



## 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 32 Review and Preview

April 23, 2018

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

Please note that we were recently informed by the Borough that starting this morning (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) at 8:00 am, Ernston Road will only have one lane open to vehicle traffic. That lane will allow traffic to flow from Washington Road to Main Street. There will not be a lane open allowing traffic from Main Street to Washington Road. Vehicles wishing to travel from Main Street to Washington Road will be re-routed by a detour. At the end of the contractor working day (approximately 4:00 PM), Ernston Road will be re-opened to two-way traffic. The contractor plans on milling half of Ernston Road on Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and paving it on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Likewise, on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the contractor will be milling the other half of Ernston Road and paving on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. As you can imagine, due to the time of this road construction, you can expect significant delays in bussing in the morning and afternoon for our middle school, upper elementary, and elementary school students all week.



While I did not have the opportunity to attend, last Monday evening the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) hosted the annual ASI Family Literacy Night. In total nearly 130 students and 110 parents participated in this celebration of literacy that was designed by the amazing ASI teachers in the district to promote reading. Moreover, the parents and students who attended this wonderful activity learned how reading can be a formative family experience while also an enriching literary adventure. We extend our sincere appreciation to all our wonderful ASI teachers who took part in making this activity so special.



This past Wednesday evening I had the privilege of attending the Sayreville War Memorial high School National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony. As is the case each year, the high school recognized and inducted the amazing juniors and seniors who have demonstrated excellence inside and outside of the classroom this year. As always, the ceremony was rich with tradition and spirit, as the inductees also took the time to thank the wonderful teachers at SWMHS who were pivotal in their success. We would like to thank Mr. Brown, Principal at SWMHS, and Sarah Magaw, NHS Advisor, for coordinating such a memorable experience for those students who were inducted and their parents.



Last Thursday and Friday, SUES presented its annual Silent Holocaust Library Experience. This year was extra special as the event was visited by members of the Fegelson-Young-Feinberg Jewish War Veterans Holocaust Remembrance Education Program. Together, Danny Goldsmith, a child who was hidden during the Holocaust, Farah Kraus, whose

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grandmother was a concentration camp survivor, and masters of ceremonies Allan Silverberg and Jimmy Clendennen, provided informative but gripping testimonials of the horror inflicted on many people during the 1930s and 1940 in Europe, but did so in manner that would not traumatize the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The program, which was created several years ago by retired Sayreville teacher Adele Goldenberg, was coordinated by Special Education Teacher Gineen Morosco and several staff members from Samsel. Thus, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to her, Laura Hornlein, Ashly Hensle, Sandy Kreminski, Taylor Mervin, and Rachel Seavey for the contributions to this most impactful activity. Likewise, we would like to thank Phyllis Newman and Adele Goldenberg for the gracious contribution of pictures used in the Silent Holocaust Library display.



This week many of the schools and programs in our district engaged in Autism or Disability Awareness activities. At SUES students engaged in activities during physical education (PE) that promoted understanding, awareness, and acceptance of all types of intellectual and developmental disabilities. In fact, the students there had the opportunity to participate in stations that were designed to simulate what it is like for a person with a physical disability to join their peers in typical age appropriate activities. These activities also gave students the opportunity to brainstorm ways that they could assist those in need, as well as have an understanding of how their actions can help or hinder others. We would like to thank the SUES staff, particularly PE Teacher Andrew Najjar and Special Education Teachers Dana Giorgianni and Amanda Wilkes, for developing and implementing such a wonderful program. In addition, at the Arleth School this past Saturday, the school community held its annual Autism Awareness Fair. Thank you to the Mr. Preston, Principal, and all the Arleth staff members who participated in the planning, coordination, and operation of this incredible fair. As with the program at SUES, it too was a grand success in raising awareness and funds for Autism research, and as always, was a very memorable experience to all who attended, particularly those who witnessed the Superintendent take severing whipped cream pies to the face.☺ Finally, the SWMHS Baseball Team received an award for being the top fundraiser for the Autism Awareness Challenge. Thank you to all the players and families who helped contribute to this great cause!



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education Business Meeting held on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, here is what you missed. Dr. Labbe began the meeting by asking Mr. Ciak and Mr. Brown, Principal of SWMHS, to assist him in recognizing and celebrating the 2017-18 SWMHS Top 10 Students. During this, Mr. Ciak also congratulated Kathleen Beben and Michael George Philip, this year's Valedictorian



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and Salutatorian respectively. Next, Mrs. Bloom recognized and congratulated Amen



Khan and Connor McCabe for being named the Middlesex County Association of School Administrators (MCASA) and Middlesex County School Board Association (MCSBA) Students of the Year. After that, Mr. Walsh commended the 2017-18 Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) White Division Champion SWMHS Boys Basketball Team.



