



2018 NJASECD Conference
“BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHARACTER”
KEYNOTE PANELISTS



**Laurie Ann Coletti, Principal,
James McDivitt Elementary School**

Laurie Coletti is a Kean University graduate and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, a Master’s Degree in Special Education, a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration and a Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant Certification. Mrs. Coletti has been involved in education since 1979 and has taught first grade, seventh grade, preschool handicapped, primary autistic, self-contained, and communication handicapped classes. She has served as a high school vice principal and an adjunct at Kean University. She is currently the principal of McDivitt Elementary School and has instituted various activities to enhance the elementary curriculum including: Character Education Initiative, Spelling Bee, Writing Contests, STEM Club, K-Kids Club, and Math 24. Encouraging our K-5 students to succeed and enjoy learning is paramount. Mrs. Coletti has served as the president of the Middlesex County Principals and Supervisor’s Association, and as a member of the Civil Air

Patrol. She is a member of NJASECD, NJPSA, and the National Association for Elementary School Principals. Mrs. Coletti has been married for over 35 years and has three sons, all of whom are proud graduates of Old Bridge Township Public Schools.

**Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent
Cherry Hill Public Schools**

After more than 20 years in public education, Dr. Joseph Meloche was appointed Superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public Schools on August 25, 2015. His educational background includes teaching Humanities and English at the middle school level and serving Cherry Hill as the principal of Kingston Elementary School, Carusi Middle School, and Cherry Hill High School West. In 2013, he became Director of Curriculum and eight months later was appointed the Assistant Superintendent for Pre-K-12. Dr. Meloche earned degrees from DeSales University, Holy Family University, and Widener University. As Superintendent, Dr. Meloche provides the critically essential leadership required to provide an academic environment of excellence, while motivating and engaging students to share their voices as scholars and as people. He was recently recognized as the New Jersey PTA Superintendent of the Year for 2018 and as a “Leader to Learn From” by Education Week.



**Jeannie Drexinger, Principal,
Salt Brook Elementary School**

Jeannie Drexinger is a Principal at Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence, NJ. She has been a School Administrator for 21 years, 16 of those years serving as the Principal of Salt Brook. Mrs. Drexinger has been active in the area of Character Education for over 16 years and has successfully guided her school to be named a NJ State School of Character and a National School of Character (2011- 2013). Most recently, she assisted her district as they earned both State and National recognition (2017) as well. Mrs. Drexinger has presented at both State and National Conferences and firmly believes that Character Education should be fun, meaningful, and relevant and most importantly, that it should be an integral part of the school day.

