

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas A. Smith is retiring after 12 years of service as Superintendent of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, on this occasion, it is fitting to pause and reflect, in appreciation, of Dr. Smith and his dedication and commitment to the Hopewell Valley Community and Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is a longtime educator and has worked as a teacher, coach, and at all levels of administration in both large and small school districts and also teaches graduate level courses in education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in Communications, two master's degrees in education from The College of New Jersey, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Seton Hall University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has served as the President of the Mercer County Administrators Association for the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith received recognition from his peers when the Mercer County Association of School Administrators (MCASA) named him the 2018 Superintendent of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has been described as widely respected and highly regarded throughout the county and state and is a student-centered educational leader who is passionate about his work and has served as a mentor to new superintendents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's recent work has focused on social-emotional learning and providing mental health programs for students, as well as improving the cultural competency of staff and students, student safety, and improving academic opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith supported a number of programs and initiatives throughout his career including Virtual Pathways-alternative learning environment for high school students, Nurtured Heart Approach training for parents and staff, community discussions on race and equity, random drug testing, breathalyzing at school events, mindfulness initiatives for students and staff in all school buildings, mental health and suicide support through "Hope and Help" which resulted from the Superintendent's Call to Action when Mercer County was experiencing a high rate of youth suicide, and training of therapy dogs through the organization "Attitudes in Reverse" (AIR) in all Valley schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas A. Smith has dedicated his career to the field of education through the many examples of achievements in academics, the arts and athletics; and

WHEREAS, it is entirely proper to state the quality of education in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District is so appreciated by its students and their families and is maintained in part because of Dr. Smith's dedication to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that it hereby honors and applauds the many accomplishments and unquestionable service of Dr. Thomas A. Smith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee, on behalf of the entire Hopewell Township community, do hereby express deep appreciation for the many years of community involvement and service Dr. Thomas Smith has offered to the Hopewell Valley Regional School District, and extends best wishes in his retirement from Hopewell Valley and in his future endeavors as the Superintendent for the Pennsbury School District.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2021