

Dear Hopewell residents and school community,

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve on the Hopewell Township School Board for the last 20 years. During my time on the board, our school has experienced, as has every school, ups and downs, happy times, sad times and every emotion possible. The school is a microcosm of life and it embodies the spirit of its administration, educators, students and their families.

In the past years, I have had many proud moments as a member of the BOE and as a community resident. The school has always been “the community” to me and I am sure the same to most who love the school. Our reaction to the tragedy of 911 is just one example where our school has consistently worked extra hard to do the best possible for all students.

When we realized the executive orders from Trenton would not only effect student-teacher contact in the classroom, but would ultimately eliminate all activities through the end of the school year, including graduation, we were devastated. Although we were not alone, a plan was created for graduation, that, quite frankly, led me to a degree of skepticism. Our school is rich with so many wonderful traditions and not to be able to provide the proper graduation ceremony with all the recognition our students deserve was frustrating.

Without a doubt, my proudest moment as a member of the Hopewell School Board came Thursday between 5:30 and 7 PM when we had our “drive-by graduation ceremony.” Our teachers and administration provided to our students a fun and memorable experience. The balloon arches, Mrs. Lammersen and Mr. Ogbin’s well wishes, Mr. Chappius’ graduation themed music and the hard work of the graduation committee (you know who you are!) made for a wonderful time. Our staff with their posters and imitation of professional cheerleaders are all thoughts which will remain with me for many years.

The Corona Virus and the current worldwide pandemic has made everyone work harder to maintain contact with each other. As we go forward and continue to rethink what our new normal will be, our community should remain confident that our students are in the best of hands with the dedicated staff and administration we have.

I have never been more proud of our school community, especially as how our school year could have ended. What happened Thursday night was terrific.

As we send our 8th graders on to the high school level, we expect great things from them and wish them health, safety and fond memories from the 2020 school year where we all stayed #Hopewell Strong.

With best regards,
Kenneth Freitag
Hopewell School Board President