



Outlook

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**Open Letter Regarding New Business Administrator**

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**From** Shauna Williams <swilliamsny@yahoo.com>**Date** Wed 6/18/2025 3:50 PM**To** Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>; Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>; Tom Foregger <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>; Sai-board <sbhargavi@bhpsnj.org>; Natasha Board <njoly@bhpsnj.org>; dterrero@bhpsnj.org <dterrero@bhpsnj.org>; bdillon@bhpsnj.org <bdillon@bhpsnj.org>; Pamela Stanley <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>**Cc** Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>; NJ21st Team <team@nj21st.com>

Hello Berkeley Heights Board of Education Members,

As the District begins looking for a new Business Administrator, I'd like to take a minute to express some thoughts, given our past two BA's and their attitudes and job performance.

Please don't discount someone without a lot of experience. Better to have someone young, ambitious, and willing to learn than someone who is jaded by time and stuck in a mindset from 26 years ago. Parental expectations and involvement have changed since Covid, when we all sat at home, watching our children's classes, hyper-focused on what was going on in our schools. In addition, just because there is no large penalty for some actions, having a delayed budget, for example, doesn't mean that's what should become the norm.

Please look for someone who is smart enough to do the job, but who isn't so caught up in their own narcissistic view of their own intelligence that they are incapable of understanding anyone else's concerns. Being humble is vastly underrated and can go a very, very long way to helping build trust and heal. We need someone cooperative more than we need someone from an ivy league.

Please find someone who understands that the 'P' in OPRA stands for Public. These records belong to District residents, not to the Business Administrator. I can say certainty that both our last two BAs spent a considerable amount of time looking up statutes and cases to find ways to deny requests, sending even the most straight-forward requests to lawyers, over-redacting, and overstating the amount of time required to fulfil this part of their job. This benefits no one, not even the BA, and is bound to find the District on the losing end of more court cases if it doesn't stop.

Please keep an eye out for someone who believes in following up on questions they have been asked. It's better to admit not having an answer than to make something up, but it doesn't do any good if they think the issue disappears at the end of a meeting or after reading an email.

This alternately seems like a lot to ask, and a basic request at the same time. Wherever possible, please keep the public updated on the search.

Thank you, and with warm wishes for a great summer,  
Shauna Williams