



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 16 Review and Preview

January 2, 2023

Good morning Sayreville and happy New Year! I hope you had a happy holidays and a relaxing and enjoyable winter recess. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter. Please remember that we will **dismiss students early** next **Monday, January 9th**.

During the November 15, 2022 Business Meeting, the Sayreville BOE approved the below revisions to the **virtual 2022-23 Parent-Teacher Conference dates and times**. As you can see, they will require the **early dismissal** of our students for **four consecutive days from January 17, 2023 through January 20, 2023**.

Schedule for Parent/Teacher Conferences January 2023

Tuesday, January 17	Afternoon	Project Before Samsel Upper Elementary School Middle School
	Evening	High School and K-3 Elementary Schools
Wednesday, January 18	Afternoon	Project Before K-3 Elementary Schools Middle School High School
	Evening	Samsel Upper Elementary School
Thursday, January 19	Afternoon	K-3 Elementary Schools Samsel Upper Elementary School High School
	Evening	Project Before and Middle School
Friday, January 20	Afternoon	All Schools

****Please Note: In the event of a delayed opening, the early dismissal and/or conferences are cancelled.***



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, Tuesday December 20th, here is what you missed. Gianna Pesci from Sayreville War Memorial (SWMHS) and Morgan Koonce from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of

Education Reports. Next, Mr. Esposito expressed his opening remarks, as did Mr. Walsh, who also shared a few district highlights. During the presentation portion of the meeting, Mr. Cittadino, the



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Director of Food Services and Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, reviewed the proposed 2023-24 Food Services and Enterprise Account Summary and 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](#). To see all attachments, click [here](#). To view the video of the meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the following very generous donations: books collected from the Sayreville Middle School Winter Book Drive valued at \$500.00, donated by the Sayreville Class of 2027, to be used in classrooms at Project Before, the Samsel Upper Elementary School, and the Sayreville Middle School; a sidewalk sandwich board sign valued at \$167.87 for Bombers Beyond Café by Christian Fazzini; three desktop computers, two HP Notebooks, and two printers valued at \$3,612.00 to be used at Sayreville War Memorial High School by the United States Air Force; and a grant for the Computer Science Honor Society from the Computer Science Teachers Association in the amount of approximately \$1,500. It also accepted the 2022-2023 Middle Grades Career Exploration Grant in the amount of \$68,500. This is the second year of the three-year competitive grant program designed to cultivate the development of career awareness and exploration programs focused on engaging instruction and unique experiences for students in the middle grades. In addition, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the school Business Administrator to invest funds in the new Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program. Furthermore, the BOE approved the purchase of time and materials for security door projects at the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) in the amount of \$31,205.40 and at Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) in the amount of \$7,444.90 from CM3 Building Solutions. Lastly, the Board of Education approved the purchase of equipment and services for the district's communication and radio upgrades purchased from PMC Associates in the amount of \$67,405.60; and for the Selover School in the amount of \$8,360

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the following new or revised curriculum guides: Grade 9 Health, Grades 10-12 Chemistry CP; and Grades 10-12 Honors Chemistry. In addition, the Board approved new STEM Capstone, Painting, and Drawing courses for the 2023-2024 school year at SWMHS. Lastly, it approved a Lacrosse Club with Mr. Brown as the advisor and a Future Business Leaders of America Middle School Chapter (FBLA) at the Sayreville Middle School (SMS), along with a Black Student Union Club with Hafeezah Abdullah as the advisor at SWMHS.

Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved revisions to BOE [Policy](#) and [Regulation 5530 Substance Abuse](#); and [Regulation 5600 Student Discipline/Code of Conduct](#) for a First Reading. Click on each to read them. It also approved a revision to the 2023-24 School District Calendar, which essentially changes the early dismissal days for Parent/Teacher Conferences from the week of January 29, 2024 to January 16-19, 2024; and makes June 4, 2024 a holiday for students and a full day in-service for staff. Click [here](#) to see it. Finally, the Board approved a verbal motion made by Mr. John Walsh to name the music suite at SWMHS after Jon Bon Jovi.



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On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirements of Donna Amato, Special Education Teacher at the high school; Greg Jegou, Vice Principal at the middle school; Linda Harms, Special Education Teacher at SUES, and Josephine Tutela, Teacher at SUES, effective July 1, 2023, along with Kim Langella, Special Education Teacher at SUES, effective March 1, 2023; and Ron Morgan, Campus Security Monitor at the high school, effective July 1, 2023. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2022-23 school year. Likewise, the Board approved the transfer of certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2022-23 school year. In addition, the BOE appointed teachers for the Adult English as a Second Language Program. Furthermore, it named the 2022-23 Anti Bullying Specialists at each school, as well as the Coordinator for the 2022-23 school year; and approved of paid Cooperative Education students to work in the Bombers Beyond Café during the 2022-2023 school year. Finally, the Board retroactively approved the adjusted salaries of Sayreville Education Association (SEA) certificated and non-certificated staff, along with Lunchroom Playground Aides, for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years in accordance with the 2021-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Sayreville BOE and SEA.

