



Name
Shaun Banin

Current School District and Location
Tabernacle Township School District
132 New Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088

INTRODUCTION

Education

Shaun earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Maryland and his Masters of Science in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

Experience

Mr. Banin began his educational career teaching English and film at Lacey Township High School in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey. He created the film course to enable students to not just analyze films as literature but to create their own scripts and short films. After earning his Masters degree, he transitioned to the role of Dean of Behavioral Management and then Assistant Principal at LTHS where he supervised the school's STEM Academy and worked with teachers to create a capstone project for seniors.

Shaun then served as principal of Pinelands Regional High School in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey. In his time in this role, he focused on reducing student absenteeism, which led to a reduction in chronic absenteeism from 25.4% to 9.76% in one year. He worked on improving student learning outcomes by working with the staff on Tier I Interventions and publishing monthly professional development newsletters to provide staff with resources, tools, and strategies. To create new pathways for collaboration, he created a Student Advisory Panel and re-established the Parent Teacher Student Organization.

He currently serves as the Superintendent of Tabernacle Township School District in Tabernacle, New Jersey. In Tabernacle, Shaun has overseen a successful referendum that led to a multitude of much needed facilities improvements in the district's two schools. Under his leadership, the district has revamped its curriculum and school schedules while enhancing its focus on the use of data to improve student performance. After being awarded a grant, his district created an eSports program to expand opportunities for students. Most recently, his

district was awarded Preschool Expansion Aid by the New Jersey Department of Education enabling the district to now provide full-day preschool to three and four year olds. The district's motto has transitioned to "Take Care of Yourself, Others, and Our Community," and all district decisions and actions are made with keeping this motto at the forefront.

Outstanding Achievement(s)

Shaun's focus on improving outcomes for all he serves has led to a variety of achievements. From the co-creation of a student film festival to chairing a countywide ceremony to recognize the New Jersey Governor's Educators of the Year, he views his greatest achievement as the success of others.

Being awarded a \$3.4 million HVAC grant and overseeing the aforementioned passing of a \$12.6 million referendum to upgrade or replace roofing, HVAC, interior doors, cameras, and other critical security and safety infrastructure has led to students and staff being able to learn and work in a healthier and safer environment.

Shaun actively works to help new administrators start off their new career on a positive path by serving as a mentor through the New Jersey Leaders to Leaders program.

AN INTERVIEW

Tell us about how you see today's superintendent.

The role of the superintendent today is a complex one. The superintendent is the educational leader for the district. He/she needs to continually be thinking about and working with stakeholders to improve the district and educational outcomes for all. The superintendent needs to be adaptive to ensure he/she can provide leadership and direction when faced with the always changing educational environment of today.

Outside of the educational focus required by the position is the emphasis needed on ensuring the creation and maintenance of a safe environment for all to learn and work in. Superintendents need to ensure that their districts have well-developed and understood safety and security plans that account for a variety of scenarios.

What new understandings did you acquire after two or three years on the job?

Each district and each year represent their own challenges. After almost five years in this role, I can say that no two years present the same obstacles. It is important to be ever-evolving and reactive to the needs of your community and district. From the experience of creating an operational plan during COVID to navigating the financial constraints placed upon a district by a continual reduction in state aid, it is increasingly apparent that you have to go into each year with a growth mindset and be willing to change and adapt quickly to ensure the success of your

students, staff, and district. At the same time, it is pivotal to recognize the importance of fostering a solid team to work with as no district can succeed without the joint efforts of many.

Share an idea to use or something you've learned with your colleagues.

Finding mentors and bouncing ideas of colleagues from other districts is an important part of being a successful superintendent. I feel incredibly fortunate to have other superintendents in my region, county, and state that I have been able to reach out to, bounce ideas off, and learn from. Although our communities and districts may be different, the lessons that others have learned and obstacles that they have experienced can help us overcome challenges and think differently about situations. Working to ensure the success of all of the students and staff in one's district is not an easy task and being able to discuss scenarios with other superintendents has been tremendously beneficial in achieving that goal.

Submitted by:

Shaun Banin

4/10/25

Name/Signature

Date