More broadly, I would like to ask what role families and the community can realistically play at this stage. Many of us feel a strong responsibility to advocate for our children's education and for the long-term strength of public schools in Collingswood, but it is not yet clear where community input can meaningfully shape or influence the current direction of the plan.

Finally, I would appreciate clarification on the timeline and constraints that made an immediate closure necessary, rather than a multi-year transition strategy. Understanding the reasoning behind the urgency would help the community better engage with the process and contribute constructively moving forward.

This decision will have a profound impact not only emotionally, but also practically, on many families in Collingswood. It affects daily logistics, classroom environments, and the overall stability that families rely on in choosing public education. For this reason, I hope there will be continued opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration as the district moves forward.

Thank you for your time and for your continued service to our students and community. I look forward to your response and to opportunities for meaningful engagement in the next steps of this process.

Sincerely,

•

From: Rebecca Finkel <rfinkel712@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Zakiya Devine
Cc: CBOEContact@collsk12.org; Beth Ann Coleman; Meredith Howell-Turner; Fred McDowell
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Thanks for your reply. I will add that the community wasn't surprised because of information shared on private channels among parents for about a week prior to last night's meeting. Right now, I'm seeing all of that fear and anger pour out on public channels, and the least board members can do might be to publicly back up Dr. McDowell's messaging from today. It would go a long way in simply establishing the facts of the matter. Letting misinformation thrive will hurt your later efforts.

I am happy to hear that the board will start proactively seeking solutions. I've been thinking about the work of people like Kate Seltzer, who spent a tremendous amount of time and effort communicating with the public about a proposed plan to address our challenges. After that effort failed, I was dismayed to see board members spend precious time disparaging those efforts rather than coming up with their own solutions. It's reasonable to expect the same amount of effort from the current board -- again, both in planning and in communication -- but with fresh ideas and methods.

On Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 12:26 PM Zakiya Devine <zdevine@collsk12.org> wrote:
Good afternoon, Ms. Finkel,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate you using the resources shared last night to provide your perspective and for your request for clear community communication.

As discussed, both district and board leaders are committed to providing prompt and transparent updates as we implement decisions to achieve a balanced budget. Regarding the current budget awareness and the ongoing investment gaps at the state and local levels, my takeaway was that the community is not necessarily surprised, but rather imploring us to address these gaps more directly and share potential solutions as soon as possible.

We must carefully balance the impact on students, staff, and the community with the optimal timing for sharing information. During our meeting last night, we committed to ongoing communication and further discussion at our April meetings, including both scheduled and ad hoc as needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Zakiya
Vice President, Collingswood Board of Education

On Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 8:00 AM Rebecca Finkel <rfinkel712@gmail.com> wrote:

Regarding last night's board meeting, I would like to ask the board to issue a comprehensive public communications plan regarding the closure of Garfield as soon as possible. It is not sufficient to offer to speak to individuals via email or at unrecorded round table meetings that few of us can attend. Enhanced communication was central to recent campaigns for board seats as well as board leadership, and we now need to see this in action.

As predictable as the loss of Garfield is the current vitriol on social media. I believe that the board has the power and responsibility to respond to anger and misinformation surrounding this loss. To let this devolve into the usual, tired Collingswood politics will hurt the students -- their care must be central to this transition. The staff has its own union. Your job is to advocate for residents.

Finally, I'd like to address that this year's budget gap was completely predictable. Same with next year's gap. And the next. I was flabbergasted last night to hear a resident ask about foresight and planning ahead via a protective referendum. Collingswood has actively fought to preserve an unsustainable model, and this is the consequence. It is now in the best interest of students, families, and staff to prevent more disruption and not hide behind social media outrage scapegoating the administration. This is exactly what some of you campaigned on, and I look forward to seeing you make good on your promise to the community.

