



Est. 1676

Cami Anderson
State District Superintendent

THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner of Education

February 25, 2014

An Open Letter to Newark Families,

The goal of our district is to work with families every day to provide students with a great education. From the daily conversations we have with families as they drop their children off at school, to regular parent/teacher conferences to discuss a child's progress, and to community meetings to discuss Universal Enrollment options, we greatly value our interactions with parents and community members each and every day. Newark Public Schools (NPS) is totally committed to your children and their education – it's why we're moving aggressively to increase equity, transparency and accountability throughout the system.

We have come to realize that one particular venue—the monthly meetings chaired by NPS' School Advisory Board (SAB)—are no longer focused on achieving educational outcomes for children. The dysfunction displayed within this forum sets a bad example for our children, and it's no longer a place where meaningful interaction and dialogue occurs between NPS and the public. As a result, Superintendent Anderson and the NPS Leadership team will no longer attend these meetings until the SAB can commit to ensuring a space conducive to open dialogue with the community.

In light of this decision, NPS will redouble its efforts to ensure the community is informed about One Newark plans and other key initiatives. NPS will continue to create community events and discussions throughout the city and publish the agendas and minutes of these events online and in schools. We will also continue to meet with parent advisory groups and attend student leadership forums to garner feedback in order to ensure that your concerns are effectively debated and addressed.

Finally, NPS will videotape its monthly update, traditionally presented at the SAB meeting, and distribute it directly on our website - <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/> - and on Channel 77, the Newark community cable network.

Dialogue with you is more important than ever before. We look forward to continuing to implement our ongoing efforts and adding new options to facilitate greater access to information.

Sincerely,
Newark Public Schools