

WATCHUNG SCHOOLS

Board accepts former principal's resignation

By ALEX PARKER-MAGYAR
EDITOR

WATCHUNG - Michael Vignola was relieved of his duties as Bayberry School principal in April, but he will continue to be compensated through February.

The Board of Education for the grades K-8 school district approved a separation of service agreement with Vignola at a board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12, and accepted his letter of resignation with an effective date of Feb. 28, 2019.

Vignola was placed on indefinite paid leave on April 11 for reasons that have not



MICHAEL VIGNOLA

been made public per state privacy laws.

Interim Superintendent Stephanie Bilenker read aloud a written statement

prepared by Board Attorney Anthony Sciarrillo at Wednesday's meeting.

In the statement, Sciarrillo said the district is unable to divulge the details of discussions had with Vignola's attorney, but noted the former principal is entitled to the statutory and contrac-

tual rights he earned as a teacher and administrator. The district also accounted for sick days and vacation days accrued.

"While we are sure there are a number of questions you would like to ask regarding the agreement," the statement reads, "at this time we are not at liberty to provide any additional information given the advice of counsel, and, more importantly, the legal protection afforded Mr. Vignola, which we do not have the ability to upset or set aside.

"Mr. Vignola will not re-

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turn to the district. His leave of absence will continue until Feb. 28, 2019."

Vignola was hired as Bayberry School principal in July 2016 after serving three years as vice principal. He was previously a science teach-

er at Valley View Middle School for several years.

The Board of Education hired his replacement, Jill Dobrowansky, on Monday, Aug. 20.