

A message from the Superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public Schools.



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending February 28, 2020

# Public School

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

# Proud

**WE** have just wrapped up National Public Schools Week – the perfect time to reflect on what’s right in our own public school district!

It’s been shown time and again that many, many people choose to live in Cherry Hill for the schools – it’s why my parents moved here with my brother, sister and me in 1977, and it’s why my wife and I chose to raise our daughters here as well. The Cherry Hill Public Schools produce graduates who are well prepared for college and career. Our high school graduation rate is a phenomenal 94 percent (the state average is 90.5 percent). Our SAT scores are [well above the state average](#). And our district holds the distinction as a [National District of Character from 2018-2023](#)! We operate every day with our Board of Education mission in mind: “We shall provide all children with an education that develops open-minded thinkers with the strong academic and interpersonal skills to thrive in an ever- changing world and make it a better place for all.”

We are proud to contribute to [New Jersey’s ranking as the #1 state for public education in the country!](#)

I’d also like to share with you a few very recent examples of the great things happening here in CHPS:

- A vibrant and celebratory Black History Month in our schools included the production *Our Music, Our Story*, produced by the students of the African American Culture Clubs of high schools East and West and featuring CHPS students of all ages. And on Tuesday, the winners of the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association’s Poster/Essay/Video contest were honored at the Board of Education meeting. About 300 students entered the contest – a record showing! Beck Middle School also put on their annual “Amateur Night at the Apollo,” a Harlem Renaissance-inspired student contest to celebrate the arts. Tomorrow, the Cherry Hill East African American Culture Club will be closing out Black History Month with their “Cook In” from noon to 2:30 pm, offering soul food, dessert and other concessions, as well as activities for all ages. Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$3 for East students with ID, and free for children under 12. Add to this the multiple curriculum pieces throughout our schools, and Black History Month in

## BOE Committee Meetings

All meetings held on March 2

Malberg Administration Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Curriculum & Instruction Committee - 5 pm

Policy & Legislation Committee - 6 pm

Business & Facilities Committee - 7 pm

Strategic Planning Committee - 8 pm

## Cherry Hill Special Education PTA Quarterly Meeting

March 5

General meeting: 6:30 pm  
Workshop Presentation - Behavioral Health, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Resources: 7-8 pm  
James Johnson  
Elementary School, 500 Kresson Road

## Board of Education Work Session

March 10 at 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

## Board of Education Action Meeting

March 24 at 7pm  
Malberg Administration Building, 45 Ranoldo

- our schools was robust indeed!
- Our high school sports teams also celebrated fantastic achievements this week as both the Girls (pictured above) and Boys Swim Teams of Cherry Hill High School East won their respective State Championships last weekend! A “Parade of Champions” took place in the hallways of East on Tuesday and another recognition of the teams by Cherry Hill Township will take place in the coming weeks. The Cherry Hill High School West Girls Basketball Team on Monday celebrated junior Alison Ahern’s 1,000th basket during the team’s winning game over Woodrow Wilson. And last Friday, West Boys Basketball Team member Hakim Melvin won the NJM Insurance JSZ South Jersey Game Ball for his game-high 22 points scored against Camden Catholic.
  - The Latinos & Amigos Club at Cherry Hill East tonight will host Noche Latina in East’s Cafeteria 1 from 6-10 pm. This free event is a wonderful showcase of Hispanic culture and is open to the entire community. Food and drinks will be available for various prices.
  - It’s also Spring Musical season in our schools, with Rosa International Middle School’s production of *Footloose* opening at Rosa tonight at 7:30 pm and running tomorrow at 1:30 pm and again at 7:30 pm. Tickets available at the door. And mark your calendars: High School East’s production of *Legally Blonde*, previewed at [Tuesday’s Board of Education Meeting](#), opens March 6 at the Cherry Hill High School West Auditorium. [Tickets are available online](#) and at the door. Carusi Middle School’s production of *High School Musical* opens March 20 and Beck Middle School’s production of *Seussical* opens March 27. And, last but not least, High School West’s musical, *We Will Rock You*, will open on April 17. Our student thespians always put on shows that rival professional productions, and I encourage you to see as many of them as possible!

Please keep up with what’s happening in all 19 of our schools by following our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds – great information is posted on these platforms every day!

To stay informed about what’s happening with the Board of Education, be sure to watch the [live stream](#) of our meetings or view the video in our [YouTube archive](#) the next day. Please also see the “Upcoming Events”

column at right for other meeting dates and happenings this month.

I will be at Noche Latina tonight and *Footloose* tomorrow night and hope to see you there!

Please be sure to share with us – and everyone you know – what makes you “public school proud”! **WE** have so many reasons to celebrate our wonderful schools. Positivity shared is positivity multiplied. Let’s all remember to share it at every opportunity!

Regards,

***Joe Meloche***

Joseph Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

*"Be a rainbow in someone's day."*



## An Important Message Regarding Student Wellness

On February 27, 2020, [an important letter from Dr. Meloche](#) was emailed to all parents and staff regarding student wellness, specifically:

- Incidents of students replicating dangerous social media "challenges"
- The latest on Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Please be sure to read [the letter](#) if you missed it.



## CHPS Receives Increase in Funding from the State of New Jersey

The Cherry Hill Public Schools will receive an increase of \$3,473,865 in state funding for the 2020-2021 school year, Gov. Phil Murphy's office announced Thursday, February 27, 2020. This is an 18.85% increase in funding, a significant jump from the 6.53% increase for 2019-2020.

The additional money is an important step in the District's moving toward receiving the funding we deserve, but have never received, under the [School Funding Reform Act \(SFRA\) of 2008](#). Dr. Meloche



## Kindergarten Registration Dates Set

[Dates and instructions for registering kindergarten and 1st grade students new to the Cherry Hill Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year](#) are now available online.

Students must be five years old on or before October 1, 2020 in order to be eligible for kindergarten. Students currently enrolled in the Cherry Hill Public Schools (including the Barclay Early Childhood Center) do not need to re-register.

discussed this long-standing problem in the [February 21, 2020 issue of CHPS WEEKLY](#).

CHPS Administration and the Board of Education thank the [Zone PTA Fair Funding Committee](#) for their tireless efforts to help the District secure our fair share of state funding, which has been lacking for decades.

The [Fair Funding Committee](#) continues to meet in order to hold our legislators to continuing to increase our funding as stipulated in the recent [S-2](#) legislation. The next meeting of the committee is March 19, 2020 at 7 pm in the Malberg Administration Building Board Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace. All community members are encouraged to attend.

Unable to attend a meeting but still want to be involved? See the [Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools website](#).

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