



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 28 Review and Preview

March 27, 2023

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter. Please also remember that **our schools will be closed** for spring recess from **April 3rd through April 7th**.



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, here is what you missed. Gianna Pesci, from Sayreville War Memorial High School (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 Mrs. Bloom, who also shared some district highlights. During the presentation portion of the meeting, the Board celebrated the New Jersey Cheer and Dance Coaches Association State Championship Middle School Competition Cheer Team. It also heard a presentation by the SWMHS students who are currently participating in the Borough Council Student Internship program. Finally, Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, provided a brief synopsis of the 2021-22 Annual



Comprehensive Financial Report and Auditor's Management Report. To view it, 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 a resolution authorizing the district to refund all or a portion of the outstanding callable Series 2013 Refunding School Bonds issued in the original principal amount of \$28,725,000 and dated February 21, 2013. In addition, the Board approved and accepted the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) and [Auditor's Management Report](#) for the 2021-2022 school year with no recommendations, noting this report includes the annual audit as prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company. To read each, click on them. It also approved the submission of the 2023-2024 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Enrollment and Budget Workbook, in the amount of \$10,458,898. Lastly, the Board of Education awarded the bid for HVAC at the Truman Elementary School and the second floor of the Sayreville War Memorial High School to Sunnyfield Corporation as the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$10,173,000 for bids opened on March 14, 2023, to be paid using funds from the Bond Referendum.

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On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the long-term suspensions of several students, as well as a Garden Club at the Sayreville Middle School, with Merritt Hoadley as the advisor. Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved new and revised board of education policies and regulations for a Second Reading and adoption. To see the polices, click [here](#). To view the regulations, click [here](#). It also approved the revised 2022-23 School District Calendar, which essentially makes April 21, 2023, a school holiday in observance of Eid al Fitr. To take a look at it, click [here](#). Furthermore, the BOE approved the revised [Director of Curriculum and Instruction](#) and [Assistant Director of Food Services](#) Job Descriptions. To view each, click on them.

On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2022-23 school year. Likewise, the Board approved the transfer of certificated staff for the 2022-23 school year. In addition, it appointed advisors and coaches for the 2022-23 school year. Furthermore, the BOE appointed faculty to work in the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) STEM/STEAM and LAL Enrichment Program.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting, a parent who refused to give his name or address, expressed his concerns about the traffic and congestion on Washington Road during the arrival and dismissal of high school students, which he believes is causing a safety hazard. During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Ms. Hill reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Pieloch for the last Personnel Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association, as did Mr. Fernandez regarding the Sayreville/South Amboy Rotary Club.

The next meeting, which will be our Special “**Let the Children Lead**” Business Meeting, will take place at **7:30 pm** tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 28th** in the **SUES Board Room**. During this meeting, the BOE and Central Administration will be joined by almost two dozen 5th graders from the SUES as part of the annual “Let the Children Lead” program. During this very popular and unique activity, the selected 5th grade students will perform in the capacity of a specific board of education member or administrator. Thus, except for a few occasions, the 5th grade representatives for each, including Ms. Coglianese, Principal of SUES, and Mr. Tola, Assistant Principal of SUES, will vote and comment publicly on behalf of the BOE member or administrator that they will represent. To see the agenda for this meeting, click [here](#). 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 **March 21st Business 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 **March 28, 2023**.



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Last Thursday afternoon, our students participated in the Bombers Unified March Madness Basketball Tournament at Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS), the Sayreville Middles School (SMS), the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES, and the Arleth School. During it, spectators were once again inspired to watch our students with



pervasive developmental and intellectual disabilities compete with and against their typically developing peers. Moreover, everyone was moved to see the sportsmanship, comradery, and friendship between our student athletes, which undoubtedly evolved during the process of practicing and preparing for the tournament together. Additionally, spectators were overwhelmed with joy to witness the amount of staff members, parents, and students who came out to assist and support these incredible student athletes. In fact, throughout all the games, which were played at the Arleth School, SUES, middle school and high school respectively, a tremendous number of people, including our Bomber Cheer Team, attended the games to support and cheer on all the student athletes. Thus, we thank and commend Ms. Carkeek and all the Bombers Unified Sports advisors and coaches, as well as other staff and students who made the event so special for all our student athletes who participated. Go Bombers Unified!



On Friday and Saturday evening, the SWMHS Theatre Society proudly presented the musical production *The Little Mermaid*, which was directed by Ms. Laura DiStaulo, Theatre Teacher at SWMHS. We commend and thank her and her incredible team of dedicated staff members and volunteers, including but not limited to Dr. Paul Caruso (Pit Band Musical Conductor), Ms. Cynthia Gallagher (Costume Design), and Ms. Megan Terrano (Business Manager) for making this production so overwhelmingly successful. As a result of their incredibly hard work, the students that took part in this unbelievable theatrical experience had the privilege of participating in a Broadway-like show with all the amenities. In fact, rather than recorded music, the music for the production was performed by a pit band conducted by Dr. Caruso. Furthermore, the sets and costumes were vibrant, authentic, and parallel to that of which you would see in a Broadway show. Moreover, the acting, singing, and dancing performed by our high school students was exceptionally impressive and



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quite inspiring. Each well attended show was a remarkable representation of what can be accomplished when the enthusiasm, hard work, and the dedication of our wonderful staff is matched by that of our amazing students and their very supportive families. It was clear in the performances of all our students that they and the staff and volunteers that assisted them, worked tirelessly over the past several months to prepare this masterpiece. Thus, Bomber Nation salutes and thanks everyone who took part in this magical production under the sea. Bravo!

This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to



impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We begin by commending and congratulating SWMHS seniors Triscia and Trischelle Afihene, who were accepted to and received full four-year scholarships to Johns Hopkins University as Pre-Medicine students. They are still waiting to hear from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) before committing. We also

congratulate and commend the SMS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) who competed very successfully in a recent competition, in which of the 36 members, 31 placed, and the following three

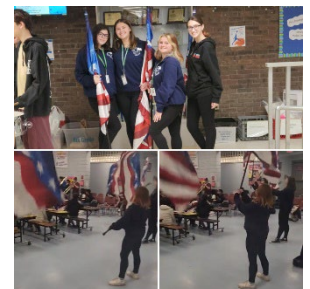


students qualified for nationals: Sophia De la Cruz, Mariami Nemzade, and Sara Rafique. In addition, we congratulate SWMHS graduate Brian Wankmueller on his first day of work at Lucy's Café in the Future Foundations Academy in Piscataway. Finally, we commend and thank the SUES staff, students, and families for their overwhelming donations of food during their spring food drive to help many Middlesex County families in need. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



Thanks to our magnificent teachers and instructional staff, our students had a ton of fun learning last week. At the middle school, students visited the Middlesex County Superior Court where they watched a presentation by a K9 Unit

and officer and participated in a question-and-answer period with Judge Toto, Judge Pitchford, and Judge Desai, along with attorney Barry Muller, a Sayreville resident and parent. Students also got a crash course on DNA and suspect evidence, warrants and time in a civil and criminal court room setting with the



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presiding judges. They also went on a trip to the East Brunswick Magnet School, where students were able to choose one of fifteen shops, including cosmetology, baking and culinary, and HVAC. The teachers and students in those classes graciously accepted and incorporated our students into the shop lessons for each class period. In addition, the SWMHS Band and Color Guard played for students during their lunch periods. Finally, students from Mrs. Hoadley's

science classes made real erupting volcanos. At the high school, Business Academy students had a great time during the 2nd Annual Rutgers University Business for Youth Program meeting at the Rutgers Business School. In addition, students in Ms. Gassman's Honors Chemistry automobile air bag deployments. Likewise, students in Ms. Goldstein's Chemistry class illustrated the "Octet Rule" and extended octets using jellybeans and toothpicks.

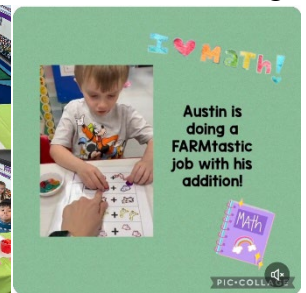


class designed experiments to mimic



At the Truman School, students and staff participated in Harmony Day, where they wore orange and cultural attire to support cultural diversity and acceptance. At SUES, the high school "Heroes and Cool Kids" visited the 5th graders for

the last time this school year. In Project Before at the Selover School, our preschool students made a Walking Water Rainbow with just three simple ingredients.



In athletics, we congratulate and commend the SWMHS Competition Cheer Team, which won 3rd Place in the Game Day Division and 4th Place in the All-Music division at the Americheer International Cheer Competition in Orlando, Florida. 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](#).

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As per the [2022-23 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, please remember that there will be a **BOE Business Meeting** tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 28th**. Please also remember that **our schools will be closed** for spring recess from **April 3rd through April 7th**.

On January 30, 2023, the district officially opened registration for our **free Full-Day Project Before Preschool and Kindergarten Programs**. Therefore, parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 for preschool and 5 for kindergarten by September 30, 2023**) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register via **Oncourse Connect**, our online registration software. The link to student registration will be clearly identified on our district website homepage (www.sayrevillek12.net) as "[Student Registration](#)". Once on this registration page, you can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students including preschool and kindergarten students, and you can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following links noted in the [2023-2024 Project Before and Kindergarten](#) drop down menu: [New Student Registration Preschool and Kindergarten](#) or [Returning Student Enrollment Update for students entering grades PreK and Kindergarten during the 2023-2024 school year](#).

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