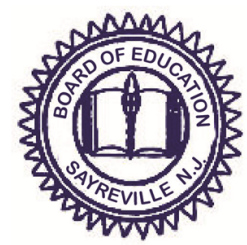




Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

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Mr. David Knaster, Assistant Superintendent

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Talk Sup Week 28 Review and Preview

April 1, 2024

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** next Wednesday, **April 10th** in observance of Eid al-Fitr.



As you know from my broadcast email last Friday, our community is still mourning the tragic death of a Wilson School student. Last Saturday evening the Wilson PTO, Sayreville Junior Bombers, and Sayreville Cares organizations coordinated a candle light vigil in the student's memory, which was attended by hundreds of community members. Today, therapists from the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, Traumatic Loss Coalitions for Youth will be present in the district to assist our counselors and therapists in providing bereavement and traumatic death counseling to any students and staff in need of

such at Wilson and across the district. For more information on talking with children about death and traumatic loss, click [here](#).

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 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 Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. Next, Mrs.



Bloom expressed her opening remarks, as did

Mrs. Napolitano, 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, along with the SWMHS Girls Indoor Track and Field Team for their Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) White Division Championship.



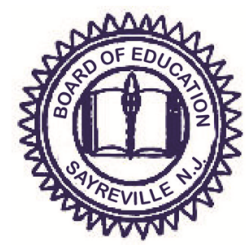
The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved them all. To see the Agenda, click [here](#). To see the Agenda Addendum, click [here](#). To see all attachments, click [here](#). To view the video of the meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the BOE approved the 2024-25 Tentative School District Budget in the amount of \$125,572,752. To see all the information pertaining to the development of the 2024-25 School District Budget, click [here](#). In addition, the Board approved the submission of the 2024-2025 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Enrollment and Budget Workbook, in the amount of \$11,813,998. It also approved a contract with Cifelli and Son General Construction Inc. for sidewalk

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repairs at the Samsel Upper Elementary School and Jesse Selover School and the replacement of the ADA compliant accessibility ramp at the Sayreville Middle School in the amount of \$63,450.

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, the Board approved the use of Sonday Systems for the Special Education Resource Program in kindergarten through grade five, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. On the Governance portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved revisions to multiple board of education [policies](#) and [regulations](#) for a Second Reading. To read them click on each. It also approved the Teamsters Local 469 Holiday Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year.

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 non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year. In addition, the BOE approved several New Jersey High Impact Grant Tutoring Coordinators with their stipends, which are funded through the FY24-New Jersey High Impact Tutoring Grant. Likewise, they approved Title 1 Parent Engagement Facilitators.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting, several people who were not residents of Sayreville commented about BOE Policy 5756 Transgender Students. During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Smith reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Dr. Labbe for the last Personnel Committee Meeting. Likewise, 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.

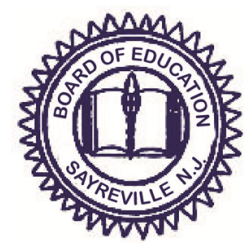
The next meeting, which will be our Special “**Let the Children Lead**” Business Meeting, will take place at **7:30 pm** tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 2nd** in the **SUES Board Room**. During this meeting, the BOE and Central Administration will be joined by almost two dozen 5th graders from the SUES as part of the annual “Let the Children Lead” program. In fact, 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 19th 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 **April 16, 2024**.

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Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning last week. At the upper elementary school, our Bombers Unified athletes had a ball competing against one another in their March Madness Bomber

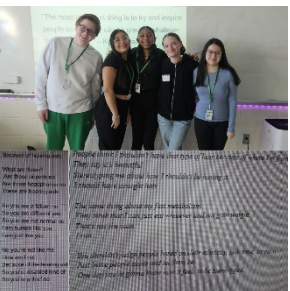


Unified Basketball Game. We commend all the players for their performance and, most importantly, their amazing display of teamwork and sportsmanship. Additionally, 8th grade



“Sidekick” students from the middle school visited 4th grade classrooms to share their knowledge of goal setting and making good decisions. Lastly, students and staff demonstrated their school spirit by wearing their favorite Disney or Marvel shirt.

