



Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee

P O Box 4043, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002-8043

6 March 2017

Dear School Principals and Assistant Principals,

Thank you for your messages regarding the school withdrawal in the Bayonne Parade. Your notifications were much appreciated and duly noted.

The Parade Committee is saddened by your decision to withdraw your schools and students from the 2017 Parade. We were particularly excited to have your support this year as our Grand Marshal, Margaret Calverley, is your colleague as she has been employed with the BBOED as a teacher for the last 21 years. Furthermore, as a Committee, we look forward to your group participation as the students bring great vitality and diversity to our event. The students are an integral part of our Parade as it ensures that our celebration will continue on for generations to come.

We understand that it is an extremely trying time for educators with the Bayonne Board of Education. The many personnel shifts and contract issues have created insurmountable chaos in the lives of your colleagues and their families, and have negatively affected the education of the students and the climate of your schools. We empathize with your situation and, as always, thank you for your service and dedication to our students.

That being said, we still must express our great dismay of your decision to remove the Bayonne Board of Education elementary school groups from the 2017 Parade. Your decision has made the personal political, and this is in direct opposition to the mission of our Parade as our by-laws clearly state, *"No marching unit shall promote any individualized agenda, political or otherwise, that deviates from the purpose of the Parade."* Your non-participation is very much promoting an agenda, which is extremely disheartening for the Parade Committee. We are a not-for-profit heritage organization with no affiliations – political or otherwise – to the City of Bayonne or the Bayonne Board of Education. Since inception in 1981, our Committee has sought only to celebrate Irish heritage, culture, and Saint Patrick as the Patron Saint of Ireland. Because of our non-affiliations, we respectfully request that you reconsider your school's withdrawal from the Parade. The non-participation will not hinder the Board of Education in any way, shape, or form, and instead only thwart the community in its celebration and display of all heritage, Irish and not.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter with school personnel. Please feel free to contact Parade Coordinator, Sean Neary, at (201)954-5818 or his Assistant, Gabrielle Figueroa, at (551)208-4486.

Regards,

George Delaney
Parade Chairperson

CC: Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan, Superintendent; Joseph Broderick, BBOED President