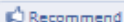





Letter to the Editor: Clinton Twp. schools hire new business administrator


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
 By **Hunterdon County Democrat**
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
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To the Editor:

The Clinton Township School District (CTSD) and the Board of Education (BOE) would like to provide information on the hiring of our new business administrator (BA). After an extensive interviewing process, Heather Spitzer was selected by a vote of 9-0 by the board as our new BA. She will be paid a salary of \$120,000 per year, a decrease of 6.7% less (-\$8,606) than our previous business administrator.

In her dual role as BA and board secretary, she will provide services to the CTSD and Lebanon Borough School Districts. Lebanon has a contract with CTSD specifying services required and a total payment figure. No specific amount is designated for an employee. The CTSD BOE makes that determination. To ensure equity in pay, CTSD commits to a BA salary of \$115,000 and is using \$5,000 of the Lebanon shared services contribution arriving at a \$120,000 salary. The balance from the Lebanon payment is applied to the general fund of the CTSD budget for students, as well as a negotiated amount that is distributed to other district employees who provide services to Lebanon. Should the shared services agreement be terminated, the BA position would retain the \$115,000 yearly salary.

As the former Franklin Township (Warren County) business administrator, of one school building enrolling 280 students, the move to Clinton Township School District/Lebanon Borough is to a much larger district with 1,732 students increasing her responsibility. In addition, she will now manage five school buildings and have six more people directly reporting to her than in her former position.

The Franklin Township operating budget is \$5,135,878. The combined budgets of CTSD and Lebanon Borough School Districts are \$31,307,192, representing an increase of \$26,171,314 more than her former operating budget.

Her salary is reflective of the market rate for this type of job, with this level of responsibility in supervising staff, total number of schools and operating budget. In comparison to other NJ District Factor I Groups -Grouping 4, Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough's School District salary of \$120,000 for the business administrator ranks 20th out of 27 school districts. Within Hunterdon County, our business administrator makes the second lowest salary based on business administrator salary per enrollment.

The Hunterdon County superintendent reviewed, as required by law, her new salary and approved it on the basis of comparability to districts similar to Clinton Township/Lebanon Borough. Typically, school business administrators, move from smaller districts to larger districts to make advancements in their careers.

The Clinton Township School District and Board of Education are committed to putting children first. As a result, we have spent time and effort investigating ways to reduce cost, while not compromising the education of our children. This would include a benchmarking study for Business Administrators' salaries. We would like to encourage you to visit our website - ctsd.k12.nj.us, under "Headlines and Features" for more in-depth information.

DR. DRUCILLA CLARK SUPERINTENDENT, CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Clinton Township

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