

For immediate release

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Becton-Maywood 2020 Decision



Dear C-ER Becton Regional High School & Maywood Public School Communities:

We have exciting news to share with you!

First and foremost, we hope this communication finds you well. On behalf of the Maywood Board of Education and the Carlstadt-East Rutherford (Becton) Regional High School Board of Education, we would like to provide our school communities with an update on the partnership between Maywood Public Schools and Becton Regional High School.

As noted in prior communications with community members and/or at public board meetings, it was our hope that we would receive a timely decision by the New Jersey Department of Education to not only allow for ample planning time for a potential transition, but also give the necessary time to communicate the decision to our respective communities.

We can now officially report that a decision has been made. The New Jersey Commissioner of Education made and formally filed the decision on March 2, 2020 at 9 a.m., and it was received by counsel via mail on March 4, 2020. Based on state regulations, the earliest the public is permitted to be notified is three (3) days later, which is why you are receiving this information today, March 7, 2020.

After an exhaustive process that was nearly two (2) years in the making, we are excited to report that the Commissioner has ruled in favor of the Maywood Board of Education, and he has officially approved the severance of the send/receive relationship with Hackensack High School and approved the newly created send/receive relationship with the Becton Regional High School District as its **new home district, effective September 2020, for the incoming freshman class.**

Maywood wanted a possible future partnership with a high school that had a state-of-the-art facility, outstanding academic and extracurricular programs, and a positive school climate, culture and spirit, and Becton Regional is that high school. Together, they are that “perfect partnership.”

A synopsis of the decision can be found below:

“Upon review, the Commissioner is satisfied that the record establishes that there will be no substantial negative impact upon severing the sending-receiving relationship between Maywood and Hackensack. An overwhelming number of public comments support ending the agreement, and the Hackensack Board of

Education, the party in the best position to demonstrate any potential negative impacts on its district, does not oppose its severance. The withdrawal of Maywood students will alleviate the problem of overcrowding at Hackensack High School, which appears likely to improve educational opportunities for the remaining students, while having little or no negative financial or racial impact on the district. Accordingly, the petitioner's application for severance of its sending-receiving relationship with Hackensack is hereby granted, subject to establishment of a sending-receiving relationship with the Carlstadt-East Rutherford School District for a minimum duration of five years."

As you may recall, on July 24, 2019, an official send-receive relationship and ten-year contract had already been established and a joint resolution was unanimously passed by both boards of education.

It is humbling to reflect back on when this all started, which is now approaching almost two (2) years, to where we are now. Both Maywood and Becton have been in constant contact with each other throughout the process while remaining positive and laying the groundwork for a decision that they were optimistic would work out. During the first year, countless hours were spent on gathering data and presenting evidence so that all stakeholders could understand how beneficial this partnership would be to both the Maywood and Becton school communities. It has been a true collaborative effort from all stakeholders and a testament to what can be accomplished when one places the interest and education of students first. We are happy that the Department of Education was able to see the tremendous value a partnership like this one is going to have for all communities. We are also pleased that this perfect partnership will enable us, together, to build on the "model high school" status already established at Becton. This new partnership will add to Becton Regional High School's academic success and positive school culture and allow the opportunity to exponentially expand existing programs and services. At the same time, it will grant the possibility to further explore new educational opportunities for students including, but not limited to, increased Career, Technical, Trade, AP, and Special Education programs.

This timely **Becton-Maywood 2020 Decision** will now afford our respective administrations, school staff, and school counseling/guidance teams to formally begin the process of moving forward with the scheduling of Maywood's current 8th graders for the 2020-21 school year. We will also work to schedule specific dates/times for open house visitations and information sessions for both parents and students so as to allow for a very smooth transition for both districts. These dates and times will be communicated in the near future.

The Maywood Board of Education and the Carlstadt-East Rutherford (Becton) Regional High School Board of Education would like to thank our respective school communities for their patience during this process. The boards are very satisfied with the decision, and we look forward to the development of this new and exciting *historic* partnership that will most certainly change the trajectory of Becton Regional High School in a positive way and for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan

Mr. Michael Jordan

Superintendent of Schools
Maywood Public School District

Dario Sforza

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