



## City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

### ***News Release***

For Release: Immediate

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#### **Mayor Eldridge Hawkins appoints Maxine Gilchrist-Johnson, retired Orange elementary school principal, to Board of Education**

For his first appointment to the Board of Education, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins today selected a seasoned Orange educator, Maxine Johnson, principal of the Park Avenue Elementary School for the decade between 1990 and 2000. She previously served on the Board of Education from 2004 to 2007.

An Orange resident and Orange native, Maxine Johnson has also served as Assistant Principal of East Orange's Lincoln Elementary School and as a 5th and 6th grade teacher at East Orange's Columbian Elementary School. She is a long-time Orange community activist.

#### **Statement by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins**

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Maxine Gilchrist-Johnson to the Board of Education. Maxine Johnson has the maturity and experience we need to begin transforming our schools. As a former principal and Board of Education member, she will bring her extensive knowledge of the Orange system to the urgent task of improving our schools.

"Although as mayor, I do not have direct control of our schools, I intend to work with and to shape the school administration to strengthen our school system. Maxine Johnson and I share an agenda for our schools which includes, among other things, introducing proven innovations in education, bringing the expertise of businesses into our schools to teach our children about real jobs in the real world, developing after school and summer internships, emphasizing math and the sciences, and partnering with regional colleges and universities to offer lifetime learning for adults."

(Resume attached)

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