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Meredith Howell-Turner; Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.; Dana Walker, Ed.D.; Stephen Burns
Subject: FW: Garfield
Attachments: [REDACTED]

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723



From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:45 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: Re: Garfield

[REDACTED]

John Longo
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Collingswood/Oaklyn Public Schools
jlongo@collsk12.org
Office: (856) 962-5702 ext: 6145
Cell: (609) 820-2584

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 12:24 PM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

Ok send over

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)

Collingswood, NJ 08108

p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001

f- 856-962-5723



From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:23 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Subject: Re: Garfield

John Longo

Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Collingswood/Oaklyn Public Schools

ilongo@collsk12.org

Office: (856) 962-5702 ext: 6145

Cell: (609) 820-2584

On Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 11:59 AM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

[REDACTED]

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, MPA [REDACTED]

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

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From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 11:42 AM

To: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>

Subject: Garfield

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

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Collingswood, NJ 08108

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From: Collingswood Public Schools <noreply@collsk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 8:01 AM
To: bcoleman@collsk12.org
Subject: School Budget Update - March 24, 2026



Collingswood Public Schools

March 24, 2026

Dear Collingswood Families,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, I am writing to share a difficult update regarding our district budget and the transitions ahead. I know that unexpected changes can bring up many questions and emotions for our children and our families. Please know that we are approaching this process with the utmost care for everyone in our school community.

The preliminary budget reflects a **decrease in state aid**. This, combined with a 22% increase in health insurance and other rising operational costs, has created a **significant funding gap of \$3.3M**. These figures are not for new initiatives but represent what is required simply to maintain our current programs and services. Specifically, three primary factors have led us to this point:

1. the **loss of funding** through reductions in state aid
2. **unprecedented fixed costs**, including health insurance premiums and contractual salary increases
3. a persistent **local funding gap** further strained by the rising cost of goods and services

To maintain a balanced budget that meets state and federal mandates while protecting our core educational mission, we have identified several necessary changes. These decisions were not reached lightly. They follow extensive analysis and a commitment to exploring every possible alternative before moving forward. We recognize the profound impact these changes have on our community, and each one has been considered with deep thought and a focus on long-term district sustainability.

- **Staffing & Program Reductions:** We are facing considerable reductions of full-time and part-time positions across all departments, including administrative, teaching, secretarial, support, and facilities. This includes the consolidation of programs, the closure of the Middle and High School Wellness Center, and reductions to mental health support services due to the elimination of federal funding.
- **Consolidated Operations:** We will see the consolidation of our Middle and High School campus and a restructuring of management and operations. We are also reducing operational line items for supplies and equipment.
- **School Closure and Reassignment:** The budget includes the closure of Garfield Elementary School. Approximately 113 students will be reassigned to the district's remaining school sites. This redistribution will require a thoughtful transition to maintain balanced class sizes across our buildings. We are also evaluating the potential relocation of existing preschool classrooms.
- **Athletics & Co-Curriculars:** Select programs will convert to a Pay-to-Play model under a revised activity fee structure.

I share this news not just as your superintendent, but as a neighbor and a fellow Garfield parent whose family will be walking this path too. These decisions are incredibly difficult and are made out of a collective responsibility to keep our district sustainable for the future. Closing a school is a painful chapter to write, and as my own family prepares to say goodbye to these hallways, I feel that weight personally. However, I know the "Garfield Way" is about the heart we bring to school every day. I have full confidence in the resilience of our children, staff, and families to carry our traditions into our new school homes. To support this transition, we are scheduling a dedicated Garfield Family Night to discuss these changes and provide support for one another.

Finally, I'd like to address that this year's budget gap was completely predictable. Same with next year's gap. And the next. I was flabbergasted last night to hear a resident ask about foresight and planning ahead via a protective referendum. Collingswood has actively fought to preserve an unsustainable model, and this is the consequence. It is now in the best interest of students, families, and staff to prevent more disruption and not hide behind social media outrage scapegoating the administration. This is exactly what some of you campaigned on, and I look forward to seeing you make good on your promise to the community.

I understand that clear and timely communication is the foundation of trust, especially during times of transition. I am committed to providing regular updates as we navigate the path ahead, ensuring you are informed, supported, and heard. We are starting a new chapter that will require us to lean on one another more than ever, but I have unwavering confidence in the strength of our community. By working together with patience and shared purpose, we will navigate these challenges and emerge as a stronger, more unified district.

