



Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

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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 17 Review and Preview

January 2, 2018

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a happy New Year and a relaxing winter vacation. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Week Review and Preview*.



During the winter recess the Sayreville school community lost another beloved staff member. Jacob Finkelstein, a long time and adored speech and language therapist at the Arleth Elementary School, passed away on December 25th after a courageous battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Jake was a quiet, gentle, and adventurous soul. He was also an extremely proficient therapist who dedicated his life to helping children with disabilities experience the gift of communication. He served the Sayreville school community with distinction for more than nine years and was beloved by those in the district fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work with him, especially his speech and language therapist colleagues and the staff at Arleth. He was survived by his loving daughter and sister, who happened to also be his best friends.



On Tuesday, December 19th, I attended the annual Arleth Chorus at the Sayreville Senior Center. As always, the students performed wonderfully and were well received by the many people who took the time to attend. The chorus thrilled the audience with many classic holiday songs, particularly “The Little St. Nick.” To view them in action, click [here](#). Amazingly, on the same day, the Truman



Elementary School 3rd Grade Chorus performed for the senior citizens at the Sacred Heart Memorial Hall.



They too were magnificent! Finally, the Eisenhower Elementary School celebrated the holidays with a school-wide Winter Wonderland Day on Friday, December 22nd. The week prior to it the staff from Operation Smile accepted a donation from the Eisenhower School in the amount of \$1,418. If you recall, last October the students and staff there celebrated World Smile Day in memory of Harvey Ball, who created the yellow smiley face that we have all come to use and love. The



children brought in their own coins on that day to donate to children who need surgery for cleft palates. We commend the incredible staff and students from each of these elementary schools for the manner in which they represented our school district.



On Thursday, December 21st, I had the honor and pleasure to attend the Renaissance Breakfast at Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS). If you are unfamiliar with this activity, it is a breakfast that the class advisors and administration provide to students at the high school who achieved all As on the 1st marking period report card, and who



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demonstrated excellent behavior and attendance. During the breakfast, Ms. Gassman, Senior Class Advisor, and Mr. Brown, Principal of SWMHS, praised the students for their extraordinary effort and thanked them for being exemplary role models for the entire student body. Bomber Nation salutes these amazing students!



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, December 19th, here is what you missed. Dr. Labbe began the presentation portion of the meeting by asking Mr. Ciak to assist him and the Board in recognizing and honoring the outstanding service to the Sayreville Public Schools that Mr. Michael Macagnone and Mrs. Beth DePinto provided while serving on the Board of Education for the past several years. Next, Dr. Labbe asked Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, and Ms. Jenkins, Director of Food Services, to present the proposed 2018-19 Food Services Budget. To see their presentation, click [here](#).



The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved them all. To see the Agenda click [here](#). To see the Agenda Addendum click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board graciously accepted a generous donation of earbuds at an estimated value of \$5,328 from Allegiance Retail Services in Iselin, New Jersey. In addition, it awarded the student information software request for proposal (RFP), which will be fully operational and integrated by July 1, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year through the 2022-2023 school year, to Oncourse. Finally the BOE approved a royalty agreement with JSJD Media, LLC d/b/a School Revenue Partners for participation in a school district advertising program from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

Furthermore, on the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board approved several new courses for the 2018 – 2019 school year at SWMHS, such as Advanced Jazz Studies, Communicating in the 21st Century, Everyday Algebra, and others. It also approved co-curricular activities, including but not limited to the Arleth School Science Family Fun Night on Friday, January 5, 2018; and the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) ASI Family Reading Night on Monday, April 16, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Likewise, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of Linda Kudrak, Part-Time Secretary at the Eisenhower Elementary School, effective January 1, 2018. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2017-18 school year, including Michael Salum, who returns to Sayreville, where he was born and raised, as the new Supervisor of Social Studies, Related Arts and Extra Curricular Activities.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a parent expressed her concerns about the new Grades 3-5 Standards-Based Report Card and her disappointment in the manner in which the district implemented it this fall. After that, another parent expressed his concerns about harassment, intimidation, and bullying at

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the middle school and inquired about how the district was addressing it. Finally, a community member and former BOE member complimented and thanked Mrs. DePinto and Mr. Macagnone for their devout service to the school district and greater Sayreville community.

