

Transcript:

Governor Christie: For years, as you know better than I, the students of Philipsburg high school were educated in 31 trailers because of significant overcrowding that existed, and the students of this community and the taxpayers deserved a lot better. I know that past administrations tried to make this new high school happen but did not. I'm proud to say that with all of your help we were able to get it done, and now here we are celebrating the opening of a 330,000square-foot, state-of-the-art center for our children to learn and that's a great thing to have happen. I'm confident that this facility, and these students now have the educational tools that they are going to need to become college and career ready. Enjoy the facility. Let it serve, as was said previously, as a beacon of success, a light that our young people can come to get knowledge and training and experience that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. And you always remember, and I think for old folks like me and others who maybe in the audience who may be just as old or older, never forget your high school. The experiences that you have here, the friends that you make here, you never forget. And now that this atmosphere contributes to a feeling that you're valued, that you, each one of you, has individual value, that's an individual gift from God. That's going to make your experience here even more special, because you'll know that the taxpayers of this community and the state care enough about your individual gifts being maximized to their greatest potential that they're willing to invest significant hard earned money, to make sure that you have a place where you can learn in the best possible way you can. I'm sure that each one of your parents wants nothing more than I want for our four children, which is I want you to reach your fullest potential. I want you to be

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happy. I want you to have a career and a life that you can feel proud of and that brings value not only to those you love but to the greater community that you serve. All the people that you see here, the servants on the board of education, the town council, the freeholder board, and others, they all started in a place like this - maybe not like this - but close. They all started here, and where they are now is in large part not only because of the education they received and the support they got from their family but they made the choice serve because they want to give back in return for what was given to them when they were in the seats that our students sit in now. I would encourage all of you to follow that example. It doesn't have to be political office but it should be something that acknowledges the investment that your community has made in you.

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