During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Fernandez reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mr. Walsh for the last Personnel Committee Meeting, Mrs. Pieloch for the last two Governance Committee Meetings, and Mrs. Bloom for the last Student Achievement Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association and Mr. Fernandez did the same with regard to the Sayreville/South Amboy Rotary Club.

The next meeting, which will be the annual **Reorganization Meeting**, will take place tomorrow, **Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30 pm in the SUES Board Room**. During this meeting the newly elected and re-elected Sayreville Board of Education Members will be officially sworn in. In addition, a short Business Meeting Agenda with motions for approval will also be presented to the new BOE. To see each agenda for the meeting, click [here](#). In order to access the live streaming of the meeting click [here](#). Since the viewing of the live stream will be handled by YouTube, you must be viewing the stream on a browser or application that is live stream compatible. If you are unable to hear audio you may need to try a different browser/application. The live stream will only be available during the real-time duration of the meeting. Directions for public participation during the meeting will be provided on the above-mentioned live stream page of the website. Finally, if on Wednesday you wish to view it or other past-recorded BOE meetings, click [here](#). A complete copy of the **December 20th** meeting minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the BOE Meeting on **January 17, 2023**.



Thanks to our magnificent teachers and instructional staff, our students had a ton of fun learning last





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week. Our students and staff in all our schools got into the holiday spirit by participating in a variety of festive and thematic holiday activities. At the high school, students and staff participated in the first annual Winter Wellness Week for students to “cure the winter blues.” During it, students participated in making snowflakes, journaling, aromatherapy, yoga, and ornament making, which helped to improve their social and emotional learning, and mental health. In Ms. Walsh’s Foods and Nutrition class, students participated in the annual Iron Chef Cookie Competition, where they created their best recipe to perfect the best cookie for the holiday season. Students in Ms. LaScala’s Ceramics and



Intermediate Art class had an amazing time on their trip to Grounds for Sculpture. Erik Wrightson, brother of SWMHS teacher, Will Wrightson, and son of Sayreville Middle School (SMS) teacher, Kirsten Wrightson, visited with the Advanced Placement STEM students to discuss nuclear physics. Likewise, students in Ms. Feliz’s class were visited by Roberto



Moreno, owner of Te Amo

Empanadas, who donated some delicious empanadas and shared with the students the secrets to his success and tasty pastries. Students in Mr. Coleman's Physics class participated in a catapult competition, where each team competed to determine who could best project objects into receptacles with their catapults.



At SMS, students and staff participated in a pep rally where they recognized and celebrated student academic scholars, club members, Character Education Pennant Program recipients, and all fall and winter sports teams’ participants. In addition, the child study team and speech and language therapists gave a presentation to students on the Jewish culture, in which they enjoyed Hanukkah games and chocolate coins. At



the Samsel Upper Elementary School, students and staff celebrated the last day before winter break with a school spirit “Pajama Day.” Students also visited the “Estimation Station” in the media center where they estimated how many Hershey Kisses were in a jar. In the Bombers Beyond 18-21-Year-Old Program, students learned how to bake sugar cookies, butter cookies, and reindeer nose pretzels.



In Project Before, staff, students, and their families came together to support and donate toys and food to fellow Project Before families throughout the community for the Holiday Giving Tree. At the Cheesequake School, students attempted to melt the Grinch's cold heart using tongue depressors, water, and

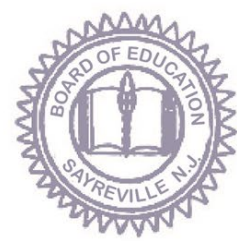


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pipettes. They also launched the December’s Kindness Challenge, where preschoolers learned that kindness is never-ending. At Project Before at Garden Friends, students had a blast playing in their restaurant theme creative play centers, where they made pizzas with real pizza dough and had an old-fashioned ice cream social in their ice cream shops.

This past week, our students, staff, alumni and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We begin by commending and congratulating the members of the SWMHS Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA) who placed at the recent New Jersey FBLA Regional Championship. In March they will compete in the State Championships in Atlantic City.

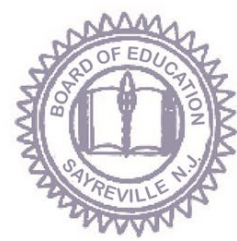
Place	Event	Winner(s)
1st (Regional Champions)	Banking & Financial Systems	Daniel Arteaga Gonzalez Shakil Ashrafi Shrikar Gandhesiri
1st (Regional Champions)	Business Ethics	Ashley Ament Madison Dougherty Sara Lorentz
10th	Business Ethics	Nihal Shah Shlesha Shah
8th	Computer Applications	Kanika Madhok
8th	Cyber Security	Anaya Siraj
6th	Future Business Leader	Aayush Katyal
8th	International Business	Reya Patel Dev Shah
11th	Intro to Event Planning	Shayna Ganley Jessica Jamedar
9th	Intro to Information Technology	Laury Estefont
6th	Management Information Systems	Arsi Muda Rohan Vaidya
10th	Network Design	Pranav Asarpota Megha Chauhan Tanmay Chauhan
7th	Network Design	Christopher Kennedy Jasskaran Singh
4th	Parliamentary Procedure	Marcos de Oliveira Miles Metivier Matt Moran Rishab Shah Daniel Toth
7th	Securities & Investments	Rohit Gummadi
8th	Securities & Investments	Sean Burns