At the high school, the SWMHS Theatre Society celebrated their magnificent performing arts year with their annual banquet. We thank Ms. Distaulo, Ms. Terrano, and the Curtain Callers Parent Booster Association for making the evening so memorable for all who attended, especially our student performers and crew, and their parents. In addition,



students in Ms. Feliz's class wrote personal poems about stereotypes and presented them to the class. At the middle school, students in Ms. Errico's and Ms. Ciampa's classes went on an “egg-cellent” egg hunt. At the Truman School, staff, students, and their families had a blast during Library Night.

We commend Mr. Bellamy, Media Specialist, for coordinating such a wonderful event. In addition, dentists from KidZdent visited to teach kindergarten and 1st grade students all about dental health.

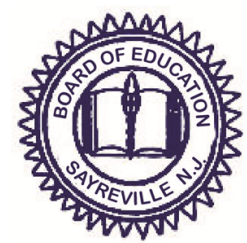




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This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We commend and congratulate the members of the SWMHS Future Business Leaders of America Club for their outstanding performance two weeks ago at the NJ-FBLA State Leadership Conference in Atlantic City. In fact, below please find the students who placed in the top four in their events and now qualify to compete at the National Leadership Conference, which will take place in Orlando, Florida from June 29th to July 2nd.

Overall Chapter Honors	
Gold Seal Award of Merit	Champion Chapter Award Recipient
Chapter Website Award of Merit	Community Service Challenge Award Top Contributor (100+ members)
Passport of Progress Award Recipient (100+ members)	Membership Challenge Award Recipient (Exceeding last year's membership by 20+ paid members)
Advocate 4 Anthony 1st Place (100+ members)	

Chapter Competitive Events	
<i>Jai Desai, Shriya Patel</i> American Enterprise Project 3rd Place - National Qualifier	<i>Sean Burns, Laury Estefont, Savi Sandiford</i> Community Service Project 3rd Place - National Qualifier
<i>Shrikar Gandhesiri, Aarav Patel, Dev Shah</i> Local Chapter Annual Business Report 5th place	<i>Ameeka Patel, Amoli Patel, Victor Ortega</i> Partnership With Business 1st Place - State Champions

Individual/Group Competitive Events - National Qualifiers	
<i>Tanvi Agarwal, Ava Patel, Shaili Shah</i> Coding & Programming 1st Place - State Champions	<i>Ashleigh Wisniewski, Lily Zakrzewski, Danielle Zapoticzny</i> Digital Animation (3D Animation) 4th Place
<i>Maria Lima</i> Future Business Educator 3rd Place	<i>Saanvi Kukreti, Vibhansh Kukreti</i> Digital Animation (3D Animation) 1st Place - State Champions
<i>Jai Desai, Shayna Lu, Victor Ortega</i> Graphic Design 3rd Place	<i>Sean Burns</i> Impromptu Speaking 4th Place
<i>Shriya Patel, Jessica Sasso, Ayden Suber</i> Social Media Strategies 2nd Place	<i>Sophia Dela Cruz, Kanika Madhok, Gia Modi</i> Website Design 3rd Place
<i>Megha Chauhan</i> Word Processing 2nd Place	

Individual Honors	
<i>Shriya Patel</i> <i>Who's Who Award</i> (Outstanding contributions to FBLA at the local, state, and national levels)	<i>Amoli Patel</i> <i>Gold Officer Award</i> Outstanding contributions to local chapter
<i>Ameeka Patel</i> <i>Gold Member Award</i> Outstanding contributions to local chapter	<i>Megha Chauhan</i> <i>Member of the Month Award</i> Honors members who go above and beyond to serve their local chapters
<i>Ameeka Patel</i> <i>Member of the Month Award</i> Honors members who go above and beyond to serve their local chapters	<i>Amoli Patel</i> <i>Member of the Month Award</i> Honors members who go above and beyond to serve their local chapters

