



# Borough of Freehold Public Schools

280 Park Avenue  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
(732) 761-2100 - FAX (732) 462-8954

Paul Jensen  
Board President

Rocco G. Tomazic, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

September 26, 2023

## **Press Release**

Freehold: At the Freehold Borough Board of Education meeting held this evening, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. Asia Michael as the next permanent Superintendent of the Freehold Borough Public Schools. Mrs. Michael is currently the Superintendent in the Southampton Township School District in New Jersey. She will assume her duties in Freehold Borough on Monday, December 11, 2023. Mrs. Michael's contract will run through June 30, 2027.

"The Board is delighted to welcome Mrs. Michael", said Paul Jensen, President of the Freehold Borough Board of Education. "She comes to us with a wealth of experience and dynamic leadership qualities that will greatly enhance our district in the years to come."

Asia Michael is an instructional leader with over 20 years of experience in public education. She began her career as a classroom teacher serving students in Trenton, New Jersey before transitioning to Burlington Township, New Jersey. Mrs. Michael became an educational administrator in 2015 and served as a vice principal and director of curriculum and instruction prior to being appointed to her current role as the superintendent of the Southampton Township School District.

Mrs. Michael has been recognized for outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the areas of purposeful leadership, instructional leadership, resource management, and community and stakeholder involvement. As superintendent of schools, she collaborated with various stakeholders to develop and begin the implementation of a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan, established a high-performance culture, improved instruction and raised student achievement, and implemented initiatives that increased student opportunities.

Mrs. Michael attended Rutgers University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Sociology before obtaining her Master of Science in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. In the years to follow, she obtained her supervisor and principal certifications prior to completing a post-graduate program to earn her School Administrator certification in 2020. Currently, she is

pursuing her doctoral degree in educational leadership and social change. Mrs. Michael was also recently appointed to the Alumni Advisory Council of Western Governors University and selected to serve on a national superintendent cohort focused on bringing awareness to and improving adolescent mental health.

Asia Michael is an advocate for public education committed to creating transformative experiences that ensure all students reach their highest potential and is focused on doing what is best for all Freehold Borough School District students, staff, and families.

Mrs. Michael will take over duties from Rocco Tomazic, who returned from retirement to serve as Interim Superintendent since July 1, 2023 after the resignation of Superintendent Joseph Howe. Joseph Howe was Superintendent from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 and Rocco Tomazic was Superintendent from April 1, 2013 to August 31, 2021.

Freehold Borough Public Schools currently has 1,597 students with 270 employees, including 200 teachers and certificated staff. The district’s operating budget is just under \$37 million dollars. The district serves grades PK-8 with students going on to the Freehold Regional High School District for grades 9-12.

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Photo of Asia Michael

