



**Bethlehem**  
TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



September 19, 2024

## **Dear Bethlehem, Franklin, and Union communities,**

We are writing to provide an update on the results of the recent regionalization study and the next steps in the process. At our first joint presentation, the findings of the study were shared with all three communities, and we were encouraged by the engagement and interest from those in attendance.

Following the presentation, the presidents and vice presidents of the school boards from Bethlehem, Franklin, and Union met to gauge interest in moving forward with regionalization discussions. It was unanimously agreed that further discussions are necessary, and each district will address this topic at their regularly scheduled board meetings in September and October to gather feedback from the community.

While these discussions continue, all three boards expressed an interest in exploring shared services between the districts where appropriate, as a potential benefit regardless of regionalization. These conversations will be ongoing, and we encourage your attendance and participation to gauge community interest and perspective on this topic.

It's important to note that the boards' role in this process is to facilitate discussions and determine if an option would be brought to the community to vote. For regionalization to move forward, each district's board must pass a resolution. Once this is memorialized, the New Jersey Department of Education must provide initial approval, and then the proposal will be placed on a ballot for a community referendum.

Your input is critical as we move forward, and we encourage you to attend these important discussions.

Sincerely,

Daniel MacDonnell, Bethlehem School Board

James Giordano, Franklin School Board

Cortney Dominianni-Smith, Union School Board