



Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871
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Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Knaster, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Talk Sup Week 16 Review and Preview

January 2, 2024

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 8th**.

As per the 2023-24 School District Calendar, later this month we will hold **virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences during the dates and times listed below**. As you can see, they will require the **early dismissal** of our students for **four consecutive days from January 16, 2024 through January 19, 2024**.

Schedule for Parent/Teacher Conferences January 2024

Tuesday, January 16	Afternoon	Project Before Samsel Upper Elementary School Middle School
	Evening	High School and K-3 Elementary Schools
Wednesday, January 17	Afternoon	Project Before K-3 Elementary Schools Middle School High School
	Evening	Samsel Upper Elementary School
Thursday, January 18	Afternoon	K-3 Elementary Schools Samsel Upper Elementary School High School
	Evening	Project Before and Middle School
Friday, January 19	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, December 19th, here is what you missed. Sean Burns from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) and Ashten Poandl from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. Next, Mrs. Bloom expressed her opening remarks, as did Mrs. Pieloch, who also shared a few district highlights. During the presentation portion of the meeting, Mr. Cittadino, the Director of Food Services, and Ms. Hill, Business Administrator, reviewed

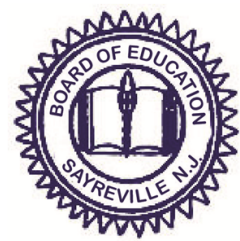
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the proposed 2024-25 Food Services and Enterprise Account Summary and Budget. To see their presentation, click [here](#).

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 accepted the very generous donation of office supplies, medical books, and a dual head microscope, valued at \$9,200.00, from Mr. David Kuo of Memorial Sloan Kettering, to be used in the Sayreville War Memorial High School science labs. It also approved the submission of the application for the Computer Science Teachers Association Grant to support Computer Science Honor Societies service projects and for fees related to the 2024 CSHS Virtual Leadership Summit in the amount of \$1,200.

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved a revision to the Grades K-5 Trimester Report Card Calendar for 2023-24 school year. In addition, the Board approved new high school courses and existing middle school and high school course revisions. Lastly, it approved a new Sayreville War Memorial High School Technology Student Association (TSA) Club for the 2023-24 school year with Darci Santella as the advisor.

Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved several new and revised BOE [policies](#) and [regulations](#) for a second reading and adoption. Click on each to read them. It also approved a revision to [BOE Policy 5460 High School Graduation](#) for a first reading. Click on it to read it. Furthermore, the BOE approved a revision to the [2023-24 School District Calendar](#) that would make June 17, 2024, a school holiday in observance of Eid al-Adhar; and to the [2024-25 School District Calendar](#) that would make September 5, 2024, an early dismissal day for students and GCN day for staff. Click on each to review them. Finally, the Board approved a motion to make Sharks the official Selover Preschool mascot.

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 2023-24 school year. Likewise, the Board approved the transfer of certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the BOE appointed paid and volunteer coaches for the Winter 2023-24 and Spring 2024 Seasons. It also appointed advisors for the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the Board appointed Barbara Young once again as a Middle Grades Career Exploration Grant Career Counselor at a contracted rate of \$47.00 per hour, not to exceed 28 hours a week.

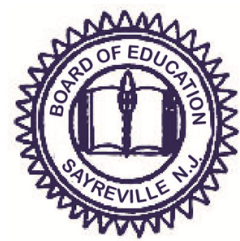
During the Open Public comment portion of the meeting, several residents, particularly from the Laurel Park section of Sayreville, expressed their disappointment about the lawsuit filed in November by the school district against the Borough Council because the Council reneged on a signed Memorandum of Understanding legal agreement and a Borough Council resolution for the potential construction of the transportation complex off of Cheesequake Road. Likewise, the same residents expressed their

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disagreement with a transportation complex being constructed there. In addition, a parent inquired about when the district would be launching its new *Stopfinder* bus tracking software.

During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mrs. Pabon reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Ms. Pieloch for the last Personnel Committee Meeting, Ms. Grossman for the last Student Achievement Committee Meeting, and Dr. Labbe for the last Governance Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

The next meeting, which will be the annual **Reorganization Meeting**, will take place today, **Tuesday, January 2nd at 6:30 pm in the SUES Board Room**. During this meeting the 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 19th** 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 16, 2024**.



Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning before the winter recess. Our students and staff in all our schools got into the holiday spirit by participating in a variety of festive and thematic holiday activities and



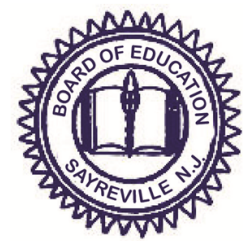
were even visited by some special guests.



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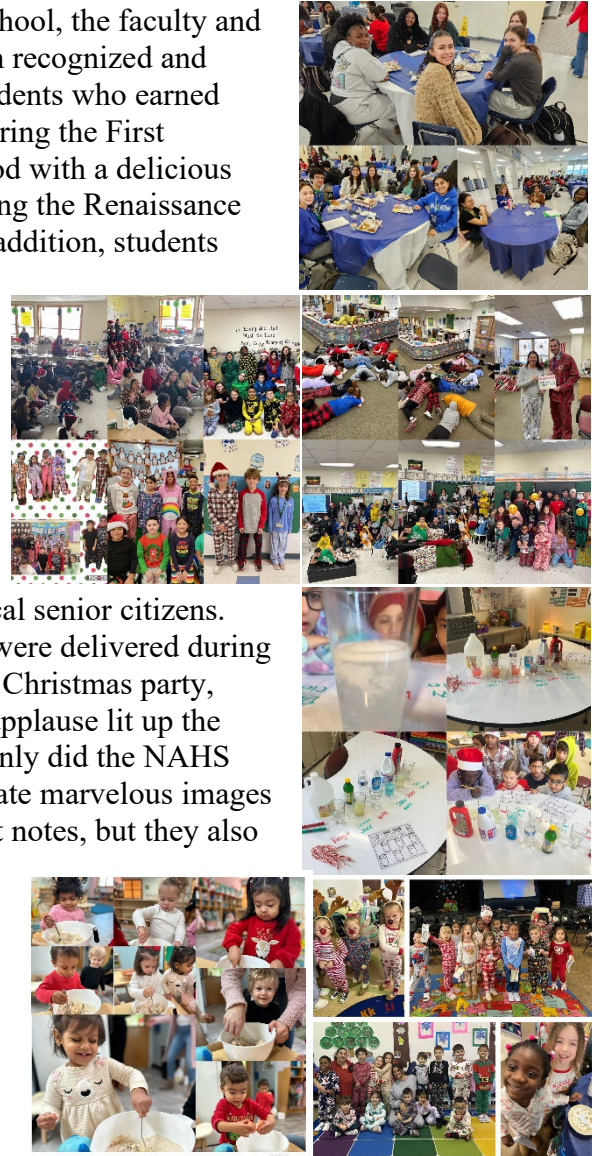


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At the high school, the faculty and administration recognized and celebrated students who earned straight As during the First Marking Period with a delicious breakfast during the Renaissance Breakfast. In addition, students from the National Arts Honor Society (NAHS) created beautifully illustrated holiday cards for local senior citizens. When they were delivered during their annual Christmas party, cheers and applause lit up the room. Not only did the NAHS students create marvelous images and heartfelt notes, but they also learned that small gestures could have a meaningful impact. At the upper elementary school, students in



Ms. Lorenzon's science classes tested different liquids on the pH scale to see if acidic substances or basic substances would dissolve a candy cane the fastest. Students and staff also enjoyed a festive Pajama Day. At the Arleth School, students and staff had a blast as they took a ride on the Polar Express with a very special conductor. In Project Before, the Polar Express also made a stop at Garden Friends where our preschoolers had so much fun dressed in their pajamas waiting for it to arrive. At the Selover School, Ms. Megan's class had fun predicting what would happen when air is blown into a mixture of water and dish soap (Bubbles).

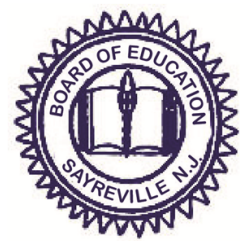
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This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We begin by commending and thanking the Wilson School staff, students, and families, for their participation in the “Adopt a Family” program for the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick. Ms. Visone, who coordinated the program, worked closely with the Ronald McDonald House to generate a wish list for a family of three children. The youngest, a 7-year-old girl, was born extremely ill and is facing on-going medical surgeries. To help make this family’s holiday brighter, the school collected boxes of items for each member of the family. These included clothes, board games, crafts, toys, household items, and toiletries. Ms. Visone delivered the gifts and had a chance to meet the family at the Ronald McDonald House. The family was overwhelmed with the generosity of the school community.



We also commend and thank the Christ Church from South Amboy for once again donating gifts for about two dozen of our students in need. Likewise, we commend and thank the Sayreville Auxiliary Police for donating gift cards to more than a dozen students in need across the district. Furthermore, we commend and thank the SWMHS Leo’s (Lions) Club for collecting, wrapping, and donating well over 100 gifts for students in need throughout the district. In addition, we commend and thank Ms. Jucciarone and the staff at the Arleth School for collecting and donating gifts to various other families in need as part of their



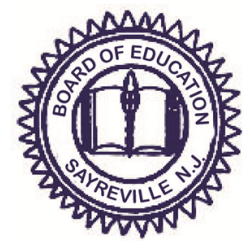
Giving Tree charitable program. We also commend and thank the very generous staff members of the district who recently donated \$1,235, which included a \$200 donation by a former student, Brianna Kemp, for a Sayreville family in need. Likewise, we commend and thank Dr. Aguiles, Ms. Leber, and Ms. Murphy, along with the entire District Culture and Climate Committee, for facilitating the collection of the money through Dollar for Denim Days. Finally, we commend and thank the Truman School staff, students, and parents for their efforts in collecting 12 boxes and 232 items of non-perishable food, which they donated to Middlesex County food Pantry. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!





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In athletics, over the past two weeks the SWMHS Boys Basketball Team improved its season record to 6-2 with victories over Asbury Park, North Plainfield, Matawan, and Old Bridge High Schools (HS). Likewise, the SWMHS Girls Basketball Team beat Jackson Liberty HS to earn its first win of the season. In addition, the SWMHS Wrestling Team improved its season



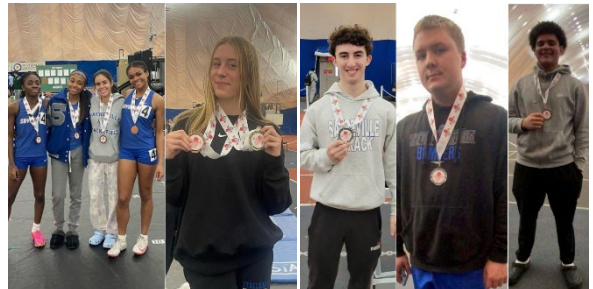
record to 3-2 with match wins over New Providence



and Roselle HS. Furthermore, the SWMHS Boys and Girls Swim Team improved their records to 2-1 with match wins over Piscataway HS. Both the Girls and Boys Indoor Track and Field Teams also performed well over the holiday weekend. In fact, Molly Logan won First Place in the 3,200 Meter Race and 3rd in the 1,600 Meter Race. Additionally, the 400 Meter Relay Team of Loicy Anning, Laila Stevenson, Sandy Costa, and Jayda Roque took 3rd Place. On the Boys Team, William Lewis (Pole Vault), Jonathan Magaw (Shot Put), and Xavian Pena (Shot Put) placed. Finally, we congratulate

SWMHS Head Football Coach Don Sofilkanich for being named the Big Central Conference (BCC)

National Silver Division Coach of the Year. 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 way they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules by visiting the Athletics page of our website or by clicking [here](#).



As per the [2023-24 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, today, **Tuesday, January 2nd**, 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 16th**. Please also note that we will **dismiss students early** on **Monday, January 8th** so that staff can participate in professional development, as well as from **Tuesday, January 16th through Friday, January 19th** 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 15th** 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**. Likewise, **2nd Trimester Progress Reports** for students in **grades K-5** will be issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect on **January 30th**.

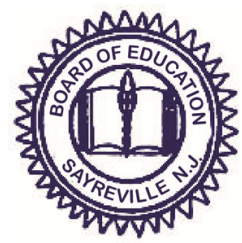
If you or you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click [here](#) and submit an inquiry with **School Revenue Partners**. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber

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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 wonderful week, blessed and most joyous holidays, and relaxing and enjoyable winter recess!

Dr. Labbe