



SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education -14 Beekman Terrace- Summit - New Jersey 07901-1702 (908) 273-3023

Mr. Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools

October 12, 2021

Dear Summit Public Schools Community,

It is with great excitement that I share with all of you that Mr. Derek J. Jess will be the District's next Business Administrator/Board Secretary. Mr. Jess will be formally announced at the upcoming Board of Education meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021. His anticipated start date is January 1, 2022. Mr. Jess will succeed Mr. Louis Pepe, RSBA, SFO who is retiring after 13 years at Summit Public Schools. I hope you join me in welcoming him to the District, and congratulating Mr. Pepe on a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Jess comes to Summit with more than 20 years of experience as a School Business Administrator/Board Secretary in New Jersey. In his latest role in Perth Amboy, he was responsible for a \$282 million budget and overseeing Transportation and Security, as well as Buildings and Grounds and Food Service. He managed numerous renovation and health and safety projects and worked with the New Jersey Schools Development Authority to construct two early childhood schools and two elementary schools, with a new high school currently underway.

Mr. Jess has a decorated reputation in the state for his tireless and dedicated work as a School Business Administrator. Notable achievements include being named New Jersey School Business Administrator of the Year in 2016 and winning the ASBO International Pinnacle of Excellence Award in 2011. Mr. Jess has been a proud member of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials for over 20 years, where he served as President from 2012-2013. He is also a long-standing member of ASBO International and the New Jersey State Board of Examiners, for which he has been the Chairman since 2017. Mr. Jess is currently serving his second term on the Somerville Board of Education.

In addition, I am also incredibly excited to share that Mr. Michael Martino will be our next Director of Facilities, effective January 1, 2022. He will succeed Mr. Angelo Palumbo, who is retiring after nearly 27 years at Summit Public Schools. Mr. Martino has been in the District for 12 years, with his most recent role as Supervisor of Maintenance, and brings a plethora of knowledge and expertise to this position. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Martino on his promotion, and Mr. Palumbo on a well-earned retirement.

I want to thank the administrators and staff members who served on the interview committees for both of these important roles. A reception will be held for both Mr. Jess and Mr. Martino prior to the November Board of Education meeting. I look forward to both of their contributions in the District.

Be well,

Scott Hough
Superintendent of Schools