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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION NAMES SHELIA HOBSON PRESIDENT**

January 21, 2020, Piscataway, NJ -- At the January 3, 2020 Reorganization Meeting, the Piscataway Township Board of Education named Mrs. Shelia Hobson as its new President and Mr. Nitang Patel as its Vice President. Three new Board members were sworn in at the meeting: Mrs. Brenda Smith and Mr. Calvin Laughlin will serve three-year terms, and Mrs. Kimberly Lane will serve a one-year term.

Committee assignments for the 2020-2021 term were set, with Dr. Tom Connors continuing as Chair of the Fiscal Planning and Operations Committee and Mrs. Chantel Cherry continuing as Chair of the Curriculum and Programs Committee. Mrs. Smith will Chair the Policy/Legislative Committee, and Mrs. Lane will Chair the Culture, Climate and Community Relations Committee.

Mrs. Hobson is a retired Homicide Lieutenant with over 25 years of experience in law enforcement. While at the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Lieutenant Hobson was the first female detective assigned to the homicide unit. As an investigator, she worked in various units including child abuse, domestic violence, SARA and trial sections. Lieutenant Hobson appeared on the Montel Williams Show addressing the issue of domestic violence, and has garnered many awards and commendations for her work in law enforcement. A former Peer Counselor and Program Development Specialist with the Cop2Cop Program, she provided Crisis Management Training and Stress Awareness Education to more than 16,000 officers and their superiors.

Mrs. Hobson is a Licensed Ordained Minister and Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Fords, and also serves as Chaplain for the New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. She and her husband Robert Johnson have four grown children and are proud grandparents.

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Mr. Patel has been a practicing pharmacist for the last two decades. He currently holds the director of pharmacy position for a leading New Jersey long term care pharmacy that provides pharmaceutical services to approximately 13,000 nursing home residents. In his current position, he is also responsible for managing approximately 200 employees and company financials. For the past 10 years, Nitang has been an active volunteer at the Gayatri Chetna Center and brings groups together to volunteer at health events, social events and clean ups.

Mr. Patel has lived in Piscataway since 1995. He and his wife Paxa have two children who graduated from the Piscataway school system and currently attend medical school and college respectively.

“I congratulate Mrs. Hobson and Mr. Patel on their new positions and I look forward to working with the entire Board of Education to ensure every Piscataway student receives a high quality and enriching education,” said Dr. Frank Ranelli, Piscataway Superintendent of Schools.

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#### **About Piscataway Township Schools**

*Serving over 7,000 students, Piscataway Township Schools provide K - 12 and preschool programming, special education instructional programs and services, as well as before and aftercare, adult education classes, youth enrichment programs, and summer youth programs. The mission of the Piscataway Township Schools is the continual development of each child's intellectual, aesthetic, social and physical abilities in a positive environment that fosters self-esteem, to help all students realize their abilities and gifts.*