With care and appreciation,
Dr. Fred McDowell
Superintendent

powered by 

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2201 Brookwood Dr Suite 115, Little Rock, AR 72202

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From: Rebecca Finkel <rfinkel712@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 8:00 AM
To: CBOEContact@collsk12.org
Cc: Beth Ann Coleman; Meredith Howell-Turner; Fred McDowell
Subject: Communication re: Garfield Closure

Regarding last night's board meeting, I would like to ask the board to issue a comprehensive public communications plan regarding the closure of Garfield as soon as possible. It is not sufficient to offer to speak to individuals via email or at unrecorded round table meetings that few of us can attend. Enhanced communication was central to recent campaigns for board seats as well as board leadership, and we now need to see this in action.

As predictable as the loss of Garfield is the current vitriol on social media. I believe that the board has the power and responsibility to respond to anger and misinformation surrounding this loss. To let this devolve into the usual, tired Collingswood politics will hurt the students -- their care must be central to this transition. The staff has its own union. Your job is to advocate for residents.

Finally, I'd like to address that this year's budget gap was completely predictable. Same with next year's gap. And the next. I was flabbergasted last night to hear a resident ask about foresight and planning ahead via a protective referendum. Collingswood has actively fought to preserve an unsustainable model, and this is the consequence. It is now in the best interest of students, families, and staff to prevent more disruption and not hide behind social media outrage scapegoating the administration. This is exactly what some of you campaigned on, and I look forward to seeing you make good on your promise to the community.

From: Meghan Walsh <meg.walsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 11:26 AM
To: Kelly Maia
Cc: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.; Zakiya Devine; Meredith Howell-Turner; Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: Re: Thoughts from a Garfield parent

Hi all,

Thank you all for the quick responses. I completely understand the complexity of the situation and Kelly I will reach out to further discuss. I (and all of us) expect the Administration to lead the conversation with partnership from the BOE, and any implied or outright division between the two will most certainly make this situation far worse. At the rate that I'm seeing and hearing these rumors take off, it won't be long until our children are talking about their school closing down and we will need language to help them process it. This is going to be messy either way and I trust our elected officials to do what's possible to minimize the friction.

Thanks again for the conversation.

Meg

Meghan Walsh
(302) 893-2986

On Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 9:49 AM Kelly Maia <kmaia@collsk12.org> wrote:

Hi Meg,

Thank you so much for reaching out. We have to let district administration lead the conversation regarding the budget & the impact that will have on the schools. That being said, everything you said resonates deeply with me & my heart breaks for everyone who is going to be impacted by any cuts to the district.

Zakiya and I will do our best to show we are listening & care deeply about our students, our community & our staff.

Thank you again for reaching out and sharing your thoughts with us. I am always available, and will always listen.

Feel free to reach out anytime.

Kelly
(609) 841-4248

On Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 9:48 AM Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. <fmcdowell@collsk12.org> wrote:

Hi Meg,

Thank you for your message. I have forwarded it to Kelly for review. While we are unable to provide additional details at this time, we greatly appreciate your feedback and will consider it as we plan for the future. Reductions to programs and services are never optimal or desired. As a Garfield parent, our family has wrestled with the same

concerns you shared in your message. The district is committed to ensuring that students have the support they need. Please stay tuned for future communication.

Respectfully,



Fred McDowell, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

(856) 962-5702 | www.collsk12.org | fmcowell@collsk12.org

100 Lees Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108

Create your own email signature



On Sat, Mar 21, 2026 at 8:41 AM Meghan Walsh <meg.walsh@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Zakiya and Fred,

I don't have Kelly's email address, otherwise I would have included her, you are welcome to forward this along if you would like. Rumors are beginning to swirl heavily about the pending closure of Garfield, whether true or not, and I wanted to share some of my thoughts as a Garfield parent in case it can be helpful to you as you navigate this. I'm operating on the assumption that Garfield will be closed in the fall, so I will be phrasing this email as if that is true. If it is potentially not true, then you can disregard or keep this on hand for the next time it comes up to vote, which probably will be in the not too distant future!

The BOE will have the best chance of success if you can lead by addressing the common concerns of parents. Assuming the Garfield students will be scattered throughout the district, will our geographical proximity to the other schools be taken into consideration? Will the District put siblings at the same school? Have the classroom size calculations been done - can we be assured that our child won't be in a classroom with 30 kids and one teacher? Will the Garfield students be able to spend a little bit of extra time getting to know their new school and their new teacher before the school year starts? If there is any way to lead with some of this information, while delivering this news, you will have far less blowback, although you will of course have a lot of blowback either way.

