

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



## CHPS **WEEKLY**

District News for the week ending February 21, 2020

UPCOMING

# Funding Challenges: Why Our Buildings Are in Such Need of Repair

**The lack of funding for the Cherry Hill Public Schools has been a challenge for decades. **WE** have seen improvements and continue to push for what is rightfully ours.**

It's a question that comes up regularly in our community: Why are our school buildings in such need of repair when our taxes are so high? The short answer: a lack of our fair share of funding from the state. We have been underfunded by more than \$150 million over the past decade. Our district has a decades-long history of being underfunded that can be traced to the 1980s, even after the passage of the [School Funding Reform Act \(SFRA\) of 2008](#) receiving as little as 40 percent of what we were entitled to in recent years. Since the 1990s, CHPS administration after administration was left with the challenge of how to allocate our very small amount of state funds to continue the excellent education we offer. Year after year, staffing and programs took top priority. Maintenance "must-do" projects were completed. We garnered grants such as a Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant for replacing the original boilers in all 19 of our schools. But other maintenance that could be put off, was put off. Our facilities suffered the consequences, as have the students and staff making do in less-than-ideal environments. After years of CHPS administrators and Board of Education members lobbying our State Representatives and the Governor of New Jersey, we were advised in 2014 that any successful efforts to obtain fair funding would have to come from community constituents. By 2015, the [Zone PTA Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee](#) was formed.

The Fair Funding Committee has helped us make strides toward securing fair funding for our district. Their tireless work has helped keep us consistently "on the radar" of our representatives, of NJ Senator Stephen Sweeney, and of Governor Murphy. Since 2015, we have seen funding increase by \$5.5 million. It's a step in the right direction, for which we are grateful, but from which we have not become complacent. It's now budget season in

## EVENTS

### Board of Education Action Meeting

February 25 at 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace  
[Agenda available online](#)

### Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools Committee Meeting

February 27 at 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

### 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

the state of New Jersey, including the release of state funds for all New Jersey school districts. [I have reminded Sen. Sweeney in a letter I sent him on February 10](#) that this still falls far short of the \$29 million we are entitled to receive under the [SFRA](#), and that we expect him and our state lawmakers to continue the increases promised us under the [recent S-2 legislation](#).

The Fair Funding Committee continues their work toward holding these decision makers to their financial promises as well. I encourage you to visit the [Fair Funding for Cherry Hill Schools website](#) for extensive background on our funding situation and to find out what you can do to help. Attend the monthly Fair Funding meeting, generally on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Malberg Administration Building, if you can. And tell your fellow community members what's happening, and how they can help.

We will keep you posted on the amount of funds we are allocated from the state this year, and we will continue to press for the regular increases we have been promised.

In addition to keeping up with us via this newsletter, please follow 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 wish you a lovely weekend this last weekend of February! Enjoy the sunshine and perhaps get out for a walk, spend some time at one of our community's wonderful parks or simply share a kind word with a neighbor. If you can, visit High School East on Saturday for an all-day Robotics Competition, take in a Dual Language Play at High School West tonight or tomorrow night, and take a road trip to TCNJ to see the High School East Girls Swim Team compete in the State Championship on Saturday at 1:30 pm and the see the High School East Boys Swim Team compete in the State Championship at TCNJ on Sunday at 1:30 pm. This is an exciting weekend for the Cherry Hill School District!

Please remember, as we advocate – for our district, for our children – words matter. Civility matters. I have great faith that **WE** will continue to make great things happen

Resources: 7-8 pm  
James Johnson  
Elementary School, 500  
Kresson Road

as we work together for positive change.

Regards,

***Joe Meloche***

Joseph Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

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



## Cherry Hill East Students Excel in National German Exam

Congratulations to the 20 Cherry Hill High School East students who put in a strong showing in this year's National German Exam in January. Bronze, Silver and Gold-Level winners were:

Bronze Level 2: Jillian Danberry and Miriam Bouch

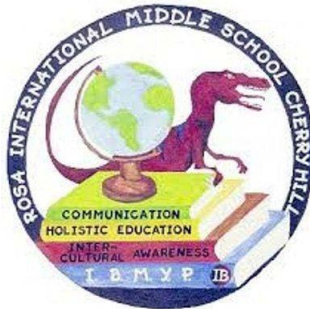
Bronze Level 4: Matthew Protazio

Silver: Akshay Shah and Gabriel Arato

Gold Level 2: Thomas Ji, Rifah Jamal and Alina Likhnekevich

Gold Level 4: Matty Liebman (4-time Gold Level winner)

The National German Exam is administered each year to nearly 25,000 high school students of German. The exam, now in its 60th year, provides individual diagnostic



## Rosa Middle School Open Enrollment Information Now Available

Current 5th grade families: If you would like to submit an application for Open Enrollment to Rosa international Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year, please view [the Open Enrollment Letter](#) online.

Applications will be accepted from February 18 through February 28, 2020. **You must submit your application by 4 pm on February 28, 2020.** The online application will not be available after 4 pm on February 28, 2020.



## 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.

feedback, rewards students through an extensive regional and national prize program, and creates a sense of accomplishment.

Level 1 students will take their exam in April.