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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 23 Review and Preview

February 12, 2018

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing weekend and managed to stay dry. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Week Review and Preview*.



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Workshop Meeting held on Wednesday, February 7th, here is what you missed. We began the presentation portion of the meeting with a brief overview of the budget development process and calendar. After it, the following budget presentation were made: Schools, Technology, Curriculum



& Instruction, Special Education, and Athletics & Co-Curricular. The purpose of these presentations are to



foster collaboration, clarity, and transparency during the budget development process. Unlike previous years when they mainly consisted of a 3-year analysis of what was spent the previous year, what was budgeted the current year, and what was proposed for the next year, this year's presentations consisted of a detailed description of each school/department's goals that were



accomplished last year, identified for this year, and those that are targeted for next year with the funds that will be required to achieve them. Click on each presentation to see them: **Elementary School**, **Middle School**, **High School**, **Athletics**, and **Special Education**.

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 approved a contract with New Jersey Teacher to Teacher to provide a two-day Sayreville University workshop, "Training in Fountas & Pinnell Phonics, Spelling and Word Study," on March 14 and 20, 2018. In addition, it accepted a gracious donations of



and Word Study," on March 14 and 20, 2018. In addition, it accepted a gracious donations of equipment and furniture valued at \$1,420 from the Princeton University Surplus Equipment Program and twelve basketball nets at an estimated value of \$166 from Sayreville Athletic Association.

Furthermore, on the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board approved the 2018-2019 SAT testing dates to be held on the following Saturdays at Sayreville War Memorial High School: August 25, 2018, October 6, 2018, November 3, 2018, December 1, 2018, March 8, 2019, May 4, 2019, and June 1, 2019. It also approved several co-curricular trips and activities. On the Governance portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the revised 2017-18 School District Goals, which included a new School Culture and Climate goal for the purpose of reducing the incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying through the education of students, parents, faculty and staff, and community members. The Board also approved several new and revised policies and regulations.



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Finally, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirements of Michelle Jenkins, Director of Food Service, and Linda Appleby, Administrative Secretary in the Guidance Office at Sayreville War Memorial High School, effective July 1, 2018. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2017-18 school year. Finally, the Board of Education accepted the resignation of the Day Lead Custodian at Sayreville Middle School, effective February 7, 2018.

During open discussion, Mrs. Batko reviewed what was discussed during the last District Health Benefits Committee Meeting. She also commented positively with regard to the new budget presentation format. In addition, Mrs. Bloom reviewed what was discussed during the last New Jersey School Boards Association Delegate Meeting, particularly the dialogue pertaining to the need for New Jersey to revise the very loose regulations that we currently have governing homeschooling.

If you would like to view the meeting PowerPoint presentation, click <u>here.</u> Likewise, to see the video of this meeting, click <u>here.</u>

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 20th**. Although it will be a Business Meeting, it will feature the following budget presentations: Technology and Curriculum & Instruction. If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, it will be posted in the evening on our website on Friday, February 16th. In addition, a complete copy of the **February 7th** 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 **February 20, 2018**.



Last Monday evening I attended the Arleth Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting. During it, Mrs. Katsilis, the President, proudly announced that thanks to the impressive effort demonstrated by the PTO and entire Arleth community, last year over 2,300 scholastic books were purchased and added to the school and home libraries, which resulted in a whopping 415,440 minutes of reading by Arleth students. In addition, during

the meeting, I also had opportunity to address the following concerns expressed by the parents: the rapid increase in student enrollment, Sayreville students who may not actually reside in the borough, issues with bussing, specifically substitute bus drivers from outside vendors, and homework and summer reading and math assignments.