In my experience, myself and some other Garfield parents have expressed that the school is too small and would prefer for our children to be in a bigger school with a variety of children and have their classroom mixed up each school year. We are not necessarily like Sharp where there is a strong neighborhood protection of the school. I personally think there will be some level of acceptance after the initial emotional response. But one of the issues of the past has been communication and I hope that offering some thoughts on the communication plan helps in some way.

Thanks,
Meg Walsh
Rudy (2nd grade)

Beth Ann Coleman

From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 11:05 AM
To: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.; Meredith Howell-Turner; Dana Walker, Ed.D.; Stephen Burns
Subject: RE: Garfield

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723



From: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 9:40 AM
To: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. <fmcowell@collsk12.org>; Meredith Howell-Turner <mhowellturner@collsk12.org>; Dana Walker, Ed.D. <dwalker1@collsk12.org>; Stephen Burns <sburns@collsk12.org>
Subject: Garfield

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools
100 Lees Avenue (former Good Shepherd School)
Collingswood, NJ 08108
p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001
f- 856-962-5723



Beth Ann Coleman

From: Kelly Maia <kmaia@collsk12.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 9:49 AM
To: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D.
Cc: Meghan Walsh; Zakiya Devine; Meredith Howell-Turner; Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: Re: Thoughts from a Garfield parent

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Zakiya and I will do our best to show we are listening & care deeply about our students, our community & our staff.

Thank you again for reaching out and sharing your thoughts with us. I am always available, and will always listen.

Feel free to reach out anytime.

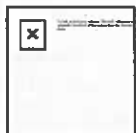
Kelly
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Respectfully,



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Superintendent, Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

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In my experience, myself and some other Garfield parents have expressed that the school is too small and would prefer for our children to be in a bigger school with a variety of children and have their classroom mixed up each school year. We are not necessarily like Sharp where there is a strong neighborhood protection of the school. I personally think there will be some level of acceptance after the initial emotional response. But one of the issues of the past has been communication and I hope that offering some thoughts on the communication plan helps in some way.

Thanks,
Meg Walsh
Rudy (2nd grade)

From: Fredrick McDowell, Ed.D. <fmcowell@collsk12.org>
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Cc: Zakiya Devine; Kelly Maia; Meredith Howell-Turner; Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: Re: Thoughts from a Garfield parent

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there will be some level of acceptance after the initial emotional response. But one of the issues of the past has been communication and I hope that offering some thoughts on the communication plan helps in some way.

Thanks,
Meg Walsh
Rudy (2nd grade)

From: Staff Shoutouts <staffshoutouts@collsk12.org>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 3:18 PM
To: emta; oaklynstaff@oaklynschool.org
Cc: Staff ShoutOuts
Subject: [EMTA] Staff Shout Outs!!

Happy Friday, Colls and Oaklyn Staff! Thank you to everyone who shouted out colleagues who showed our core value of **team and family!**

Olivia Hoban for navigating a previously contentious situation with problem-solving and grace

Erin Bowker for covering my class so I could eat! Appreciate you.

Steve DeCicco, Maddie Hiltner & Cindy Rossi for their help with the Our Town project & visitation.

Laura Spencer for the amazing work she does with her students. Watching their progress and confidence grow is proof of the time, care, and passion she brings to the classroom every single day.

Katie Schuman for always checking in with others, being willing to support in any way you can, and creating the most impactful supportive plans for our students.

Kim Hallenbeck, Kevin Adams, LaToya Goodall, Isaac Mendolsohn, Laelia Watt - You are all AMAZING. Thank you for being so supportive of each other and keeping the fun and laughter in each day!

Jen Connely for taking my crazy idea to make shirts for the The Bad Seed book series for all the teachers at Tatem. How great is it to have someone who will spend a weekend making shirts for her fellow teachers. Thank you. We looked fabulous and the kids loved it.

Garfield Staff for weathering a challenging time with grace and patience.