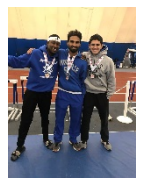
During open discussion, each Board of Education member took the time to commend and thank Mrs. DePinto and Mr. Macagnone for their service to the school district. After that, Mrs. Batko reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Finance Committee Meeting, as did Mr. Biesiada, and Mrs. DePinto with regard to the last BOE Buildings and Grounds and Student Achievement Committee Meetings respectively. Finally, Mr. Ciak summarized the National School Boards Association visit and board meeting in Sayreville on December 4th and thanked the staff and administration for all they did to make it a grand success. He also commented about how the new federal tax bill, recently approved by the legislature and President, would adversely impact public education.

If you would like to view the meeting PowerPoint presentation, click [here](#). Likewise, to see the video of this meeting, click [here](#).

The next meeting will be the **2018 Reorganization Meeting**. It is scheduled to take place this evening (**Tuesday, January 2, 2018**). The Public Session of the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with reorganization. As soon as the newly elected BOE members are sworn in and the new 2018 Board approves the other reorganization agenda items, it will retire to Executive Session so that it can discuss personnel agenda items on the Superintendent's Report portion of the agenda and other matters not open to the public. If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, please click [here](#). In addition, a complete copy of the December 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 Business Meeting on **January 16, 2018**.



Over the winter break, our high school and middle school student athletes were hard at work practicing or competing. In fact, the SWMHS Boys Basketball Team made it to the finals of the Red Bank Buc Classic but unfortunately loss to Colts Neck. Similarly, the SWMHS Wrestling team took 4th place at the Bear Classic Tournament and then later in the week defeated South Brunswick, who was



previously ranked 3rd in the Greater Middlesex Conference. Finally, the SWMHS



Track and Field Team had a very successful winter break, as Joshua Jones won the 55 meter hurdles and Armaan Jayanth took second place in the 800 meter race at the South Jersey Track Coaches Association (SJTCA) Invitational Meet. Likewise, Jasmine Vannote, who remains



undefeated in her first winter season and second track season, Kayla Rosario, and Ruth

Itua won Gold Medals and Mona Yuan won a Silver Medal. Finally, Josh Nieratko vaulted to a championship at the Merli Invitational. We are so proud of these and all our student athletes at the middle and high school!



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As per the January Head of the Class Calendar, tomorrow evening (**Wednesday, January 3rd**) there will be a **Grades 3-5 Standards-Based Report Card Parent Meeting in the Samsel Cafeteria at 7 pm**. In addition, on Friday, January 5th, the Arleth Elementary School will host a Family Science Night from 6-8 pm. Please also note that next week we will **dismiss students and staff early** in order to hold Parent/Teacher Conferences. In fact, below please find each school's respective Parent/Teacher Conference Schedule. Finally, please note that **schools will be closed on Monday, January 15th** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Monday, January 8, 2017

- Early Dismissal for students and staff in **preschool, K-3, and the high school** for parent/teacher conferences from **12:39-2:30 pm at the high school, 1:35-3:35 pm in preschool and 7-9 pm in grades K-3**.

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

- Early Dismissal for students and staff in **preschool, K-3, and the high school** for parent/teacher conferences from **1:35-3:35 pm in grades K-3, and from 7-9 pm in preschool and at the high school**.

Wednesday, January 10, 2017

- Early Dismissal for students and staff in **SUES and the middle school** for parent/teacher conferences from **1:05-3:05 pm in the middle school, and from 7-9 pm in SUES**.

Thursday, January 11, 2017

- Early Dismissal for students and staff in **SUES and the middle school** for parent/teacher conferences from **1:05-3:05 pm in SUES, and from 7-9 pm in the middle school**.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe