

April 4, 2017

Dr. Carol Fredericks
Franklin Township School
226 Quakertown Road
Quakertown, NJ 08868

Dr. Fredericks:

My name is Julia Garabo and I am one of the RVCC students who completed service learning at FTS this semester. I want to sincerely thank you for allowing me this opportunity. During my time at FTS, I was in Ms. Browning's classroom. Ms. Browning taught me so much about classroom management and lesson planning. I learned so much this semester, and I am incredibly thankful that I was able to complete my hours at FTS. This truly is a wonderful school, and I got a great sense of community throughout the school. It is easy to see that each teacher connects with their students and with each other. I am so happy I was able to be a part of this community for a short period of time, and I am truly going to miss visiting Ms. Browning's classroom every week! Her students are some of the sweetest children I have ever met, and they have a great love for learning. Ms. Browning does an amazing job with classroom management and keeping the students intrinsically motivated to learn. Overall, I am so honored to have had this opportunity. Throughout these ten weeks, my love for teaching has been reinforced even further. I have no doubt that I have chosen the right career path, and that is partly due to my time spent at FTS! Once again, thank you so much for this opportunity. I will never forget it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Garabo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julia Garabo

April 21st, 2017

From: Victoria Elacqua

Student at Raritan Valley Community College
431 Charlestown Road
Hampton, NJ 08827

To:

Dr. Carol Fredericks
Franklin Township School District
226 Quakertown Road
Quakertown, NJ 08868

Dear Dr. Fredericks:

I wanted to express my gratitude for allowing myself and other fellow classmates at Raritan Valley Community College to have the educational opportunity to observe at Franklin Township School District. The atmosphere within the school was always positive and welcoming. Every teacher, staff member and student I met was friendly and supportive. I looked forward to every chance I got to observe.

Not only did I learn and grow extensively these past few months from having this one-of-a-kind experience but, it has helped to justify my desire to work in the educational field. I am extremely appreciative of having the ability to observe within this remarkable environment.

Sincerely,



Victoria Elacqua

Student at Raritan Valley Community College

Date: April 12th 2017

Dr. Carol A. Fredericks
Superintendent
Franklin Township School District
226 Quakertown Road
PO Box 368
Quakertown, NJ 08868

Dear Carol A. Fredericks:

My name is Jennifer Massa. I am a student at Raritan Valley Community College studying elementary education. Over the last few months I was given the opportunity to student teach at Franklin Township Elementary School in Mr. Jeffrey Weinhold's third grade classroom. I am writing to you to express my gratitude for allowing students from Raritan Valley Community College to participate in this service learning opportunity. I have gained an immense amount of knowledge from this field experience that I will take with me as I continue to pursue a career in elementary education. I would also like to bring to your attention the friendliness of the faculty at Franklin Township Elementary School. Everyone including the secretary, Ranae Pellegrino, and the other teachers I would see in the hallways were extremely welcoming and willing to help me with any questions that came up along the way. Observing Mr. Jeffrey Weinhold's classroom was an excellent time. The students were very smart and well behaved and it is evident that Mr. Weinhold is very knowledgeable in the teaching field. Thank you again for the great opportunity that Franklin Township Elementary School gives to the Raritan Valley Community College education students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Massa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jennifer Massa
Student, Raritan Valley Community College

5/1/2017

From: Jeffrey Buchinski

Student | Raritan Valley Community College | 123 Bethlehem Ave | Bloomsbury | New Jersey | 08804

To: Carol Fredericks

Superintendent | Franklin Township School District | 226 Quakertown Rd | Quakertown | New Jersey | 08868

Dear Dr. Carol Fredericks:

Hello, Superintendent Dr. Fredericks, on the behalf of Raritan Valley Community College and myself, I would like to formally thank you for allowing me to observe and participate in Dr. Anita Petersen's kindergarten classroom. I have learned a wide variety of teaching techniques from Dr. Petersen and from observing the class. I am very lucky and grateful to have been assigned to her class, and I would like to show my appreciation to you and the faculty at Franklin Township School District in Quakertown. I significantly enjoyed spending my time working with the students and faculty, and I hope that Raritan Valley Community College and myself have left the students and faculty with a positive impression. Without Dr. Petersen's assistance and your school allowing me to be in the classroom, I would not have succeeded in my Multicultural Field Experience class. I hope that the class is doing well, and I wish them all a bright future ahead of them. Thank you very much for everything that you and Dr. Petersen have done, and I hope to see you in the future. Thank you, and have a nice day!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey, Buchinski

Student

May 10, 2017

Dear Board Members:

I am writing this letter to address the special education program at FTS. Let me start by saying I love all the teachers, aides and child study team staff that have been extremely patient with my son and go above and beyond every day to help him. It is not an easy job and I truly appreciate everything they do.

