



bh communitywatch &lt;bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Woodruff Music Teacher- Miss Lim**

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**Todd Najarian** [REDACTED]  
To: bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com

Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 2:14 PM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Todd Najarian** [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 2:14 PM  
Subject: Woodruff Music Teacher- Miss Lim  
To: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, Joy Young <jyoung@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, BOE Foregger <foregger@bhpsnj.org>, Jordan Hyman <jhyman@bhpsnj.org>, Robert Cianciulli <rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org>, Stanley, Pamela <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, Dr. Melissa Varley <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>  
Cc: <lscott@bhpsnj.org>, Corley-Hand, Anne <acorley@bhpsnj.org>, Marley, Brenda <bmarley@bhpsnj.org>

Hello,

I am writing to each of you today to reconsider a recent decision which I just learned of to remove Miss Lim from WW and MKM.

This morning, at the WW second grade concert & clap out I was able to see first hand how wonderful of a music teacher she is for our younger children. It is rare to find talent like this and I feel our district is losing someone we just should not be.

She was absolutely fabulous and did such a wonderful job. (It's too bad Dr. Varley didn't stay past the second song to realize what a great teacher she is.)

If your response or thoughts are that this is a budget issue, frankly I find that to be an excuse. We are losing too many great teachers and the reason cannot always be a budget issue. Figure it out, it's your JOB.

Let's not forget you all (most of you) voted for the reconfiguration which was to prioritize young child learning. Well here we are with an opportunity to keep a solid interest in young learners with music and performing arts, and you are just willing to let it go...Some prioritization?

I honestly hope you reconsider your decision, find a way to keep Miss Lim. If you don't take my words for it, you should have been there today to see how wonderful she really is. I hope others are writing as well, if so please listen to the community which you serve.

Thank you,

Todd





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**Fwd: Wonderful Music Teacher at ECC's**

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**Laura Kapuscinski** [REDACTED]  
To: bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 9:14 PM

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Laura Kapuscinski [REDACTED]  
**Date:** June 12, 2023 at 11:55:52 AM EDT  
**To:** "Khanna, Dipti" <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>  
**Cc:** "Dr. Melissa Varley" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>, Julie Kot <jkot@bhpsnj.org>, Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, Joy Young <jyoung@bhpsnj.org>, BOE Foregger <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Wonderful Music Teacher at ECC's

Ms. Khanna:

Thank you for taking the time to send a reply, I appreciate you taking the time acknowledge my email.


I think it's worth mentioning that the position Miss Lim applied for was advertised (on applitrack) as a tenure-track position (screen shot of job posting below).

**Description:**  
Part-time, hourly positions for 2022-2023 school year.

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**Teacher of Music: Elementary (Anticipated)** JobID: 715 [Apply](#)

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**Position Type:**   
Elementary School Teaching/Music - Vocal [Email To A Friend](#)  
[Print Version](#)

**Date Posted:**  
3/2/2023

**Location:**  
Elementary Schools

**Date Available:**  
05/02/23 or sooner

**Closing Date:**  
03/16/23 or until filled

**Additional Information:** [Show/Hide](#)

**Description:**  
Teacher of General Music: Elementary (Anticipated)  
Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center and William Woodruff School

**Dates:** 05/02/23 or sooner - 06/30/23  
\*Tenure-track position\*

Required criminal history background check and proof of US citizenship or legal resident alien status


Must be NJ resident within one year from date of hire

EEO/AA:

It is the policy of Berkeley Heights Public Schools not to discriminate against someone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, age, sex (including pregnancy), disability or genetic information, or other protected status under applicable federal, state or local law.

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Postings current as of 4/28/2023 9:30:57 AM CST. 


Thanks!

-Laura

On Jun 11, 2023, at 8:21 PM, Khanna, Dipti <[dkhanna@bhpsnj.org](mailto:dkhanna@bhpsnj.org)> wrote:

Thank you for your email and raising awareness of this topic.

Best Regards,  
Dipti Khanna

On Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 8:51 PM Laura Kapuscinski  wrote:  
To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding Miss Lim, music teacher at MKM and Woodruff.

Miss Lim is an incredible musician and an equally incredible teacher. The spark that she has ignited in our children over her short time here is nothing short of amazing. Of my 10 years of concert attendance in this district, today was the most vibrant concert I have ever

attended, with each child singing loud and proud with smiles from ear to ear.

I am so saddened at the idea that we are letting an absolutely incredible music teacher go, especially in light of the decline in enrollment for the music and performing arts at BHPS. It is my belief that if anyone can help rekindle the children's love of music at BHPS, it is Miss Kim; and there's no better place to start than the early childhood centers. Having studied and taken part in the performing arts and music for the better part of my life, I can truly credit the passionate educators who fostered and mentored my personal passion for music. Miss Lim has been a gift to these children and to this district and I wanted to share my high praise for her with you all in the hopes we could figure out a way to keep her at BHPS. (I should note that I understand her hire was a replacement and short-term.)

In a recent Board agenda it had a transfer of the current 6th grade music teacher to the early childhood centers as a the permanent replacement music teacher. This transfer has resulted in the elimination of the current 6th grade music class. As a further result, and at attempt to revamp students interest in music, all incoming 6th graders are being required to take part in either chorus, band or orchestra (and parents will pay the bill for instrument rental). I think this is the absolutely wrong approach to have students gain interest - but that's for another email. The biggest concerns are has the teacher (1) expressed an interest to teach our youngest learners (moving from CMS to teach 5 year olds is a huge jump) and (2) does the teacher possesses the proper temperament to work at the Early Childhood Centers?

I would like to end with a plea to please reconsider and find a way to employ Miss Lim at the end of her contracted term as she is truly amazing and has demonstrated a passion for music and educating our early learners.

-Laura Kapuscinski