

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending September 29, 2017

Looking Inside, Offering Insight

As you learn more about your children's days at school, we'd like to you to use that knowledge as a catalyst for asking questions and offering suggestions.

Today wraps up the month of September. It is the eighteenth day of school, meaning 10 percent of the school year is now complete! In this short period of time, our students have already learned a great deal. And if you're a parent or guardian who has attended one or more Back-to-School Nights – which will wrap up on October 13 – you, too, have looked inside your child's school and have learned a great deal about the workings of your child's day, with whom he or she comes in contact, what the learning environment is like, and why certain teachers and/or classes have already earned "favorite" status.

Even if your school's Back to School Night has yet to take place, or if you are unable to attend and will rely on your school's Back-to-School-Night packet to garner information, you will soon have significant insight into your child's experience in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. I hope you will share that insight with me at one of my upcoming Community Conversations, the next of which is Saturday, October 14 from 9-10:30 am at Bret Harte Elementary School.

The [Community Conversations](#) began on August 26, as pictured above, as a series of Saturday morning meetings scheduled through the 2017-2018 school year at each of our elementary schools and called "Saturday Coffee with the Superintendent." At the request of the community, we expanded the series to include four additional meetings on Sunday afternoons at our middle schools, as well as six more community meetings on weekdays and evenings at our high schools and at the Malberg Administration Building. The purpose? To bring the community into our conversation regarding our long-range strategic plan, "[CHPS 2020: A clear vision for the future.](#)" The conversation also will include our upcoming bond referendum to be put up for public vote on September 25, 2018.

When it comes to this strategic plan and the bond referendum, every voice in the community is

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting](#)

Oct 2 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

[Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting](#)

Oct 2 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

[Business & Facilities Committee Meeting](#)

Oct 3 @ 6 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

[Strategic Planning Committee Meeting](#)

Oct 3 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration
Building, 45 Ranoldo
Terrace

[SCHOOLS CLOSED](#)

Oct 9

[Board of Education Candidates Forum](#)

Oct 11 @ 7 pm (doors
open @ 6:30 pm)
Rosa International Middle
School

[Candidate Biographies](#)

important. So while I'm hoping the parents and guardians reading this letter will take the opportunity to attend at least one of [these events](#), I also want to be clear that we as district appreciate all perspectives – from community members with children who don't attend our schools; community members without children; and those whose children have already graduated from our district. Some wonderful, thoughtful, respectful conversations have already taken place. I look forward to these conversations continuing through the 2017-2018 school year.

This is a pivotal year for the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Please be informed about the strategic planning process and the formation of the bond referendum. Attend our [Community Conversation meetings](#), Board of Education Meetings and PTA meetings, all listed on the [District web site](#) and your school's web site. Be sure to stay in touch through all of our communication platforms: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and the free Cherry Hill Public Schools App, available on the App Store and Google Play!

If you have questions, please avoid crowd-sourcing on social media, where information is unlikely to be accurate and has been "whispered down the lane." Instead, ask us directly via the [Quick Question](#) portal on our web site. Answers are posted publicly and remain posted for others to reference.

Let's use all of our means of communication – spoken or written, no matter the form of media used – to show our children what kind, considerate discourse is. Remember, they model their behavior on ours. Words matter, every time we share them.

As always, share a smile and a kind word with someone new in the next week.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Dr. Meloche Holds First Online Lunch Broadcast of 2017-2018

Dr. Meloche on September 29 held the first "Online Lunch with the Superintendent" live stream broadcast of the school year. He welcomed special guest Deena Caswell, Supervisor of Outreach and Diversity for the Cherry Hill Public Library, who spoke about the One Book, One Cherry Hill project, focused on *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford.

Dr. Meloche also spoke about our schools' participation in the upcoming Walk/Bike-to-School Day on October 4, about the nearly finished installation of water refilling stations, about Hispanic Heritage Month and other topics. He also answered a community question regarding whether student athletes would be tested for drug use.

The full broadcast is available on the [District YouTube Channel](#).



Do Your Back-to-School Paperwork Online!

Reminder to Fill Out Online Paperwork

Parents who have not yet done so are reminded to complete important beginning-of-the-year "paperwork" on the [Parents portal](#) of the District web site to ensure all student information is up-to-date.

Out-of-date information could mean you will not receive emergency communications from your child's school or from the District.

The [Parents portal](#) includes full, step-by-step instructions for this process, with links applicable to your child's or children's grade level(s).

Families unable to complete this process online may pick up paper forms at the main office of their school(s). Please complete this important information as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the main office of your child's school.



Holiday Child Care Available to all CHPS Elementary Students

The Cherry Hill Public Schools offers child care through the Student Enrichment Program (STEP) for all CHPS elementary school students when school is closed for certain holidays. **Children do not have to attend School Aged Child Care (SACC) to attend STEP Holiday Child Care.**

STEP Holiday Child Care is open from 7 am to 6 pm for the holidays of October 9; November 9 & 10; February 16; March 16; and April 2-6.

You must register your child in the STEP office at Cooper Elementary School, 1960 Greentree Road, no later than 5 business days prior to the date(s) you select.

Details and registration forms are available on the [STEP Holiday Child Care page of the District web site](#).

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Cherry Hill Public Schools | 45 Ranoldo Terrace, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 | 856-429-5600