To Meredith Howell-Turner for her invaluable support and creativity working through a difficult situation

To Kiersten Plath for being so knowledgeable in her field and so willing to support even the most concerning events

To Sean Heeney, Kelly Docimo, and Ellen Tonsberg for making our recess environment safe and fun

Ms. Sam, the Swiss Army Knife of CHS, she can do anything at anytime

JP for letting me share his classroom for one of my classes. I really appreciate the support and teamwork— it definitely makes for a fun day. Grateful to work with people who always have each other's backs!

Chad Meyers, Leslie Espinoza, Jen Mauger, Karla Dickinson, Amber Ziegler, Sabrina Morales, Joe Gursick, and David Olivieri for being wonderful in stressful situations.

Entire OPS staff. To say you are a mighty team is an understatement. I am reminded that coworkers can truly become family. Thank for your continued support. ❤️

Mike McKeown has the can do, will do, let's go attitude all day everyday- in the classroom, on the field, and on the court.

Diane Duque for navigating challenging situations with empathy, grace, patience, and continued advocacy.

Sam Moesnner can do it all and she has been asked to do it! Wishing her great success in yet again a new role at CHS.

BIG Kudos to setting up a new event for Inclusion Week!

Josh Scott cares so much about the students. We are lucky to have him!

Joe Brescia is so kind and will help you figure out how to fix your pencil sharpener and help you find a way to make a cloudy day go away with a freshly brewed cup of coffee.

Kim Hallenbeck always checks in to make sure that I am not pouring from an empty cup. I am so happy to have someone who cares not just about what I produce, but who I am!

Rachel Carly- For making everything seem doable and your amazing chill vibe.

Sandi Castillo- For always knowing what I'm talking about and being an AMAZING collaborator.

Frankie Greenwald- For letting me barge into your classroom and gab and making me laugh.

Karen Tanier- For knowing everything and giving the best advice.

Colls at PV Staff and Coaches for such a fun Read Across America Week!! We're making core memories for our kids



Brad for letting me borrow his classroom for one of my classes. Not all heroes wear capes—some just give up their room and pretend not to notice the extra chaos. Much appreciated!

Kim Madden- For endless patience and generosity.

Bridget, who is my mentee and absolutely making her value worth it here. I'd like to take full credit for her success... but the truth is she's just that good. Proud to see her doing big things (and only slightly taking my job as the cool PE/Driver Ed teacher). Keep it up!

Abby for sharing the PE space and making everything run smoothly. In the world of whistles, sneakers, and organized chaos, she somehow keeps it all together. Much appreciated!

Karina Silvestre, Reanna Penn, Olivia Schell, and Grace McCormick - you all bring me such joy both in and out of school! Stay strong, we're doing amazing work

Sabrina Morales - such an amazing mentor! I still want to be just like you when I grow up!

Rachel Povell - the work you do to advocate for your students does not go unnoticed!

Amber Zickler and Michelle Hill - Happy Social Worker Appreciation Week! You both are so appreciated by your students and your colleagues, keep up the good work!

Congrats to Oaklyn's IA of the year, **Mark Egan!** We are so grateful to have you here!

Vivian Barnett - Simply put: "What would we do without you?" If you look up "Let's figure it out" in the dictionary - your picture is right there!

CHS staff that participated in Inclusion week. Thank you so much for supporting and helping to close the gap between students with and without disabilities.

Ms. Doyle for helping the Unified team to come together as a basketball team and acting as assistant coach during the tournament.

Ms. Meloche for willingly helping me prep for the Unified basketball game and involving practice time for the Unified team during your class. Thank you for coming out to the game too!

The staff in 143: I absolutely love my TEAM and the students and I am blessed to have you in the class. I am forever grateful for the time, effort, patience, and stability that you bring to the classroom.

Social workers for Social Workers month!

Leah Tryon- Thank you for welcoming my students in your classroom for morning meeting, science, and social studies every day. Thank you for being such a patient teacher and providing them with all the supports that they need!
the social workers for Social Workers month!

Katie Lynch: Thanks for being such a good friend and coffee buddy!

Jenn G & Nicole Morton: Thanks for holding down the fort while I was sick. I love our team!

Oaklyn LATs: We have the best little team within a team. I love working with all of you and that we can always figure it out together.