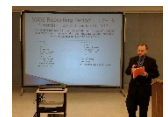
Likewise, Mr. Esposito recognized the 2017-18 GMC White Division Champion SWMHS Bomber Wrestling Team, and Head Coach Marcus Ivy who was named District 19 and GMC White Division Coach of the Year. Finally, Mr. Callahan led the Board and public in celebrating the 2017-18 GMC White Division Champion SWMHS Winter Boys and Girls Track Teams, and Head coach Joe Pastva, who was named White Division Coach of the Year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. Bomber nation salutes these and all our incredible winter sports student athletes!



After that, Ms. Obryk, Supervisor of Professional Development, and several media specialists made a special video presentation to the Board and public in celebration of School Library Month. To see their amazing video, click [here](#).



Mr. Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent of Information, Technology, and Infrastructure, concluded the meeting by presenting the District's Period 1 School Safety Data. To see his presentation, click [here](#).



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](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board approved a resolution naming Spiegle Architectural Group as the Board Architect of Record for the period of April 18, 2018 through June 30, 2019. In addition, it approved generous donations made by the Princeton University Surplus Equipment Program, the Wilson PTO, and contributions received by DonorsChoose.org from various individuals and organizations. Lastly, the BOE accepted the Zonar and National Association for Pupil Transportation 2018 Don Carnahan Memorial Grant in the amount of \$8,500 to be used for the purchase of an electronic verified inspection reporting system for district school buses

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved resolutions recognizing and commending the aforementioned 2018 SWMHS Top Ten Students and MCASA/MCSBA Student Recognition Recipients. Additionally, the Board approved co-curricular activities, including but not limited to the change in date for the Sayreville Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony from Wednesday, June 20, 2018 to **Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm**, as well as the change in the date for the Sayreville War Memorial High School Graduation Ceremony from Thursday, June 21, 2018 to **Friday, June 22, 2018 at 6:00 pm**. Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the second and final reading of BOE Policy 5131- Student Code of Conduct.

Finally, on the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirement of Edith Braun, School Nurse at the Eisenhower Elementary School, effective July 1, 2018,

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and the disability retirement of Betty Ann Verner, School Nurse at Sayreville Middle School, effective April 1, 2018. In addition, it appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2017-18 school year. Lastly, the BOE appointed staff members to work in the Sayreville Special Olympics Unified Sports Program for the Summer Track and Field season (May 2, 2018 to June 14, 2018).

During the public portion of the meeting, a community member expressed concern about the tentative 2018-19 School District Budget and disappointment in the position that the district took with regard to the March 14<sup>th</sup> National Student Walkout movement. In addition, another parent asked several questions pertaining to the 2018-19 Budget, particularly regarding health care costs and the costs associated with installing a new turf field and track as opposed to new baseball fields, which she felt were also equally needed.

During open discussion, Mr. Esposito reviewed what was discussed during the last BOE Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting. During his presentation, he asked Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, to share the committee's recommendation to reduce the 2018-19 School District Budget tax levy based upon the recent prescription and medical health benefit premium rates projected by the district's broker. Likewise, Mrs. Batko discussed major highlights from the recent BOE Health Benefits Committee Meeting. During this discussion, the Board provided Mr. Hill with their majority recommendation to decrease medical and prescription health benefit premiums by 10% and 5% respectively for the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Ciak informed the Board that his tenure as National School Boards President had officially concluded the previous week. Mr. Biesiada then informed the Board and public of the proposed installation of a major natural gas pipeline in the Morgan section of Sayreville. Mr. Walsh followed that by publicly commending and celebrating the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction of Sayreville's own Jon Bon Jovi. While doing so, he encouraged the Board to do something to recognize Mr. Bon Jovi for the amazing accomplishment. Finally, the Board approved a verbal motion to suspend the BOE advertising policy until revisions of it are read and adopted by the BOE next month.

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 on **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. During this meeting, we will also conduct the 2018-19 School District Budget Public Hearing. If you would like to see the agenda for this meeting, it will be posted in the evening on our website on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a complete copy of the **April 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 **May 1, 2018**.



