

Sayreville Public Schools

P.O. Box 997 Sayreville, New Jersey 08871 Phone: 732-525-5200 Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Talk Sup Week 12 Review and Preview

November 25, 2019

Good morning Sayreville. I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup* Week Review and Preview. This week our schools will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. Likewise, remember that we will dismiss our students and staff early on Wednesday so that our staff and parents can get a head start on holiday traveling and preparations.



During this very special time of the year, we pause so that we can think about the wonders of life that we have all been blessed with. Moreover, we think about the people in our lives who have profoundly impacted us and are forever grateful for those irreplaceable moments we have shared. Therefore, please know how incredibly grateful I am to have the privilege to work with and be a part of the lives of our amazing

students, their incredibly supportive parents, and our wonderful staff. Hence, on behalf of the Sayreville Board of Education and Administration, we wish you and your entire family a blessed and very Happy Thanksgiving.



Last week the Sayreville Education Association (SEA) announced the 2019-20 Education Support Professionals (ESPs) of the year. Thus we would like to congratulate the below staff members and commend them for their hard work, commitment, and dedication to their profession, our district, and the wonderful students in Sayreville.



Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) - Ronald Morgan, Campus Security Monitor Sayreville Middle School (SMS) – Robert Hatton, Campus Security Monitor Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) – Julia Costa, Paraprofessional Truman Elementary School - Nancy Dellefave, Paraprofessional Eisenhower Elementary School – Jonathan "Andy" Kraus, Technician Arleth Elementary School – Christine Eck, Paraprofessional Wilson Elementary School – Christine DelGatto, Secretary Project Before – Elenore Deluco, Paraprofessional Selover School – Theresa Aich, Health Benefits Coordinator





Transportation – **Erin Bottomly**, Bus Driver

Last Wednesday evening I had the privilege of attending the Eisenhower Elementary School 50th Year Anniversary Celebration. Unlike the barbeque back in September, this celebration was just for the current and former faculty and staff of Eisenhower, as close to one hundred

took the time to reunite in celebration of the school. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Nurnberger, Principal, his faculty and staff,

and the very gracious and generous PTO at Eisenhower, all in attendance were treated to a wonderful evening, which included a guest performance by the SWMHS Choir, to commemorate





Sayreville Public Schools Vision 2030

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the half a century of learning that has taken place at Eisenhower. We commend and thank Mr. Nurnberger, his faculty and staff, and the incredible Eisenhower PTO for a fitting celebration and most memorable evening.



In other happenings in our schools this past week, at SWMHS Advanced Placement Chemistry students visited the Ashland Chemical Company to tour the plant and learn what products they produce and what they are used for, explore chemical engineering, and to participate in some hands-on learning in the plant. We



are so proud to partner with Ashland and thank them for all they do to promote the most positive outcomes for our



students. Similarly, several Financial Accounting Honors students from SWMHS had a great day visiting Rutgers University. In addition, a representative from Savannah College of Art and Design spoke to students in the Advanced Art classes at SWMHS about their programs. Finally, SWMHS Human Anatomy students dissected fetal pig hearts. At SMS, the School



Climate Team proudly displayed new goals for the 2019-20 school year, which they entitled the "Leaves of Change."



In the display, each leaf represents a student's change, such as better grades, making a sports team, or bettering oneself. Speaking of leaves, students in Ms. Gordon's class at SMS celebrated the end of autumn during their annual Fall Feast. At Truman, the

students and staff warmly welcomed the Sayreville American Legion to their annual Veterans Appreciation Celebration. Lastly, at the Wilson

School the students and staff celebrated the 50th day of school with a Soc Hop and the students and staff at SUES proudly demonstrated their school spirit and eccentric wardrobes during "Ugly Sweater Day."





If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, November 19th, here is what you missed. After Mr. Ciak's opening BOE President remarks about the Special Olympics Unified Champion Banner Celebration and Facilities Improvement Referendum Survey presentations that were planned for the evening, and Mr. Esposito's opening statements, which included the district highlights, Stephen Farley from SWMHS



and Abigail Maher from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS), provided their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. During the presentation portion of the meeting, about 100 Sayreville Unified Sports student athletes and their parents attended the meeting to celebrate the district, SWMHS, SMS, SUES, and Arleth schools receiving Special Olympics Unified Champion banners from Susan Colacello of Special Olympics New Jersey. In addition, the Superintendent reviewed with the Board and public the results from the Facilities

Improvement Referendum Survey. To see the presentation, click <u>here</u>. Click <u>here</u> to view the full survey results. To view the page on our website dedicated to informing the public of our strategic plan and potential referendum, click <u>here</u>.

The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved all of them. To see the Agenda click **here**. To see the Agenda Addendum click **here**. To view the video of this



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meeting, click here. Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board graciously accepted the generous donations of backpacks and school supplies valued at approximately \$500 from the Christ Episcopal Church of South Amboy, and a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria to the Sayreville War Memorial High School Auto Shop from the Sayreville Police Department. In addition, it approved the application and submission of the 2020-2021 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Program Plan and Budget. It also approved the submission of the construction project plans for the Security Vestibules at the Arleth Elementary School, Eisenhower Elementary School, and the Truman Elementary School to the New Jersey Department of Education, for review and Department approval of an "other capital project" with no state funding, which is consistent with the 2019 approved long range facilities plan. Finally, the BOE approved a resolution to appoint Wildan Energy Solutions as the energy services company (ESCO) and approved the Agreement for Professional Services between the Board and Wildan for an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP).

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved a change in a SWMHS course title from Calculus to Calculus Honors. On the Governance portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE voluntarily recognized the merger of the Sayreville Principals' Association and the Sayreville Supervisors' Association into one consolidated bargaining unit identified as the "Sayreville Administrators' Association."

Finally, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of Joyce Langan, Nurse at SUES and Project Before, effective July 1, 2020, and Jo Ann Lorentz, Paraprofessional at SMS, effective January 1, 2020. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2019-20 school year and the transfer of certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2019-20 school year.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting, representatives from the Wilson PTO expressed their contention with the Superintendent's recent decision to not allow them to purchase air conditioning units for installation on the first floor of the school. In addition, they asked the Board of Education to make a motion to reverse that decision, to which they did not.

During the Open Discussion portion of the meeting, the Board of Education informally supported the development of a referendum project consisting of Facilities Improvement Option A and encouraged the Superintendent to begin the process of preparing such with the Spiezle Architectural Group, which is the architect of record for the BOE. In addition, Mrs. Batko expressed concern about a recent Bomber Blast and requested that the Board make a motion to revise its current policy pertaining to such, which would not prohibit the sending of Bomber Blasts or any broadcast communication by any political organization no matter what the content was. The motion failed. Likewise, a motion was requested to not permit any political organization to use school district facilities. That motion also failed. Mrs. Kenney inquired about the strategies that the district was employing to reduce lunch debt and suggested other strategies for that, as well as for reducing food waste during lunches. Finally, the Board demonstrated their support of a New Jersey School Boards Association resolution that would allow districts who are losing state aid and that are below their local fair share tax index, to raise their taxes beyond the 2% tax levy cap in order to lesson the impact of state aid cuts on their operating budgets.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 17th**. During it, the district will present to the Board and public the 2019-20 Food Services Budget. In addition, the Spiezle Architectural Group will present to the Board and public the aforementioned proposed facilities improvement referendum project. A complete copy of the **November 19th** meeting minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next BOE Meeting on **December 17, 2019**.

Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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This past week our students staff continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We congratulate and commend the SWMHS Theatre Society for last Friday and Saturday evening's sold out performances of *It's a Wonderful Life*. They were nothing less than spectacular! Additionally, we commend the SWMHS Marching Band for an impromptu food drive that they held in order to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for local Sayreville families in need. The eight overstuffed baskets were complete with Thanksgiving Day setup

from tablecloths to paper goods, cups, coffee/tea, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, pasta and of course desserts. Finally, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am elated to share with you that Dante Graves, the SWMHS graduate who has been hospitalized since August while he awaited a heart transplant, received his new heart during an emergency operation last week and is recovering well.





In athletics, the SMS and SWMHS Boys Soccer Teams celebrated the 2019 season, which was the last for beloved and long-time Head Coach Nicholas Cifelli. While we know that they would have wanted to have won more games, we congratulate our Bombers Boys Soccer Team on a respectable season. They played like champions or Bombers during each and every game, which is a testament to Coach Cifelli and his staff, the players, and their parents. Lastly, we commend and congratulate Coach Cifelli on an amazing career! You are and will always be, simply the BEST!

The parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 to being preschool and 5 to begin kindergarten by September 30, 2020**) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register for our **free full-day Project Before Preschool or Kindergarten** programs via **Oncourse Connect**, our online registration software. The link to student registration is clearly identified on our district website homepage (**www.sayrevillek12.net**) as "**Student Registration**". Once on this registration page, parents can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students, including preschool and kindergarten students, and they can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following appropriate links noted in the 2020-2021 Project Before and Kindergarten text box: **Students New to Sayreville: New Student Registration Preschool and Kindergarten** or **Returning Students: Returning Student Enrollment Update, Grades PreK and Kindergarten**.

If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click **here** and submit an inquiry with *School Revenue Partners*. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **busses**, click **here**. Lastly, if you or someone you know wants to **lease our facilities**, contact Deborah DeVico at **deborah.devico@savrevillek12.net**.

Have a wonderful week of school and a most Happy Thanksgiving!

Dr. Labbe