Lisa Stibbard & Maria Papalas: Thanks for always being so kind and caring to everyone. You always put a smile on my face in the mornings!

Theresa McErlean for always being so helpful to CST and particularly today, jumping in to locate and assign a sub at the last minute so that a meeting could be held!

Liz Solowey: We will miss you for the next few weeks!

Ms. Madden for always being so welcoming in the library and using all her tricks to help out a student in need!

Mr Snyder for being inclusive to ALL students!

Kristin Tosh for always going above and beyond the role of co-teacher and friend.

To my **OPS family.** You all have shown up during the hardest time in my life. Thank you all for the texts, calls, hugs, and food. I would be on the floor without all of you to hold me up. My Dad would have loved you guys <3

EWT- Thank you for replenishing my snack supply!!! The kids and I all appreciate it!!

Tina Olsen- You are always quick to collaborate and always looking out for the best interest of your students. Thank you for your help this week and the last several. Your support and care is so appreciated.

Eva, Cheryl, and Jen- Thank you for the best shirt of all time! I can't wait to tell people how the character was created by you 3 just for your school health nuts! 🍌

Cheryl- You are many wonderful things, but I am high-fiving you for your amazing communication this week to keep everyone informed and your student's well-being prioritized.

Tatem MTSS and CST team for working tirelessly to advocate for kids who need more support.

Kiersten Plath for providing a sense of calm and support for kids and families who need her most.

Nicolette Gill, Shannon McCartney, Patrick Rader, and Sara Lairmore for hosting each other to strengthen our upper elementary instruction!

Cecilia Taglang for keeping all the plates spinning during a very busy RAAW at Tatem.

Brittany Van Emburgh for going so far above and beyond to support Tatem kids and families.

Cheryl DiVito for running point on Tatem's inaugural Women's History Month Momapalooza.

John Grasso - For valuing the whereabouts of our students during Advisory and your continued leadership in the CMS Language Arts Department

Abby Adams - For your patience and care demonstrated towards your colleagues

Mike Jefferson - Thank you for making staff remember how to laugh & smile

Sabrina Morales- Thank you for always helping with any situations that arise! You are always willing to support the students and staff. You are awesome!

Rachel Povell- Thank you for your abundance of knowledge and support!

Michelle Hill- For being flexible and supportive of your students!

Mr. McLoughlin- For making sure your students are supported and helping them succeed!

Mrs. Funches and Mrs. Earle- For helping out with students in need and being team players!!

Mr. Myers- for supporting your students through difficult situations.

Clare Hendriks- for being so flexible and supporting any student who needs it! Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Brittany Biggs- for being a team player!

Erica Berti- For doing an awesome job at a reevaluation meeting!

Lauren Berck- For always going the extra mile! You are so creative and supportive! You are going to be a wonderful School Psych!

Reanna Penn- For going out of your way to be helpful!

Ali- You are an amazing teacher! You are always creating memorable moments for your students!

Matt, Rachael and Jenn F, thank you for your poise and calm during a challenging circumstance this week.

Mark and Kiersten, I don't have enough words to describe your tremendous leadership and guidance for a student and their family over the last several weeks. It has been inspiring to watch you both in action.

Tatem Tigers, ROAR was awesome!!! What a wonderful way to celebrate your kids!!

Brad, thank you for your thoughtful communication and support for students and families, during a tricky time of transition. We are lucky to have you!

Meredith Howell-Turner, thank you for showing professionalism and listening to teachers.

Kristin Tosh, thank you for taking care of your friends.

Kim Madden, thanks for being a responsive and helpful colleague!

Adrienne Earle, thank you for the compassion you show to our students!

Joe Gurcsik, thank you for being a jolly presence in the office every morning.

Jeff Hermann, thanks for being a collaborative colleague!

CJ Hartung, thanks for letting me exercise my singing muscles during choir class. It was a treat!

Alli D'Aloia for being a great March Madness partner!

Julie Schneider and Kim Capriotti for being great work friends, always listening, and always wanting what is best for the kids!

Ty Rodriguez for always being so helpful

Jen Obeda for lending an ear and being a great "roommate"!