I do however have concerns that I would like to address. My son Michael is now in 5th grade and every year since he has been in this school there has been a different case manager/ counselor for the special education children; one year it was 2 in one year. There has been **zero** consistency for any of our children and every year a new person comes into the child study team that has to start over and learn the different needs of all of our special education children. No child is the same and they all have different styles of learning, coping, socializing and dealing with school and classroom situations. Special education by **no means is a one size fits all**. The children's IEP's should also be followed and not have the school try to push them out of the resource room when there is a clear need for it based on the child and the feedback from all the teachers. It is not easy for our children to get comfortable and start over every year either with new staff. My son needs counseling and help dealing with his anxiety and it's extremely difficult to begin with a new person every year- he gets comfortable with someone and then they are gone. I am aware sometimes it is out of the schools control, however, for the 2017/2018 school year it is 100% within the schools control to keep the current staff in the child study team.

I was just informed that the new case manager Mr. Fitzmaurice's contract is not being renewed for next year, despite him absolutely wanting to stay in our school and continue to help our children. He truly has the best interests of our children and has a great wealth of knowledge of the NJ special education system and programs. I do not feel the special education in our school is given the same attention or consideration by the superintendent as the regular education or Honor programs at the school and I am the mom of both- honor children and special education children so no biases on my part. We are a small district and have far less special education children than many other schools, however, that should not make any difference and these children deserve the same if not more from our school. It is time to put their needs first and think about the children. I am asking to please keep Mr. Fitzmaurice in our school for next year and give our special education children the **CONSISTENCY** they so desperately need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carrie Beirne (mother of Michael DiBiagio)

May 12, 2017

Franklin Township Board of Education
226 Quakertown Road
Quakertown, NJ 08868

Dear Franklin Township Board of Education,

We are the parents of a special education student that is currently in 6th grade at Franklin Township School. He was classified in May 2012, at the end of 1st grade. Every staff member has gone out of their way to accommodate his special needs and for this we are truly grateful.

We are writing to express our frustration that our son has had a different case manager every year at Franklin Township School. It is extremely unfair that our son has had no consistency with a case manager. At the beginning of every year we have to "explain" our son's needs to a new person that is supposed to be our son's advocate at school. How can they advocate for him if they don't know his needs, understand the progress he has made, and what issues need to be addressed, so that he can achieve his best academically, socially and emotionally? It takes time to learn about a student. Our son has expressed his emotions, fears and problems to every case manager he's had only to find out, at the end of each year, that they won't be returning. A child with special needs must have consistency, trust and a "go to" person that knows and understands them when their disability interferes with their learning.

Franklin Township School needs to have a full-time case manager in order for every special education student to have the support they need. These children need counseling, behavior therapy and attention to their unique needs. If you have the funds to provide for the gifted and talented population then it is only right to provide funding for children with disabilities. Children with an IEP are entitled to have the same opportunities to learn and achieve their best, at their pace, just like the typical population at Franklin Township School.

All of the case managers that have worked with our son were highly qualified, competent in the field of special education and wanted what was best for him. If Franklin Township School truly wants to retain a qualified case manager, then they must keep it a full-time position with a salary that is commensurate with their degree. This will allow for the consistency that our special education students need.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer & Anthony Pasculli

May 12, 2017

To Superintendent Fredericks and The Franklin Township School Board,

My husband and I moved to the area of Pittstown in the hopes of providing the best of lifestyles to our three children. The community seemed to be warm and inviting, but first and foremost, we wanted our children's education to be from the best of the best. Franklin Township School provides just that and for that we are forever grateful.

The heart of the school can truly be seen through the teachers that teach here at FTS. Hannah, Micah and now Ellah have had nothing but the best experiences with the staff here to date. One teacher in particular that goes above and beyond is Mrs. Karen Gerth. Ellah has adjusted with ease into the amazing Pre-K Program here at FTS because of Mrs. Gerth and her teaching style. It is very rare that you come across a teacher who demonstrates a genuine love and interest in what they do. Mrs. Gerth creates such an energetic, positive atmosphere to enhance and flourish these precious young minds. There is an absolute love for school from Ellah due to Mrs. Gerth and her creative and nurturing teaching style.

As a social worker who has worked with numerous teachers in a school based setting, I can honestly say I have never met a teacher with so much drive and compassion for each and every one of her students. She takes the time out to really zone in and get to know her students. Their likes and dislikes, fears and struggles are all very well known to Mrs. Gerth. To say that she knows her students is an understatement. Her passion to teach is truly evident in the way she looks after and teaches her students. My daughter Ellah is a complete representation of that.

Mrs. Gerth is not only completely vested in her students, but their families as well. I have two older children, Hannah and Micah, who also attend FTS. They have not had the privilege of being Mrs. Gerth's students in the past but I can attest to the fact that Mrs. Gerth does know them. She has taken the time out to get to know them not only as Ellah's older siblings but as students within the FTS Community.

It is very rare that you come across a teacher who makes such an impact to shape and mold young minds. This is a true gift and talent and can be clearly seen through the work of Mrs. Karen Gerth. I honestly do not know how the Pre-K program will be able to move forward without her as she truly is the heart of it. Please don't take away such a rare and treasured gift from our children and reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,



Bindu Varughese

bindualexavarug@gmail.com

914-260-9262