



**STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL  
24 VALLEY ROAD, STANHOPE NJ 07874  
973-347-0008      973-347-8368 FAX**

**LINDEN AVENUE SCHOOL  
19 LINDEN AVE, STANHOPE NJ 07874  
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[www.stanhopeschools.org](http://www.stanhopeschools.org)**

**Dennis Fyffe  
Interim Superintendent**

**Clifford Burns  
Principal**

May 13, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about a change in our district's administrative structure.

As you probably know, the Valley Road School currently employs Clifford Burns as a full-time Principal and our district employs Dennis Fyffe as a half-time Interim Superintendent. We share Mr. Fyffe's services with the Netcong Board of Education.

Over the past year, representatives of Stanhope and Netcong have met to consider whether the two districts should share a Superintendent on a permanent basis. While a preliminary recommendation had been made, that recommendation had not been formally presented to or considered by either Board of Education.

On May 11, the Stanhope and Netcong Boards of Education met together concerning next steps for the shared Superintendency. The purpose of the meeting was for the Boards to discuss what has been working, what has not been working, and to develop a vision of how we would move forward together.

At the very beginning of the meeting, however, and without prior notice to us, the Netcong Board terminated their contract with Mr. Fyffe. The Netcong Board stated that this was done purely for financial reasons on their part and was not related to Mr. Fyffe's performance in any way. Within 15 minutes of beginning our meeting, the Netcong Board took this action, the meeting was adjourned, and the Netcong Board departed.

Following the departure of the Netcong Board of Education, the Stanhope Board of Education met to consider our options and how best to proceed. We quickly reached consensus that attempting to continue to share resources with Netcong would not be prudent. We have decided that our best course of action is to create the position of full-time Chief School Administrator (CSA) who would combine the present roles of both our superintendent and our principal. The CSA will be supported by a half-time administrator.

A significant benefit to the CSA approach is that our most senior administrator will be on-site in our district every day. There will be no increase in our administrative costs as we move to a CSA.

It is the intention of the Board of Education at our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to appoint Mr. Fyffe as the 2010-11 Interim CSA. We appreciate his leadership this year and the progress that

the district has made. We look forward to continued progress next year and to Mr. Fyffe's assistance as we move towards the appointment of a permanent CSA, effective July 1, 2011.

Mr. Burns will be moving to a position with another school district. We very much appreciate all of his hard work and his dedication to our school. He has been an asset to our district and we know that he will be successful in his next position. We wish Mr. Burns all the best.

The students were informed of this decision earlier today. Teachers read a prepared statement and students were given an opportunity to ask questions.

The Board of Education believes strongly that this is the best way to proceed and we look forward to an excellent 2010-2011 school year.

Sincerely,

Gina Thomas  
President, Stanhope Board of Education