

Absecon Public Schools

PRESS RELEASE

A little over a year and a half ago, the Absecon Board of Education began the process of ending its sending-receiving relationship with the Pleasantville School District in order to send its high school students to Absegami High School, which is part of the Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District. While Pleasantville initially opposed Absecon's petition, last night the Pleasantville Board of Education voted to accept its Superintendent's recommendation to withdraw its opposition and allow Absecon's petition to proceed uncontested.

"We are delighted that Pleasantville no longer wishes to force the taxpayers of both communities to expend significant time, energy, and resources in order to prevent the Absecon community from getting to decide for itself where its students should attend high school," said Absecon Superintendent Dan Dooley. "For years, Absecon has not felt a part of the Pleasantville community. Pleasantville never demonstrated an interest in attending our high school fairs or speaking with our 8th grade students nor did it ever seek our District's input on important educational decisions. This is a stark contrast to the Greater Egg Harbor Regional's administration, who have continued to express their excitement over the potential of our two districts forming a partnership. The Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District is made up of six communities, including two of which send their students as part of sending-receiving agreements. Due to this arrangement, they have an unique experience integrating students from different communities and already have provided our community with a plan on how it intends to integrate Absecon students. This includes holding a number of programs throughout our students' 8th grade year in order to ensure our students feel a part of the Greater Egg Harbor community before they even begin high school."

"Absegami High School provides an incredibly diverse learning environment for our students, in addition to its rigorous academic programming," said Absecon Board President Eric Neal. "We are particularly excited with the potential of our students being eligible to participate in the six magnet programs offered to Greater Egg Harbor students. These programs will provide our students with a unique academically driven experience unlike any other in the State."

While Pleasantville no longer opposes Absecon's petition, the Commissioner of Education still must approve the Petition before Absecon can send its students to Absegami High School. The next step will be for Pleasantville to formally withdraw its opposition and for Absecon's petition to follow a process provided for by the New Jersey Department of Education, which includes an opportunity for public comment. The Absecon Board of Education will provide further information on this process as it unfolds.

Thereafter, the Commissioner of Education will review the petition, assess the legal issues posed by the petition, and ultimately determine whether Absecon is allowed to send its students to Absegami High School. Absecon has authorized Special Counsel Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr. and Kerri A. Wright of Porzio, Bromberg and Newman, P.C., attorneys with a long history of success in school district reconfiguration, to assist them in this endeavor.

"While we understand this process is not over," said Superintendent Dooley, "this was a significant step toward our ultimate goal of providing our students an exceptional education at a diverse school district."