Last Tuesday afternoon I had the privilege to attend the Project Before Preschool Unified Soccer Game in the Samsel Upper Elementary School Gymnasium. If you are not familiar with unified sports, they are athletic events in which children with intellectual disabilities are teamed up with their typically developing peers in



competition. Sayreville has been participating in New Jersey Special Olympics Unified Sports since 2015. In fact, last fall students from the Arleth Elementary School, Samsel Upper Elementary School, Sayreville Middle School (SMS), and Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) participated in unified soccer. Furthermore, beginning at the end this month, they will participate in unified basketball. However,



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to my knowledge, Sayreville is the first school district in New Jersey to implement a preschool children unified sports program. That said, the soccer game last Tuesday, which was attended by about two hundred parents, was an amazing display of early childhood athletics, sportsmanship, and inclusion by all the 40 children that participated. Thus, we commend and congratulate David Knaster, Director of Special

Services, and Audrey Burns, Supervisor of Project Before and Elementary Special



Education, for coordinating this amazing event, as well as all the preschool children who participated and their wonderful teachers who supported them, especially Michael Ballo, Physical Education Teacher, who facilitated and

refereed the game, and Julianna Burns, Rhonda Davis, Judy Perone, Monica Holon, Marie Bouthillette and Annmarie Christensen, who served as coaches. We would also like to say a

special thank you to Ms. Giorgianni's class and her pep squad students, as well as several students from Samsel who assisted our coaches. You Rock!

While I was unable to attend, last Tuesday evening the district held the 2018 SWMHS Class of 2022



Freshman Orientation and Advanced Placement (AP) Night. During Freshman Orientation the SWMHS Administration, Guidance Department, and District Supervisors reviewed with the many student and parents who took the time to attend, the SWMHS graduation requirements, scheduling, available courses, and general high school

information. Click <u>here</u> to see the slide show presentation. Likewise, although 9th grade students are not permitted to take advanced placement courses, during AP Night

the aforementioned staff provided an overview of our AP program available for students in grades 10-12, in order for these students and their parent to learn more now about the AP courses offered to our students, as well as their course rigor. Click here to see the AP Night presentation.



As I noted in the last couple of editions, the Flu has become a very serious health concern in our district, as well as state and nation-wide. Thus, as they did last week, this **Wednesday**, **February 14**th from **2-6 pm**, reduced cost **Flu shots** will be made available through the Middlesex County Health Department at the following locations: **35 Kennedy Boulevard in East Brunswick and 596 Anderson Avenue in New Brunswick**.





We would like to congratulate Truman Elementary School Art Teacher Teriz Michael, whose three abstract paintings will be included in the opening reception at the Red 6 Art Exhibit at the Perth Amboy Gallery Center for the Arts on Thursday, February 15th from 6-8 pm. We are so proud of you Ms. Michael! Since last week was National School Counselors Week, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all

our amazing guidance or school counselors in the district for EVERYTHIGN they do for ALL our students, particularly the hard work and steadfact dedication that they demonstrate day in and day out. We are so very fortunate to have you in Sayreville!



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Likewise, we would like to thank and commend Donna Sicola, Supervisor of Guidance, for the leadership and unwavering support that she provides our counselors.



As they do each week, our remarkable students at SWMHS continue to impress everyone with their amazing accomplishments. This week was actually Winter Spirit Week at SWMHS. Along with many other activities designed to promote Bomber pride, the week ended with an amazing pep rally on Friday afternoon, which featured the recognition of all winter sports student athletes, including those participating in unified basketball later in the month. Another highlight of the rally were student and staff member mechanic shark rides. Among the several

staff members who successfully rode the shark were SWMHS Principal Jim Brown.



In other news, on Saturday the Junior Varsity Wrestling Team took first place in the annual Bomber JV Wrestling Tournament. Likewise, on Sunday the Sayreville Middle School Cheerleading Squad placed first in their division at the Manalapan Cheer

Competition. In addition, the SWMHS Bombers Boys Basketball Team defeated



New Brunswick and Newark Arts last week, while the Lady Bombers Basketball Team also defeated New Brunswick and Freehold Township High School. Congratulations to Jasmine

Vannote, Kayla Rosario, Ruth Ittua, and Adijah Simmon, who all had spectacular performances during the New Jersey Sectional Track Meet this past weekend. Jazzmine took 1st place in the shot put;

Kayla came in 1st in the 1,600 meter race, 2nd in the 3,200 and 4th in the 800; Ruth placed 3rd in both the 400 and 55 meter race and eventually qualified for Easterns;

and Adijah placed 6th in shot put. Bomber Nation salutes these and all of our fantastic student athletes!

As you will note from the February Head of the Class Calendar, on Friday, February 16th we will dismiss students early so that our staff can participate in professional development. Additionally, schools will be closed on Monday February 20th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe

