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May 24, 2019

Dear Carusi Middle School Educational Community,

There are several administrative reassignments in our school district for the 2019-2020 academic year. There are reassignments that will impact Harte Elementary School, Mann Elementary School, Carusi Middle School, and the Curriculum Office.

On May 28th, the Board of Education will act upon my recommendation to appoint Dr. Neil Burti as the Principal of John A. Carusi Middle School, to appoint Mrs. Michelle Smith as an Assistant Principal of Carusi Middle School, and to appoint Dr. Cafagna as the Principal of Horace Mann Elementary School, all to be effective July 1, 2019.

Dr. Burti is a talented administrator, an effective communicator, and a child advocate. Currently, Dr. Burti is in his sixth year as the principal of Bret Harte Elementary School. Prior to assuming the principalship at Harte, he was the principal of the Cherry Hill Alternative High School, an Assistant Principal at Carusi, and a teacher at Beck Middle School.

Mrs. Smith is currently a District Curriculum Supervisor where her primary work focuses on Mathematics and the Title I Federal Grant that is administered in our district, and serving as the Director of Camp Thomas Paine during the summer. Mrs. Smith began her career in Cherry Hill as a mathematics teacher at Carusi and later served as the secondary mathematics colleague teacher at the middle schools and high schools.

Dr. Burti and Mrs. Smith are excited about their new assignment at, and their return to, Carusi Middle School, which provides opportunity for continued growth and professional progression. In the fifteen years that I have worked directly with Dr. Burti and Mrs. Smith, they have continuously demonstrated themselves to be educational leaders who are committed to student achievement, to building positive relationships within the school community, and to building positive and effective relationships with parents and families.

Dr. Burti and Mrs. Smith will be scheduling time to visit with the Carusi staff and the Carusi Community before the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. I hope that you can take advantage of this first opportunity to meet your new principal and new assistant principal. I am confident that you will be impressed by their expertise and their enthusiastic and engaging style of leadership. They are looking forward to working with the Carusi students, staff and families, continuing the sense of Mustang Pride!

I know you will join me in wishing Dr. Cafagna continued success in his career and in welcoming Dr. Burti and Mrs. Smith to Carusi.

Regards,

Joseph N. Meloche, Ed.D.
Superintendent