HAPPY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER WEEK/MONTH/YEAR!!!! You are the district's Octopuses-you have a lot of brains, a lot of hearts, extreme flexibility, and can expand your reach in so many directions!! You just need some camouflage and ink so you're not so easily found. We are so grateful to have you **Kim Pietruszka, Amber Zickler, Michelle Hill, Brittany Biggs, Isaac Mendelsohn, George Colimore, Vivian Barnett, Diane Duque, Kiersten Plath, and all the wonderful School Social Work Interns!!**

Ms. Hinson, you are such a welcomed presence at the middle school. Your student and the CMS staff greatly appreciate your positivity, patience, flexibility, creativity, and kindness. Welcome!!

Ms. Lee for her strong leadership skills and for setting the tone in every room.

Claire Hendrix for being so dedicated to supporting the social-emotional functioning and safety she works with.

Ms. Zickler for being such an effective, supportive, and efficient team member. We thank our lucky stars each day you are here!

Ms. Hill for having grace under fire. You were bombarded with several challenging scenarios this week, but you parquored your way through those barriers and made it to Friday with resilience and a smile.

Ms. Povell for always being a team player and filling in when needed. Your experience, confidence, and versatility make you an MVP!!

Ms. Berck for her creative solutions and resources for the MD classrooms. You create such amazing and beautiful individualized custom work for our MD6-8 classes.

Val Dayton and Danielle Riggio-Armano for all of your help subbing in for meetings! We could not have these meetings without you. We are thankful for your understanding, compassion, and flexibility.

Miss Lee - Thank you for always showing up and supporting our students with a smile and a sense of humor, even when life gets to be a lot. We are lucky to have you on the team!

Mr Brown - when things feel confusing or fuzzy - you always help me see things clearer!

CMS staff members for dropping everything and helping during a serious situation:

Clare Hendricks, Leslie Espinosa, Celeinette Espinosa, Marsha Olitsky, Karla Dickerson, Jenn Mauger, Rubin Alicea, Michelle Hill, Siobhan Funches, Adrienne Earle, & Amber Zickler

Nicole Morton for helping me when I am directionally challenged - as well as help figure out our next step in math!

Erika Hennessy - for always being up for whatever new system I through into my classroom and helping me implement these things!

Lisa Stibbard for coming up with new solutions to a problem I have yet to solve! You're the best!

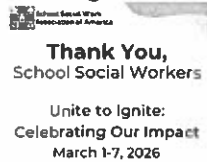
Jen Yoder - you are a true angel on earth. Thank you for going above and beyond for me.

Mark Wiltsey - thank you for the great communication and problem solving!

Matt Genna & Steve Smith - thank you for your helpful advice and being great listeners!

Jenn Floyd - Thank you for the treats! :)

Happy School Social Work week to our amazing **school social workers**! You are an integral part of our teams, and your



work is invaluable for students and staff.

Kathleen Schmidt -You create a space where our students artwork is showcased. The hallways feels brighter because of you.

Anastasia Pallero-It was wonderful to see your students hard work come to life and to watch how proud they were while playing. Your dedication really shows, and it means so much for the students

Jennifer Serena -Always making sure everyone feels seen, valued, and appreciated.

Sandy Hart-Your sweet disposition and genuine kindness never go unnoticed.

Faith Hvisdas -You make our workplace feel lighter and more positive, and I truly appreciate you.

Mark Egan- Congratulations on being IA of the Year! So well deserved.

the team in Room 108 for putting students first and supporting each other in the good times and bad times.

Ms. Lil- You are the backbone of our team. Thanks for your strength.

Mr. Joey- Your wisdom with behavior streamlines the program.

Ms. Mari -Your passion for the kids and gentle approach balances the class culture.

Mrs. Rice- Your desire to learn, create, and execute curriculum is inspiring.

Heather Brown - Thank you for always being open to my endless (crazy) ideas and finding creative ways to support our 18-21 adult students. You are consistently helping them to reach their highest level of independence and they are becoming the best version of themselves. You are their "person" and it is evident by your interactions with them. I also want to thank you for always lending a listening ear and offering advice. I truly appreciate the relationship we have built on both a professional and personal level. Thank you for being YOU and such an amazing human being!

