SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District ISSUE NO 70 | June 26, 2020



Community School framework poised to be major game changer for all PCSD schools

Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools, presented the Poughkeepsie City School District Community

Framework to the Board of Education and community Tuesday, June 23, 2020 during a BOE special meeting. Having direct experience in the development of the Buffalo Public Schools community school model, Dr. Rosser presented what school districts seeking to create and enhance their community school models should aspire to accomplish in reaching that goal. Strong Community Schools support families using a "full service" model to increase student outcomes and improve



the surrounding community. Health, legal, and mental health clinics; higher education and business partnerships; strong academic programming; incorporating innovative technology into the academic program; extended time programming; extracurricular activities; parent engagement and support; adult and community education programs, and family social services supports are some examples of what comprise a full service model.

The presentation outlined a phased approached to Poughkeepsie City School District implementing the Community School initiative. Phase I will include:

Academic Supports

- Full-time Librarians at every school
- One-to-one instructional devices
- On-line supplemental instructional programs and age appropriate literacy resources
- Academic, cultural, artistic, and needs based field trips
- Full-time Art teachers in every school
- 40 weeks of extended day K-12 academic, social, emotional and wellness programming
- Enhanced College and Career Planning (High School)

Social and Emotional Supports

- Full-time Social Workers in every building
- Enhanced Student Leadership opportunities at each school

Safe Passage

- Walking School Bus (Elementary Schools)
- Continued Dutchess County Transportation (Middle & High School)
- Community led Safe Passage Program (Middle & High School)

Parent Supports

- Poughkeepsie City School District Parent Empowerment Center
- Parent Empowerment Workshops
- 3 Poughkeepsie City School District Parent and Community Advocates

Enhanced Community Partnerships

Additional academic, social, emotional and wellness supports for students



Dr. Rosser also announced that a Community School Steering Committee made up of district and building level leadership, community, higher education and business partnerships, and PCSD parents will be established to serve as thought partners in helping to form Phase I of the PCSD implementation plan and help identify future phases of the initiative.

A Community School website landing page is under development and will provide more details about the framework and how community organizations can become invovled in this district-wide turnaround strategy. For access to the full presentation click here.

Board sets 20-21 school calendar

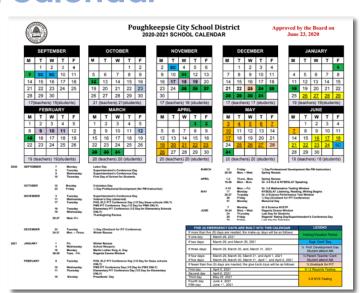
The start of the 2020-2021 Poughkeepsie City School District school year will be Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020, under the school calendar approved unanimously by the Board of Education this week.

Dr. Rosser and other members of the PCSD leadership team will kick-off the return of teachers on September – 9 with superintendent's conference days. The content of those days will be finalized this summer. The school year is set to end for students June 24 and teachers June 25. The calendar includes five emergency days.

Thanksgiving, winter recess and spring recess are scheduled for Nov. 25-27, Dec. 24-Jan. 1, and March 29-Apr. 2 respectively.

All of the unions provided feedback and agreed to the calendar.

Download the 2020-21 School Calendar here.



Harvard Gazette publishes article about Poughkeepsie



News about the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet participation in the By All Means initiative has gone national.

The Harvard Gazette published an article about the exemplary work of the Children's Cabinet and our inclusion as the newest member of the By All Means initiative recently.

The initiative, part of the Education Redesign Lab at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is focused on rethinking education and child development systems through partnerships with local communities. Paul Reville, founding director of the lab, had this to say in the article:

"We are so impressed with the commitment and good work in Poughkeepsie. Community leaders have meaningfully come together to prioritize children's wellbeing."

As co-chairs of the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, Mayor Rolison and I are excited about being accepted as members of By All Means. Our goal is to strengthen our impact, as Champions for Children, by learning as much as we can from other cities who are engaged in this very important work. The track record and experiences of the other members of By All Means, will help inform our local efforts as we continue to grow as a new cabinet. Read the entire article here.