

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

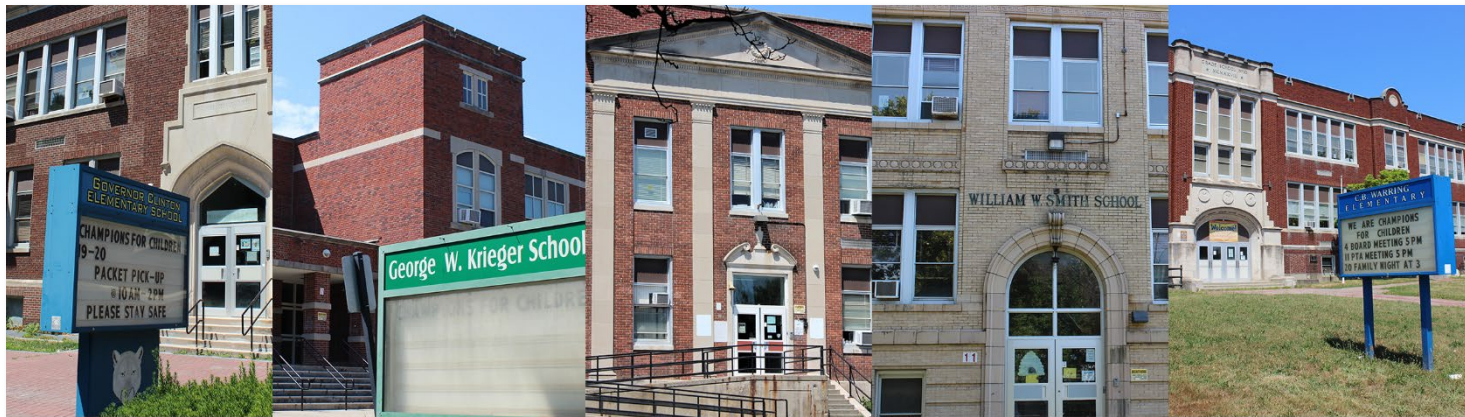
Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

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District explores school name history



At its December regular Board of Education meeting, members of the Poughkeepsie City School District passed a resolution authorizing Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools, to lead the effort in the district acquiring a better understanding of the people whom each of the Poughkeepsie City School District elementary buildings are named after.

The board's interest is to ensure that any potential concerns a name may present from a historical/cultural/equity perspective are addressed through community conversations regarding any future decisions about naming, renaming, or denaming a school.

During the in-depth conversation of this agenda item, Rosser said that as a part of his strategy, he will seek to better understand how other school districts have engaged in this process. This will advance the district's desire to acquire a better understanding of the people whom each of the elementary buildings are named after and how that information will be used to engage the community in further conversations.

Prior to the end of the calendar year, Rosser initiated the process of identifying a historian/researcher to produce a comprehensive report detailing the following:

- Personal and professional history on the following individuals:
 - Gov. George Clinton.
 - George W. Krieger.
 - Charles B. Warring.
 - Samuel F.B. Morse.
 - W.W. Smith.
- Information on why Poughkeepsie City School District buildings were named after these individuals.
- Year and date of naming.
- Names of each building if they held different names prior to the current names of the building.
- Any other interesting information about each of these buildings.

Once the historian/researcher has been identified, Rosser will be able to outline a timeline for Board and community conversations.

"Our work as a governance team around this originates from the Parents Advisory Committee to the Superintendent and their interest in understanding the history of the people that our school buildings are named after. Members articulated that in the absence of understanding every aspect of the schools that parents send their children to, it is hard for parents and the community to fully have pride in the schools," Rosser said. "Given demographic shifts in the city of Poughkeepsie over the past several decades and a process many communities throughout the country are engaging in to evaluate the cultural and equitable appropriateness of names of edifices throughout their communities, I am excited to lead this effort. When I first arrived as superintendent, I engaged the community in a process that elevated the community's voice



and vision for what the Poughkeepsie City School District should represent for the community's children. Today, the district, engaging in this process, further accelerates bringing that collective vision to fruition."

Arts committee holds planning meeting

Under the leadership of Mariya Pushkantser, director of secondary education, Poughkeepsie City School District hosted its first Comprehensive Arts Education planning meeting right before the winter recess. The online meeting included about 20 members of the school community, strategic

partners, and others interested in partnering with the district.

Pushkantser engaged participants in conversation highlighting the importance of school, home and community engaging in a participatory process in the development and implementation of the Poughkeepsie City School District's Comprehensive Arts Education Plan. Her presentation outlined the district's vision for Arts Education, the district's current curricular and extracurricular offerings and ideas around future curricular and extracurricular offerings.

As part of the initial phase of the development of the plan, participants engaged in the drafting of the mission and vision of the plan and identifying their interest in working on the following components of the plan:

- Integrated Arts PK- 5.
- Integrated Arts 6-8.
- Arts Education at PHS.
- Parent/Community Engagement.
- Engaging the Arts community to support student exploration and engagement.
- Expanding and designating art spaces throughout the community to showcase student art.
- Identifying ongoing financial and resource supports for Arts Education.
- Career Pathways and Vocations.

"This committee has teachers, members of the arts and music fields, higher education and the community at large," Pushkantser said. "Their expertise and input will be invaluable to the creation of a cohesive and comprehensive plan developed after reviewing input from a forthcoming community survey as well as the arts education plans in school districts across the nation."

Conversations around these areas will continue in January. Phase two of the development of the plan will be to determine a timeline, short and long-term goals and determine what will be feasible to accomplish in year one (2023-2024) and the subsequent years of the plan.

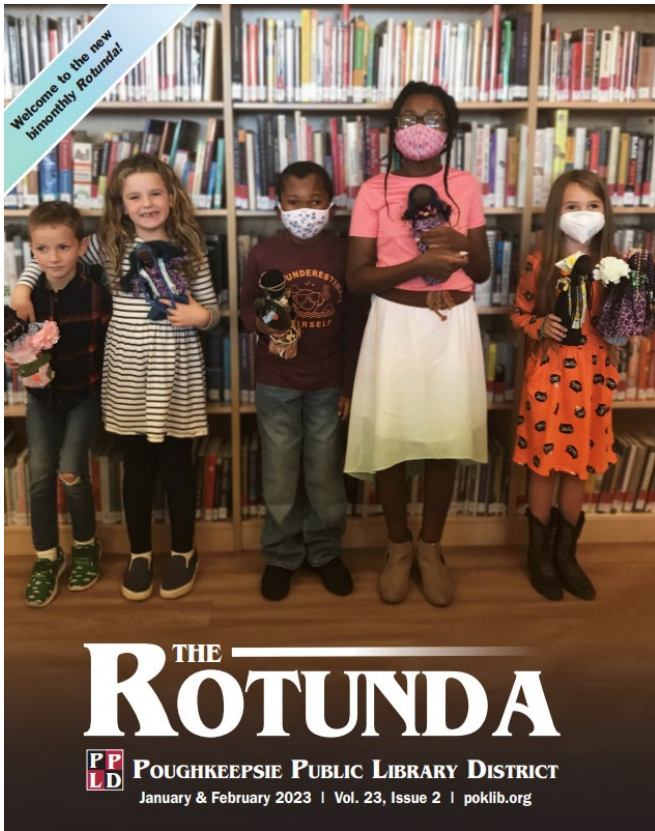
View the [Developing the Arts Education Comprehensive Plan presentation here](#).

Library publication highlights free offerings

"The Rotunda," a bimonthly publication of Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD), recently was published and is information rich, offering descriptions and dates of programs and services accessible to the community that promote lifelong learning, literacy, and reading.

The Poughkeepsie City School District greatly values the PPLD and its role in Poughkeepsie in offering the community diverse services and programs resulting in an informed and educated public. Both organizations have collaborated to promote literacy and reading among pre-K- 12 grade students. Over, the PPLD mobile library is frequently at PCSD Community School events and through an invaluable partnership, PCSD





students and teachers have access to PPLD's Sora platform. Sora is a digital library that provides students with grade, age and developmentally appropriate digital books in and out of the school environment. Among the vast number of resources and information points made in the January/February 2023 issue of "The Rotunda, is the announcement that PPLD has transitioned to a fine-free library beginning Sept. 1, 2022.

"Over the years, we have implemented several risk mitigation strategies which have been effective in getting loaned materials back on time, thereby reducing fine revenue by a substantial amount. In many communities, including ours, fines are a barrier to access," PPLD Director Tom Lawrence said.

Among many resources mentioned in "The Rotunda" are the New Seed Sowing Center, which will house a Seed Library, offering free vegetable and flower seeds and opportunity for community members to checkout gardening tools and resources; and information about Adriance Memorial Library's Makerspace 3D printing capacities. Visitors can find files for free and low-cost designs or design their own images to print.

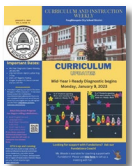
Of extreme value to the community are the wide array of events and programs that PPLD will be offering

throughout January and February. Events and programs are categorized in the following areas:

- Books, Writing, & More.
- Arts & Entertainment.
- Local History.
- Green Living.
- Wellness.
- Connecting (social events).
- Programs in Spanish.
- Teen programming.
- Early Childhood.
- Children.

As a member of the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, the PPLD is a critical partner in creating and coordinating a cradle-to-career system of services, supports and opportunities that ensures every child can thrive in Poughkeepsie regardless of race, ethnicity, poverty or circumstance.

Read the [January/February 2023 issue of The Rotunda here](#).



CI Weekly: Flipping roles may help students learn

This week's Elevating Success article is all about a teacher who changed how she taught, letting the students become the teachers and therefore increasing the learning. Also note that the i-Ready Diagnostic begins Monday, Jan. 9 and the Adult Education Program has begun rolling admissions.

Upcoming events:

- **Thursday, Jan. 12:** Krieger Elementary School Grades 4-5 Winter Concert, 265 Hooker Ave., 1 p.m.
- **Monday, Jan. 16:** Martin Luther King Day, schools and offices are closed.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 18:** Board of Education workshop meeting, 18 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Jan. 28:** Superintendent's Fireside Chat, Poughkeepsie Middle School, 55 College Ave., 8:30 a.m. at Saturday Morning Lights