Sabrina Morales, Rachel Povell, & Amber Zickler - Thank you for showing me the true definition of teamwork. You are all so quick to lend an extra hand on any given day no matter how busy or hectic your schedules are right now. I appreciate that I can ask questions without judgement and brainstorm new ideas to better support the needs of our students even if a student is not on your caseload. I am constantly learning something new and I am becoming a better professional because of the three of you.

Siobhan Funches - Thank you for teaching me how to complete new paperwork and helping to support our student in crisis this week. It is not always an easy case, but I appreciate that we are able to collaborate and work together to meet our student's academic, emotional, and social needs.

Kylie Smith - Thank you for being a safe space and providing guidance on the best ways to approach difficult situations. I appreciate that you are consistent and hold our students accountable while incorporating teachable moments in order for them to continue growing/learning.

Mrs. Mac for always working through the problems and drama to make it all work for the entire office and high school.

Gina Lipka for always making sports work and the teams run smoothly, I could not do it without you!

Welcome to **Erika Morrante** - you are a great addition to the office!

Mrs. Kish for always helping to make things work and help to solve the office problems!

Mrs. Brown is always looking to make IGNITE the best program ever and bring something new and exciting to the school community. You always "Figure it out."

Mr. Newman for always putting the team in front of yourself! You are awesome!

Mr. Mack for offering to help out any time you can!

Ms Gilmore for being an amazing person and leading our student to be the best he can be! Way to have a positive attitude and figure it out!

Ms. Hill and Ms Povel - for always being there for our students when they need a little support and help.

Mrs Robinson your the best. An you always. Have my back. Love you

My Elijah. Mack. My favorite you always. So respectful. And have my back as well. Love you

Sue Miller- Thank you for planning an amazing book-filled week for our staff and students!

Kevin Adams - amazing job planning and making the 8th grade Open House at CHS a huge success! Your energy is contagious!

Brad Kline and Lisa Hall for their work in trying to get 307 ready to rock again.

Joe Marietta, the "Muffin Man", "Ultimate Baker" of Tatem school. Thank you for all the delicious muffins. You are spoiling the staff.

Suzanna, thank you for the Dunkin treats and thinking of the staff.

Mark Wiltsey - I ain't mad at ya 🤔

Jenn Verdone - for being a reliable, kind, and helpful grade-level partner

Kim Hallenback - For getting us a GPA report! Thank you!

Mrs. Robinson thank you for keeping my name in the room where my opportunity to speak may be missed. You have defended the correct ways things should be done even when the wrong is being justified. This shows how you stay true to yourself and your morals. Thank you for being such an amazing person. I know it can get hard with your own things going on although you are a true symbol of strength.

Ms. Deidra Hill thank you for the laughs and light hearted friendship we have you are great. The young spirit you have will never disappoint. Keep being you your doing great.

Jillian Matysik- Thank you for taking a moment to listen to a friend and collab on a tough call.

Kamilah Hinson - Thank you so much for your constant support and calm demeanor in everything from parent meetings, in-class student support, or responding to behavior. Such a joy to work alongside you!

And the winner is...

Gina Lipka

Keep your eye out for some super sweet interoffice mail!

As always, we'd like to thank everyone for your dedication to our students, their families, and each other!

We hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Beth Ann Coleman

From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 4:02 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman
Subject: Re: Budget

Works for me

John Longo
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Collingswood/Oaklyn Public Schools
jlongo@collsk12.org
Office: (856) 962-5702 ext: 6145
Cell: (609) 820-2584

On Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 3:36 PM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

9?

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools

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Collingswood, NJ 08108

p-856-962-5702 ext. 9001

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From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>
Cc: Stephen Burns <sburns@collsk12.org>
Subject: Re: Budget

Sure thing, let me know a time

John Longo

Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

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Cell: (609) 820-2584



On Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 3:08 PM Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org> wrote:

Yup- Monday morning?

#bekind

Beth Ann Coleman, MPA, SFO, RSBA, QPA

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

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f- 856-962-5723



From: John Longo <jlongo@collsk12.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 3:03 PM

To: Beth Ann Coleman <bcoleman@collsk12.org>

Subject: Budget

Do you have time next week to sit down about the potential closure of Garfield and BSE employees?