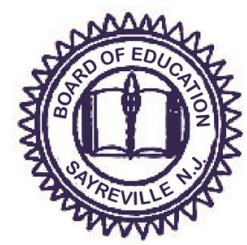
Top 10 Place Winners for Individual/Competitive Events	
<i>Aarav Patel</i> Accounting I	<i>Jillian Bourbeau, Alejandra Harvey</i> Business Plan
<i>Brody Cannan</i> Client Service	<i>Manav Jhala, Aadi Patel</i> Computer Game & Simulation Programming
<i>Sophia Dennie, Lillian Heidelberg, Sara Williamson</i> Data Analysis	<i>Gianna Gittlitz, Raphael Pereira, Rosie Szeszko</i> Digital Video Production
<i>Ashi Kotadia</i> Electronic Career Portfolio	<i>Aanya Patel</i> Future Business Educator
<i>Dhruv Patel, Josh Patel, Aarav Shah</i> Introduction to Programming	<i>Jaida Benitez, Julia Hilarczyk, Josie Vanore</i> Introduction to Programming
<i>Ashley Dunne, Darin Grella, Emi Lescano</i> Mobile Application Development	<i>Amelia Kawalec, Lucy Logan, Cayley Pinto</i> Mobile Application Development
<i>Osman Alishah, Aayan Mazhar, Abubakar Shah</i> Network Design	<i>Ahmed Abdullah, Noah Dubois, Arsi Muda, Rohan Vaidya</i> Parliamentary Procedure
<i>Laury Estefont, Rishi Shah</i> Public Service Announcement	<i>Riva Babaria, Tara Osumanu, Yash Shah</i> Public Service Announcement
<i>Molly Logan</i> Scrapbook	<i>Shaili Modi, Reya Patel, Aanvi Talati</i> Social Media Strategies
<i>Kristy Garcia, Shriya Meda, Ruhi Patel</i> Website Coding & Development	

Dev Shah
Central Region Vice President Candidate
Although he did not win the election, Dev should be recognized and applauded for his efforts in putting forth a solid campaign.



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In addition, we congratulate and commend SWMHS Jewelry and Metalworking students Melanie Colon Rodriguez and Michelle Palomo Gonzalez, who were granted top honors at the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Since 1923, the Awards have recognized some of Americas most celebrated artists and writers while they were teenagers. Chosen from over 2,600 submissions, their artwork was reviewed and recognized by a panel of creative professionals and awarded for their outstanding merit in originality, skill, and emergence of each artist’s personal voice and vision. Melanie

received a Silver Key Award for her ring, “Concha de Mar,” while Michelle received an Honorable Mention for her necklace, “Isaac’s Poison.” Finally, we commend and congratulate SWMHS Paraprofessional, Dawn Kosobucki, who was recently elected to be the 2024-2025 NJ Lions Council Chair, which is the person who coordinates the state Lions Club. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



In athletics, we congratulate SWMHS Girls Winter Track and Field Head Coach Joseph Pastva, who was named the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Girl’s Winter Track and Field Coach of the Year. The SWMHS Girls Basketball Team held their end of season banquet to celebrate their competitive and promising 2023-24 season. 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 [2023-24 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, please remember that there will be **BOE Business Meeting** tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 2nd** and on **Tuesday, April 16th**. Please also remember that **our schools will be closed** on Wednesday, April 10th in observance of Eid al-Fitr and on Tuesday, April 23rd in observance of Passover. Likewise, please note that we will **dismiss students early on Monday, April 22nd** so that our staff can participate in professional development. Finally, please remember that the **3rd Marking Period** for students in **grades 6-12** will **end on April 15th** and that **report cards** will be **issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect** for those students on **April 22nd**.

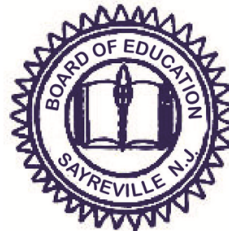
On January 29, 2024, the district officially opened registration for our **free Full-Day Project Before Preschool and Kindergarten Programs**. Therefore, parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 for preschool**

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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 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