

Good evening, we hope this message finds you well. Because the press decided to take the premature lead in sharing news, we provide you with this update that was prepared for release later this week. A little over two years ago, the Commissioner of Education approved a groundbreaking decision that allowed for Maywood high school students to attend Becton Regional High School. Currently, Maywood has two grade levels of students at Becton, they being freshmen and sophomores. The tiered entry of students will eventually result in all Maywood high school students two years from now, attending Becton. Before, during, and after that approval, the Becton community worked with Maywood and consistently indicated that the addition of Maywood students would allow for continued expansion to its already state of the art facilities and program offerings. We are happy to report that our partner is indeed looking to fulfill such plans through an expansion project that, if passed by the communities of East Rutherford and Carlstadt, would continue to change education for our kids for decades to come.

The preliminary State approval to move forward with this project was provided to Becton last week and therefore we are happy to provide this update at this time. We look forward to hosting info sessions on all of the exciting details in the near future. The expansion plan is a referendum that only the taxpayers of East Rutherford and Carlstadt are a part of as their tax base is impacted due to the bond referendum within their regional high school district. Maywood is not a part of the regional district, but instead is in a sending relationship, that entails annual tuition payments per pupil. If the referendum is passed, Maywood would contribute via tuition adjustments within the confines of the send/receive contract over the 25 year length of the referendum. Maywood would continue to benefit from a reduced tuition rate currently of more than \$4,500 per student from the prior high school partnership. All the while as explained below, Maywood would benefit from enormous yearly savings due to the creation of an in district autistic/multiple disabled program as opposed to paying exorbitant tuitions at private placements for a child's grades 9 -12 schooling.

This project calls for the creation and addition of an array of student programs and related facilities, including but not limited to the following.

- STEM industrial labs
- Rooftop solar observatory
- Bec Tech Vocational & Trades Building
 - Trades programs including electrical, masonry, plumbing, automotive, HVAC, green construction, welding, carpentry and woodwork
- Autistic and multiple disabled in house program
 - Children who would otherwise be attending school out of district would now have a home at Becton and would be able to utilize a full-scale apartment to learn life skills, along with therapy rooms, de-escalation rooms, sensory garden, and classrooms for occupational, physical and speech therapy. A new life skills program would help special education students learn key skills through in-house job prep and inclusion programs
- Community learning and presentation spaces for faculty, staff, students, and local community members to gather
- Wildcat Community Cafe
- Veterans Memorial Plaza would honor alumni who served the country
- Regulation-size community gymnasium
- Expanded wellness center
- Industrial culinary and baking kitchen and studio
- Cosmetology studio
- Fashion design studio

Although everything listed above would be beneficial to students, two items specifically stand out as gamechangers, they being the new in house autistic programs and the creation of a standalone Bec Tech program. The creation of the Bec Tech program would allow students who would otherwise have to attend a shared day tech program and travel to and from two separate high schools the opportunity to have this comprehensive educational program in house. The new in house autistic programs would be an incredible addition to the current MAP program in Maywood that is now a K-8 program. Currently when students graduate from the 8th grade in our MAP program they then must attend out of district private placements. These students are faced with unnecessary and very stressful change and the cost to the District is exorbitant. The creation of this program will allow our most vulnerable students to finally “stay home.” Additionally, the cost savings to the district would be exponential year to year.

Many of the parents reading this memo are parents of primary and elementary school students who may think this information does not pertain to them yet. However before you know it high school will be here! We all know that time flies and therefore we wanted to give everyone a glimpse into the bright future ahead for our kids. As the process continues and we near the March decision, we will continue to keep everyone up to date.

The following videos were unveiled at the Becton 50 year celebration this past weekend. Enjoy and stay tuned for updates as they become available.

[**Becton Evolution Website**](#)

[**Becton History Video**](#)

[**Henry Becton Jr. Video**](#)

Michael Jordan, Superintendent & Maywood BOE