



The School District of Jenkintown

West and Highland Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046-2698

Dr. Jill Takacs
Superintendent
(215) 885-3722

August 29, 2023

Dear Jenkintown High School Community,

I hope you have been enjoying a fantastic summer and are looking forward to the start of the school year on September 5th. We can't wait to welcome our students back to our classrooms and are eagerly preparing an exciting first week of the 2023-24 school year.

As you may be aware, there has been some concern in our school community about the appointment of the High School Girls' Basketball Coach for the upcoming season. We are committed to communicating as transparently and thoroughly as possible, and I want to briefly address this issue with our community.

I am recommending to our School Board the hiring of Jamal Elliott as the new Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 season. Our coaches are assigned seasonal contracts and are appointed each school year. The Board will vote on his appointment for the coming season on September 18th. Like all of our athletic coaching positions, this is a part-time position.

Mr. Elliott's basketball coaching experience is extensive, having served as head coach of the Philly Triple Threat AAU basketball team in 2017 – 19 and from 2007 – 2011. He coached NBA draftees Lamar Stevens of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Tony Carr of the New Orleans Pelicans, as well as numerous other standout players who went on to impressive high school and college basketball careers.

Mr. Elliott played basketball at Haverford College and in high school at George School in Newtown, PA. He is currently Site Director at Ad Prima Charter School in Philadelphia, and prior to that, held numerous positions including Chief Operating Officer and Dean of Students at Wissahickon Charter School. He comes to us with nearly 25 years of experience in education, and in working with students. I am very confident in his leadership, team building, and communication skills.

I understand the fervor in our community about this coaching position. Our students and parents are passionate about their sport, and I am committed to ensuring our Girls' Basketball Team has an encouraging, supportive experience with excellent coaching leadership that promotes both growth and collaboration.

Because personnel matters in our school district are confidential, we are limited in our ability to respond to questions about current or former personnel, including coaches. I understand this can be frustrating. We make all hiring decisions in what we believe is the best interest of our students.

We want to introduce Mr. Elliott to our high school basketball community as soon as possible; therefore, we invite our team members, prospective team members, and parents/guardians to meet with him in our high school gymnasium tomorrow, **Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 3:45 PM**. Mr. Elliott will arrange a subsequent meeting with any student, parent, or guardian with a scheduling conflict for this meeting. I'm looking forward to introducing Mr. Elliott tomorrow to our community and look forward to a phenomenal season and experience for our Lady Drakes.

Sincerely,

Jill A. Takacs

Dr. Jill Takacs, Superintendent