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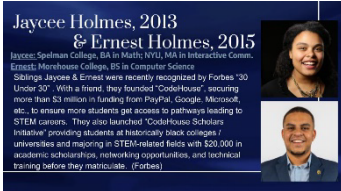
Amir Elkholy



We also congratulate and commend SWMHS seniors John Kovalchuk on his commitment to attend and play soccer at Stevens Institute of Technology and Amir Elkholy on his commitment to attend Felician College, where he will continue to compete in Track and Field. In addition, we commend and thank Marzena Rzeknik and the Buildings and Grounds Department for

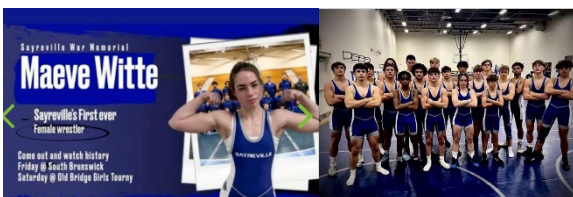
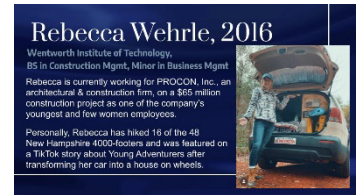


raising over \$400 for a Sayreville Family in need. Likewise, we commend and thank the Sayreville Recreation Department, the SWMHS Leo's Club, the Main Street Theater, the Sayreville Auxiliary Police, and the Christ Episcopal Church in South Amboy for their very generous donations of toys for Sayreville children in need. Furthermore, we commend and thank Christian Fazzini for the construction and donation of a sandwich board sign for the soon to be open Bombers Beyond Café.



Finally, compliments of the "Where Are They Now" Committee at the high school, we commend SWMHS Class of 2013 and 2015 graduates and siblings Jaycee and Ernest Holmes, who were recently recognized by *Forbes 30 Under 30* for cofounding the "CodeHouse," and for securing more than \$3 million in funding from PayPal, Google, Microsoft, etc., to ensure more students get access to pathways leading to STEM careers. They also launched the

"CodeHouse Scholars Initiative" which provides students at historically black colleges/universities who are majoring in STEM-related fields with \$20,000 in academic scholarships, networking opportunities, and technical training before they matriculate. Likewise, we commend SWMHS Class of 2016 graduate Rebecca Wehrle, who is currently working for PROCON, Inc., an architectural and construction firm, on a \$65 million construction project as one of the company's youngest and only female employees. Personally, Rebecca has hiked 16 of the 48 New Hampshire 4000-foot trails and was featured on a Tik Tok story about Young Adventurers after transforming her car into a house on wheels. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



In athletics, we commend and congratulate Maeve Witte on being the first ever female wrestler at SWMHS. Check out a great article about her by clicking [here](#). Speaking of the SWMHS Wrestling Team, over the winter recess they improved their season record to 4-2 with match wins over Matawan, Bayonne, and New Providence High Schools

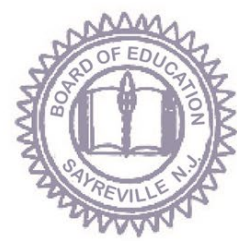
(HS). The SWMHS Boys and Girls Swim Teams improved their respective records to 3-1 with match wins over Piscataway HS. The SWMHS Girls and Boys Indoor Track and Field Teams competed over the recess in their second meet, which was held in the in John Bennett Indoor Complex in Toms River. Sophomore Holly Logan medaled in the 800 and 1,600-meter races. The SWMHS Boys Basketball Team earned its

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second win of the season by defeating Long Branch HS. While the SWMHS Girls Team has yet to break into the win column, they have been competing and improving with each game. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate the



teamwork and sportsmanship that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the manner in which they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules and view all the action by watching them on the live streaming links posted on the Athletics page of our website or by clicking [here](#).

As per the [2022-23 School District Calendar](#), and the [January Activities Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on each, please remember that tomorrow, **Tuesday, January 3rd**, there will be a **Board of Education Reorganization and Business Meeting** in the new **SUES Board Meeting Room**. There will also be a **Business Meeting** on **Tuesday, January 17th**. Please also note that we will **dismiss students early** on **Monday, January 9th** so that staff can participate in professional development, as well as from **Tuesday, January 17th through Friday, January 20th** so that our faculty can participate in afternoon and evening **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. Furthermore, please remember that our **schools will be closed** on **Monday, January 16th** in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Finally, please remember that the **2nd Marking Period** for students in **grades 6-12** will end on **January 30th** and the **Report Cards** for those students will be viewable in [Oncourse Connect](#) on, **February 6th**.

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 **buses**, click [here](#).

Have a great day and wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe