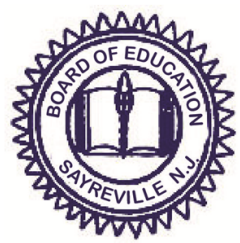




Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

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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 26 Review and Preview

March 11, 2024

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter.

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday,



March 5th, here is what you missed. Ashten Poandl from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing his Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Report. Next, Mrs. Bloom expressed her opening remarks.

During the presentation portion of the meeting, the Board resumed publicly reviewing and discussing the 2024-25 School District Budget with the following budget presentations: [Personnel](#), and [Technology](#). To see each presentations, click on them. To see all the information pertaining to the development of the 2024-25 School District Budget, 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 a portable sound system, valued at \$5,725, from the Samsel Upper Elementary School PTO to be used at the Samsel Upper Elementary School. It also approved the sale of a National Seating and Mobility power wheelchair to the Phillipsburg School District in the amount of \$3,046.40. In addition, the Board awarded the bid for Window Replacements at Sayreville War Memorial High School, Samsel Upper Elementary School, Harry S. Truman Elementary School, and Woodrow Wilson Elementary School to APS Contracting, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder for bids opened on February 15, 2024 in the total amount of \$5,336,000, which will be paid for using funds from the Bond Referendum. Lastly, the BOE approved the submission of the FY24 Teacher Climate and Culture Innovation Grant, a competitive grant with the maximum funding amount of \$200,000. The key goals for the Teacher Climate and Culture Innovation Grant Program include exploring innovation, improving teacher climate and culture, and empowering outstanding educators.

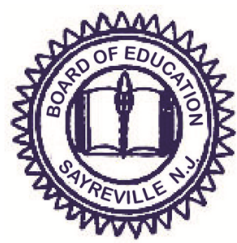
On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the following new and revised curriculum guides: [Grades 10-12 AP Pre-Calculus](#), [Grades 11-12 Stained Glass](#), and [Grade 9 World History](#). Click on each to review them. Additionally, it approved an AP Bootcamp, which is an enrichment program at SWMHS for students who will be taking AP courses during the 2024-2025 school year from July 1, 2024 through Aug 8, 2024. Likewise, it approved an NJGPA Summer Bootcamp from July 8, 2024 through July 18, 2024 at Sayreville War Memorial High School. Students needing to participate in the summer administration of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment will be invited to participate in this program.



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On the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved a revision to the 2023-24 School District Calendar that would make April 22, 2024, an early dismissal day for students so that staff can participate in professional development. Click [here](#) to review it. It also approved the abolishment of Board of Education Policy 5755 Equity in Educational Programs and Services. Similarly, the Board approved revisions to multiple board of education [policies](#) and [regulations](#) for a First Reading. To read them click on each. Finally, the BOE approved the rezoning of the following buildings within the Winding Wood Apartments: 8-19, 43-48, 61-69, 129-131, to reduce class sizes at the Truman School and create equitable class sizes across all grade levels in the elementary schools. Implementation will begin with kindergarten in 2024-25, kindergarten and first grade in 2025-26, kindergarten through second grade in 2026-2027, and will conclude with kindergarten through third grade in 2027-28

On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education accepted the retirements of Joan Sylvester, District Bus Aide, and Michale Kuligowski, Custodian at the Selover School, effective July 1, 2024. It also appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year. Likewise, the Board approved the transfer of non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the BOE appointed staff to work in the Rising Stars Academy, Adult English as a Second Language, and the Camp XL Extended School Year Program and Learning Acceleration at Camp XL Programs. Finally, the Board appointed staff to work in the Preschool Academy and approved several New Jersey High Impact Grant Tutoring Coordinators with their stipends. These stipend positions will be funded through the FY24-New Jersey High Impact Tutoring Grant.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting, a parent inquired about BOE Policy 5756 Transgender Students. During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Callahan reviewed what was discussed during the last Student Achievement Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Napolitano for the last Governance Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association and Mrs. Napolitano updated the Board on news about the Education Services Commission of New Jersey. Also, Mr. Esposito requested clarity on the rezoning of students from the Truman School, Mrs. Bloom commented about safety concerns regarding the upcoming 8th Grade Formal Dinner Dance, and Mrs. Pabon inquired about the implementation of a potential Performing Arts Hall of Fame. Mrs. Pabon also requested that the district reconsider using the federal Juneteenth holiday rather than the state designated day.

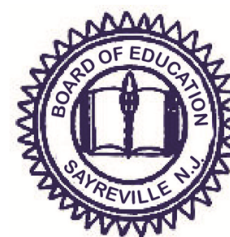
The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm in the SUES Board Room**. During this meeting, the district will ask the Board to approve the Tentative 2023-24 School District Budget. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the district website on **March 15th**. A complete copy of the February 20th 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 19, 2024**.



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Last week, many honored guests and I had the privilege to be able to participate in Read Across America in our preschool and elementary schools. Read Across America is an initiative on reading created



by the National Education Association (NEA) that began in 1997. According to the NEA, it is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who this year turned 120. This is truly one of the best days of the school year for me, as I have so much fun reading to and getting to know, albeit very briefly, our very impressive and most talented preschool and elementary school students. We commend all our amazing teachers, administrators, and parents who made 2024 Read Across America such a memorable experience for all who participated, especially our most gracious guest readers.



on or around March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who this year turned 120. This is truly one of the best days of the school year for me, as I have so much fun reading to and getting to know, albeit very briefly,



Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning last week. At the upper elementary school, the staff recognized and rewarded the students who were identified by their teachers as being most reflective of the character education pillar of Fairness with a Character Café

luncheon that featured delicious chocolate chip cookies. Also, students in Ms. Ms. Katz and Ms. O'Neill's class



became pizza chefs when making and presenting their very own pizza fraction projects. In addition, as part of their "Become a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud" campaign, students and staff collected nonperishable food that

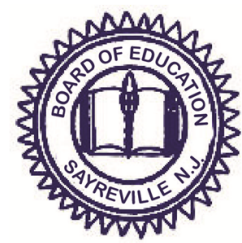




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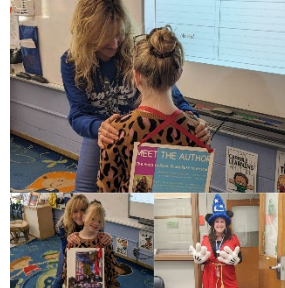
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they will donate to the Middlesex County Food Pantry. Lastly, 4th grade students found some interesting prey in their owl pellets during science classes. At the Wilson School, students and staff participated in "Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day." They also culminated Read Across America Week

with a school wide Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) activity where they turned out all the lights in the school and cozied up with a good book and a flashlight in their pajamas and read in the hallway. Likewise, at the Truman and Eisenhower Schools, students and staff dressed up like a fiction or nonfiction character. At the Arleth School, staff, students, and their families had a ton of fun during the ASI Family Engagement Night.



At the high school, students in the Tomorrow's Teachers program visited the upper elementary school to assist the teachers there in instruction. Additionally, members of the high school Peer Leaders worked with 9th graders discussing the importance of listening and hearing through several activities.



This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We begin by congratulating and commending the SWMHS Winterguard for placing 3rd out of 14 groups from New Jersey and Pennsylvania during a competition last weekend. We also commend and thank the very generous staff members of the district who recently donated \$530 to



the family of a recently retired staff member who passed away after a long battle with cancer and \$700 to another sick staff member. 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 congratulate the three SWMHS Odyssey of the Mind (OTM) teams listed below that placed in the top four of this past weekend's OTM Tournament. The Problem 2 and Problem 5 Teams will move onto the State Tournament.

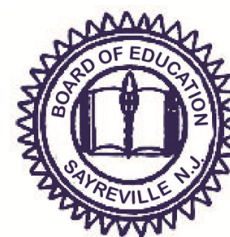




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Problem 2-4th Place

Anirudh Balagopal
Krish Pipaliya
Gia Modi
Prisha Vaishnav
Nicholas Bernardi

Problem 4-3rd Place

Nicholas Bernardi
Yilin Zheng
Ishaan Chand
Daniel Autunnale
Sabrina Brown
Vanshi Patel
Shlesha Shah

Problem 5-1st Place

Quinn Guerra
Daniel Johnson
Lillian Heidelberg
Jane Lee
Marissa Mandola
Abdullah Khan

Where Are They Now

March 2024

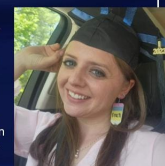
Compliments of the “Where Are They Now” Committee at the high school, we commend SWMHS Class of 2011 graduate Ashley Henrich, who graduated in 2011. After beginning her studies at Middlesex County College, she went on to Kean University with a Major in Journalism and Media Studies and a minor in Digital

Communication, Information, and Media, graduating in 2022. Currently, Ashley is a preschool teacher for Acelero Learning in North Brunswick and holds a master’s degree in early childhood education. She is also back in school to gain her +30 credits at Monmouth University and is enjoying her work and family life with her husband and three-year-old son Logan. We also commend SWMHS Class of 2012 graduate Payal Patel. After graduating from SWMHS,

Ashley Henrich, 2011

Kean University
Monmouth University, currently

Ashley Henrich graduated in 2011. After beginning her studies at Middlesex County College, she went on to Kean University with a Major in Journalism and Media Studies and a minor in Digital Communication, Information, and Media, graduating in 2022. Currently, Ashley is a preschool teacher for Acelero Learning in North Brunswick and holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She is also back in school to gain her +30 credits and is enjoying her work and family life with her husband and three-year-old son Logan.



Payal Patel, 2012

Monmouth University, BA in Political Science
London School of Economics, MSc

After graduating from SWMHS, Payal went on to Monmouth University and completed her BA in Political Science before heading to the London School of Economics for her MSc in Economic History / Development. Currently, she lives and works in the Washington DC area, helping government agencies with budget and financial management as part of her work with Deloitte Consulting.



Payal went on to Monmouth University and completed her BA in Political Science before heading to the London School of Economics for her MSc in Economic History/Development. Currently, she lives and works in the Washington DC area, helping government agencies with budget and financial management as part of her work with Deloitte Consulting. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville an impeccable manner. They Rock!

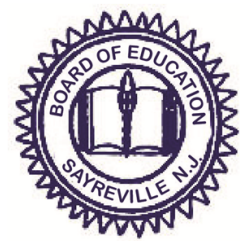


In athletics, the SWMHS Girls and Boys Swim Team celebrated their successful and very competitive season during their end of the season banquet. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate the teamwork and sportsmanship that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the way they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember



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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, there will be **BOE Business Meetings** on **Tuesday, March 19th**, and **Tuesday, April 2nd**. Please also remember that **2nd Trimester** for students in grades **K-5** will end on **March 14th** and **Reports Cards** will be issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect on **March 21st**. Finally, please remember that **our schools will be closed** for spring recess from **March 25th through March 29th**.

On January 29, 2024, 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, 2024**) 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 [2024-2025 Project Before and Kindergarten](#) drop down menu: [New Student Registration Link](#) or [Returning Student Registration Link](#).

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 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