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As you know, we are currently taking registrations online via InfoSnap ([Click here](#)) for our **Summer Enrichment** and **Camp XL** programs. Click on each to find more information on both programs. Each offers a variety of different thematic **activities** and **trips**. Also, please note that Camp XL students will be eligible for **after care** in Summer Enrichment **Mondays through Thursday from 12 – 4 pm** and on **Fridays from 8 am – 4 pm**. In addition, **Springboard Education** will



be providing before care services from 7 – 8 am and after care services from 4-6:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more information about Springboard.



This week our students continued to amaze us with their incredible accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Cameren Gorrell from Sayreville Middle School (SMS) was one of five students from five different Middlesex County schools to receive the Marisa Tufaro Memorial Arts



Scholarship to attend the Rutgers University Zimmerli Art Museum summer camp. The scholarship was made possible through donations to The Marisa Tufaro Foundation on behalf of a number of the Greater Middlesex Conference Baseball Coaches Association and other anonymous donors. It will allow for Cameren and the other students to attend a weeklong art camp this summer at the Zimmerli, where Marisa, who died tragically in 2017 after complications from a heart transplant developed into a rare form of stage IV cancer, previously honed her craft and where her artwork was once displayed at an exhibit. In addition, the students in Mr. Provenza's Period 1/2 8th Grade English Class at SMS won the Achieve 3000 Read 2 Succeed Contest, which was a school-wide race toward accelerated literacy growth. Finally, SWMHS Senior Hira Hashmi received the Caring Award at the Middlesex County Guidance Council 31st Annual Recognition luncheon. We commend these students and cannot thank them enough for the manner in which they have represented our district!



However, the impressive accomplishments of our students did not stop there, as SWMHS Senior Winterguard member Melissa Thia was awarded the 2018 Mary T. Denniston Memorial Scholarship at last Saturday's Winter Guard Main Championships. In athletics, the SWMHS Boys' Tennis Team



improved its record to 3-2 and is looking forward to representing in the GMC tournament. In fact, Freshman Sensation Vasista Linga, who leads the charge at singles for the team, just took 3rd in his first GMC singles tournament. Similarly, the Boys Golf Team is also off to a strong start to the season with a



record of 6-0. Led by Junior Captains Joe Phillips and Danny Yu, they recently played a very solid round of 185 against John F. Kennedy High School. The SWMHS Softball Team has a 2-5 record. Senior catcher Kayla Stvan has taken on the role of starting pitcher this season and has really stepped up to the plate, literally hitting two home runs. The Boys Track and Field Team is currently 3-0 in the White Division. Their distance runners have been doing a terrific job scoring many points thus far for the team. In fact, this past Saturday the 4 x 800 relay team almost beat a thirteen year old school



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record with a time of 8:10. They will compete against St. Joseph's High School at home on Tuesday before they take a short break from dual meets in order to compete in the GMC relays.

Likewise, the Girl's Spring Track team is off to another great start. They are currently 4-0, outscoring their opponents 422-119. Senior Jasmine Van Note broke another 18-year school record, throwing the discus 121 feet. The team also won the inaugural Zebra Invitational and came in a very close 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the East Brunswick Invitational. Lastly, the girl's shot put team set the meet record with a throw of 10 feet. Finally, the SWMHS Baseball Team now has a record of 4-5, but has outscored teams by an amazing 34-4 margin in three of their victories – winning by an average of 11.3 runs per game. Their top hitters are Kyle Richards, Drew Zimmerman and Bryan Fernandez. Christian Aich also leads the pitchers with two impressive victories on the mound. Naturally, as previously mentioned, off the field they raised more money in the Autism Awareness Challenge than any other participating high school baseball team, and raised over \$2,500 for the Teamwork Unlimited Foundation. Go Bombers!



As per the April Head of the Class Calendar, please note that **Grades 6-12 Report Cards** will be issued **this Wednesday (April 25<sup>th</sup>)**. In addition, please consider attending the **April 24<sup>th</sup> Parent University** workshop entitled “**Vaping and Jouling: What You Need to Know.**” During it you will learn more about this widespread problem, the danger it poses to our children, and the signs that parents and educators should be looking for to detect it. It will take place at **7 pm in the SWMHS Cafeteria**. Likewise, do not miss the **College Planning and Financial Workshop** being held at SWMHS **this Wednesday (April 25<sup>th</sup>) at 7 pm**. Finally. Please mark your calendar for the **Guardianship and Adult Services Workshop** that will be held in the SWMHS Media Center at 7 pm on **Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



If you or someone you know would like to advertise with us, 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.

Have a wonderful week.

Dr. Labbe