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Press Release

September 10, 2012

Linden Public Schools Open Teacher Daycare Service

On August 31, 2012 the Linden Public Schools held the grand opening of the new Daycare Center, a self-sufficient, cost-neutral service for Linden teachers and certificated staff. Housed at School No. 10, the Center provides an essential service to teachers with young children.

The establishment of the Daycare Center followed an extensive study period in which the Linden staff was surveyed about the viability and interest in the project. The Center allows for Linden's teachers to house their own children in a safe, reliable location in district so they may better tend to the academic needs of the district's students. Studies of similar programs in two other school districts and the private sector showed similar initiatives improved staff morale, staff attendance rates, and ultimately decreased interruption to the needs of those whom the district serves: Linden students and families.

The concept of the Center received full support from the Linden Board of Education, and has been met with enthusiasm and the appreciation of teachers. One participating staff member offers, "I am so grateful to the district for providing this space for my child. I feel relieved and excited to begin the school year knowing my child is cared for and supervised by an institution I believe in."

The operation of the Center, including the payment of staff salaries, is paid by the teachers using the facility. Funding is kept separate for district operating funds and is coordinated through a special Enterprise Fund. The two classrooms used became available following the opening of the new addition at School No. 2 and the district-wide realignment of elementary programs for 2012-2013. The opening of the Center should help to shorten child rearing leaves and help to return our qualified teachers to the classroom sooner than in the past.

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