

A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending March 2, 2018

# Safety & Security

**It's been a pivotal week in the Cherry Hill Public Schools, with a great deal of news media coverage. Some of the issues in the news are related to a personnel matter about which we cannot comment. But the issue of safety and security – the single most important issue in our schools – is one we can speak to.**

Cherry Hill is our community. It is our home – it is where we chose to put down roots, to raise our children, and to give them a solid foundation before sending them off into the world. Our community is struggling right now. Throughout our community folks are hurting, folks are grieving, and folks are scared because of the tragedies we have witnessed involving children. Most recently it was in Parkland, but it has been in Sandy Hook, in Columbine, at Virginia Tech. Children are the most precious part of our community, our most vulnerable and our most cherished. When we talk about our children's safety, emotions are very intense and can be very raw. I love my four daughters more than anyone, or anything else in the world. Along with the members of the Board of Education and the district staff, I want OUR children to be safe and to be educated in an environment that allows children to grow and to thrive and to express their voices as they make this world a better place for us all.

I would like to share with you the statement about safety and security, released earlier today. There will be additional updates sent home directly from the schools that address specifics about student arrival and departure, as well student identification number reminders.

*In the Cherry Hill Public School District, our children and our staff are our most precious resource. They are the heart and soul of who WE are.*

*As a district, our top priority has always been the safety and security of our entire educational community.*

*In light of recent events, including the tragedy in*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Cherry Hill High School East Musical - "The Music Man"

March 2 & 3 @ 7:30 pm  
March 4 @ 2 pm

### Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

March 3 from 9-10:30 am  
Thomas Paine Elementary  
4001 Church Road

### Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

March 5 @ 6 pm  
Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

March 5 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Board Room  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

March 6 @ 6 pm  
Cherry Hill High School West  
Media Center  
2101 Chapel Ave.

### CANCELLED: Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

### Board of Education Special Meeting

March 6 @ 7 pm  
Cherry Hill High School West

*Parkland, Florida, we are taking a comprehensive look at our current protocols and how we can continue to improve. We share the concern and the emotion and the impact of the events that have occurred in our country. The Board of Education and the school district are grateful to the students, the families, the community members, the staff, and community officials who have so passionately engaged in discussion about making sure our children are safe. As we move forward, the district is committed to short term and long term enhancements and developments in our safety and security.*

*Beginning on Monday, March 5, 2018, the Cherry Hill Public School District will be implementing the following enhanced security protocols:*

- There will be an increased Cherry Hill Police presence in our schools. The Cherry Hill Town Council, Mayor Cahn and Chief Monaghan have committed officers who will be a dedicated and visible presence in our schools, beginning on Monday, March 5, 2018, through the end of the school year on June 19, 2018.*
- All parents/guardians/family members must present photo identification and the student identification number of their child prior to being admitted to the school building.*
- All other visitors, including alumni, must establish an appointment prior to arriving at the school, and will be required to present photo identification to be admitted to any school.*
- All Cherry Hill Public Schools will communicate arrival and dismissal procedures with their children and families.*

*In addition to the immediate actions to be implemented on Monday, March 5, 2018, the Cherry Hill Public School District will:*

- Convene a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at HS West. The agenda will be posted on the district website on Monday, March 5, 2018. There will be time for public comment during the meeting. There will be a portion of the meeting held in closed session to discuss staffing and legal matters.*
- Work with security professionals to assess policies and procedures in place in all district schools and facilities.*
- Convene community conversations to bring together*

Auditorium  
2101 Chapel Ave.

## **Board of Education Work Session**

March 13 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Administration Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

## **SCHOOLS CLOSED**

Teacher In-Service  
March 16

*parents, children, community members and elected officials to discuss safety and security. Dates are currently being established and will be communicated soon.*

*Every day, all Cherry Hill Public Schools will continue to hold staff accountable to implement the following:*

- All staff members will sign in to the building when arriving and will sign out of the building when exiting.*
- All visitors to the district schools must report to the main entrance and be buzzed in, one at a time.*
- All visitors will be required to sign in to the building upon arrival and to sign out upon departure.*
- All exterior doors will remain closed and locked during the school day.*
- All staff members will wear their identification badges at all times.*
- All visitors will wear guest badges while they are in the building.*
- Any student arriving late to school must be buzzed in the main entrance and report to the main office to sign in.*
- A minimum of one fire drill and one security drill will be held in every school each month.*
- Regular staff meetings will include a review of district safety and security procedures.*
- Building level and district level safety committee meetings will include a review of safety and security procedures.*

*Students, staff, and community members will continue to be encouraged to follow, "If you see something, say something."*

I hope you will join me tomorrow morning from 9-10:30 am at Thomas Paine Elementary School for the next Coffee & Conversation meeting, a presentation about our long range strategic plan and the upcoming bond referendum, followed by Q&A – bring your favorite beverage and your questions! I also reiterate that the Board of Education Special Meeting at 7 pm at Cherry Hill High School West Auditorium is open to the public, and will feature a public comment session. Please understand that the public comment portion of any Board meeting is not a Q&A, but an opportunity for any attendee to address the board for 3 minutes. There will be an executive, or closed, session of the meeting that will convene at approximately 7:05 pm. The public comment session will occur after the Board comes out of the executive session.

I look forward to continuing civil discourse at every opportunity. Please remember, especially during difficult times, that words matter. Kindness is essential. Our children are watching us, modeling our behavior, always.

Regards,

*Joe Meloche*

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



## Summer Enrichment Camp Registration Now Open

[Registration is now open for the Cherry Hill Public Schools Summer Enrichment Camp Program.](#)

Two changes to this year's program:

The camp is not open on Fridays, as the District is closed on Fridays during the summer.

Non-resident employees of the BOE may now enroll their children in the camp.

The camp, for children who will enter grades 1 through 6 in September 2018, runs from June 25 through August 16, 2018, and is closed July 4.



## 2018 PARCC Assessment Information Now Available

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment schedule is now set. Assessments will begin Tuesday, April 17, 2018 with high school testing. Middle school testing will begin Tuesday, April 24, and elementary school testing will begin Thursday, May 3.

[A full schedule, including make-up dates](#), is available on the District web site. Additionally, [high school graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond](#) are now available on the District web site.



## Earth Festival Elementary Poster and Middle/High School Video Contest Announced

The Sustainable Cherry Hill Earth Festival has announced two contests in conjunction with this year's Earth Festival on April 28, 2018 at Croft Farm.

All public and private elementary school students in Camden County are invited to enter the [Student Poster Contest, revolving around this year's theme: "Reduce Plastic - Fantastic!"](#) Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place elementary winners. First place award: art supplies for the student and classroom worth \$200. Second place award: art supplies for the student and classroom

worth \$100.

All public and private middle and high school students in Camden County are invited to enter the [Student Video Contest, producing a short video commercial or public service announcement revolving around this year's theme: "Reduce Plastic - Fantastic."](#) First and second place prizes will be awarded in each middle and high school age group. First place: \$300. Second place: \$100.

Entrants must follow the guidelines specified by [Sustainable Cherry Hill](#).

Entries will be accepted until Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Winners will be recognized during the 9:45 am opening ceremony at the Earth Festival.

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