



Sayreville Public Schools
Vision 2030

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Talk Sup Week 1 Review and Preview

September 10, 2017

Good evening Sayreville. I hope you had a relaxing weekend. In an effort to communicate district news and information to you on a more frequent and consistent basis, I will be sending you a weekly written and even video messages entitled *Talk Sup(erintendent) Week Review and Preview*. During these weekly messages, I will review the major school district news from the previous week and provide you with a preview of the week to come.

That said, I would like to begin my first edition by taking the time to sincerely apologize to all our students, parents, and staff who were inconvenienced, stressed, and even traumatized by some of the problems that we had this past week with transportation. While we will be taking the time over the next several weeks to thoroughly examine the cause of each, preliminarily we know that prior to the first day of school for students on Thursday, we identified some errors in our transportation data, particularly student bus pick up and drop off times, and in some cases, bus assignments. Although we were able to make many revisions, inevitably some were not corrected. Over the next several weeks, we will perform an audit of our transportation and student information software systems to determine the root of this problem.

In addition, and more seriously, we also discovered that the drivers of our largest contracted vendor, as well as a few others, were not adequately prepared to drive their routes and did not meet our expectations for driver competency. Thus, we immediately had several removed from all Sayreville bus routes and demanded that the vendors have their drivers spend the entire day yesterday driving their routes and familiarizing themselves with the roadways in the community. Nevertheless, this week we will be meeting with the management of the vendors to hold them accountable for their drivers not being able to communicate politely and effectively with our students, parents, and staff; not knowing their routes and the stops within them in order to efficiently transport our students; and for not equipping their buses with proper radio communication, all of which were specified in the contractual agreements they signed.

Finally, due to the high volume of phone calls and emails that we received on Thursday and Friday, we learned that many parents were not able to access anyone from our transportation department. Since our Transportation Department staff worked tirelessly throughout each day to respond to as many parents as possible via email and phone, we realize that we need to implement processes that provide us with the capacity to address all concerns and to respond to all parents and staff in an orderly and timely manner. Thus, within the next several days, we will be installing a que system in our transportation department phones so that instead of a call that cannot be answered going directly to voicemail, the caller will have the opportunity to either leave a voicemail message or to stay on the line and wait until the next available person can take their call. Likewise, we will create a transportation general email account and will assign one or more staff members to monitor it.

Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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Despite the issues that we had with transportation, our administrators have reported to me that our students had very productive days on Thursday and Friday. In addition, many parents provided me with positive feedback regarding kindergarten and preschool orientations. Finally, our athletic programs began their seasons. In fact, last week among others, our high school girls and boys soccer teams had big wins, as well as our high school tennis and football teams.

This week we also began the process of collaboratively developing a new four year strategic action plan for the district. As a matter of fact, yesterday we held the first day of our two-day Vision 2030 Education Summit. The first day of the Summit was dedicated to understanding where the district is now and where it came from. Thus, the better part of the day consisted of the sharing of information, beginning with an overview of Vision 2030. After that, we reviewed the results of the Needs Assessment Survey that many of you took the time to complete, and shared with the participants several other forms of integral district data. Next Saturday we will develop SMART Goals and Objectives for the district over the next four years.

While our thoughts and prayers right now are with the people living in Florida and the other southern states in the path of Hurricane Irma, the school district is also collaborating with Bridges for Peace, a local nonprofit organization, to provide relief to the people of Houston. A 53-foot trailer will be parked in the back of the Arleth Elementary School on Johnson Road for the purpose of storing supplies that will be collected by the community. Hence, all of our schools will receive donation boxes and will engage in collection drives this and next week before the trailer is delivered to Houston at the end of this month. For more information, please see the below flyer that was previously Bomber Blasted to the community.

Along with the collection drive, as per the below calendar, this week many of our schools will be holding their first PTO meetings of the year. If you are not a member of your school's PTO, I highly encourage you to join. In addition, Arleth will be holding its first Book Fair of the year on Thursday and Friday. Finally, our high school and middle school athletic programs will resume their seasons.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe