

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

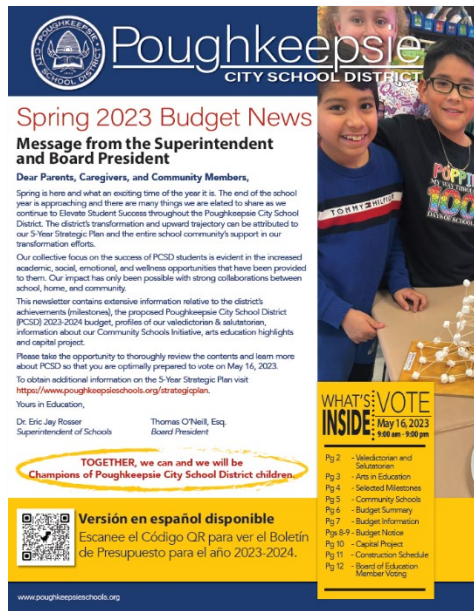
Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

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VOLUME 4



Spring budget news heads to homes



The Spring 2023 Budget Newsletter is slated to arrive at residents' homes this week, ahead of the May 16 budget and Board of Education vote.

The newsletter contains extensive information about the proposed Poughkeepsie City School District 2023-2024 budget, profiles of PCSD valedictorian and salutatorian, district accomplishments*, information about the district's Community Schools Initiative, arts education highlights, and the capital project. The \$135.9 million budget will enable the district to maintain staff and programming, originally supported by COVID relief dollars, and expand student programming, resources, and personnel focused on supporting the transformation efforts of the district. The budget newsletter also contains information about expanding the Strong Schools Equal Strong Communities Capital Improvement Project that will generate approximately \$26 million dollars of districtwide facilities improvements at no additional cost to taxpayers. As with previous years, the 2023-2024 budget remains below the state authorized tax level with an increase of just 2.15 percent, which is less than the tax level limit of 4.04 percent. In the development of the budget, a special emphasis was placed on

expanding the district's support of students with exceptionalities, English Language Learners, Community Schools, arts education, and instructional programming to support new occupational pathways for students, district wide auditorium upgrades and student instructional furniture upgrades.

In this year's board elections, voters will elect two (2) candidates to fill two seats on the five-member Board of Education. Two members of the Board of Education will be elected due to the expiration of the term of Thomas O'Neill, Esq. and Bob Creedon. The two candidates running for the two (2) seats are as follows in the order they will appear on the ballot:

- Thomas O'Neill, Esq.
- Bob Creedon

For more information, see our [budget and board elections page](#) or [download the Spring 2023 Budget Newsletter](#).

*The district accomplishments referenced in the Budget Newsletter represent a summary of the system-wide demonstrable improvements are a result of the hard work of district/building leaders, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members since 2019. See a [full list of selected achievements here](#).

Unified basketball team makes district debut

Students with Exceptionalities are now provided with opportunity and access to the sport of basketball in the Poughkeepsie City School District's effort to create equity for all students. Under the leadership of Peter Bianco, executive director of physical education, health services, athletics and recreation, and Dr. Iris Goliger, executive director of students with exceptionalities, this opportunity has been made available to this population. Bowling is being planned for next school year.



The Poughkeepsie and Red Hook unified basketball teams pose for a photo after the May 2, 2023, game.

Both sports will be the first of their kind to be made available to students with exceptionalities in the Poughkeepsie City School District.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Special Olympics New York offer Unified Sports to NYSPHSAA member schools. Students are playing a six game schedule this spring, competing against teams from Wappingers Central School District, New Paltz Central School District, Red Hook School District, Newburgh Enlarged City School District, Arlington Central School District, and Kingston City School District. To date, under the coaching of JayQuan Floyd, head coach and PHS teacher, the team is undefeated.

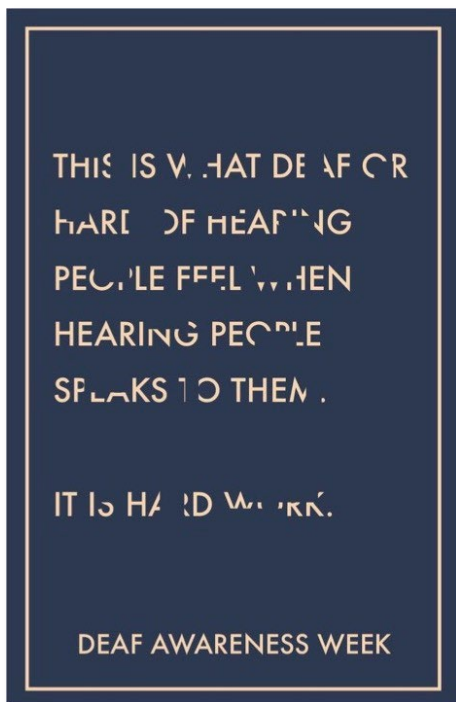
"It touches my heart in a very personal way to witness what the Poughkeepsie City School District is doing to champion the positive youth development of all students. Our students with exceptionalities having access to a sport that will contribute to their cherished memories of high school and also develop so many motor and intellectual skills is a major milestone in our larger body of work", shared Dr. Rosser, superintendent of schools.

As some are aware, Dr. Rosser had a brother (now deceased) with Down Syndrome, who played basketball recreationally and for the Special Olympics. He was the biggest fan of the sport and of Dr. Rosser when he played basketball in high school and college.

"Unified sports has made a tremendous difference for all of our students here at Poughkeepsie High School. Not only are the students who are on the roster benefiting from the social and physical participation but also our students who come and cheer them on. Unified Sports are here to stay!" shared coaches Floyd and Lynnece Edmond.

To view the team's first game click [here](#). Future games are as follows:

- May 8, 2023 @ 4:30pm against Newburgh Free Academy - location Poughkeepsie High School
- May 11, 2023 @ 4:30pm against Arlington High School – location Arlington High School
- May 16, 2023 @ 4:30pm against Kingston City Schools – location Poughkeepsie High School



PHS seniors design posters for Deaf Awareness Week

Two Poughkeepsie High School seniors in Dutchess BOCES' Graphic Design program helped design posters to educate others about Deaf Awareness Week May 1 to 7.

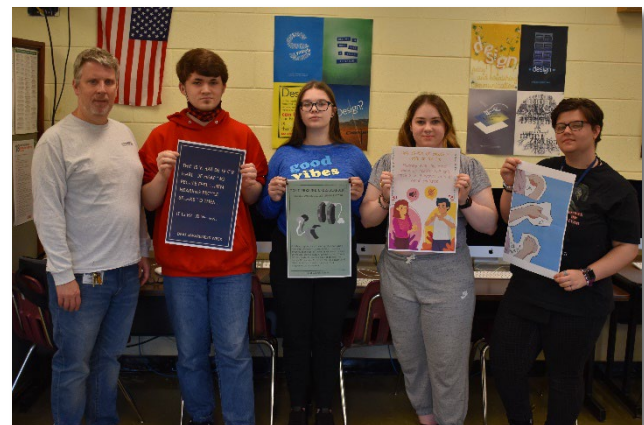
Gabriel Kladakis and Maven Frederick each designed a poster with information about deafness and hearing loss. Amie Fredericks, BOCES teacher of the deaf, thought they, along with two other students in graphic design instructor Steve Lawson's class, would be perfect to bring the ideas to life.

"With increased awareness, our hope is for our students to feel more included and accepted in their home schools," Fredericks said. "The teachers of the deaf are thrilled with the outcome of the posters and will be using them for years to come."

Kladakis' design features the phrase "This

is what deaf or hard of hearing people feel when hearing people speak to them. It is hard work" with parts of the letters

Dutchess BOCES graphic design instructor Steve Lawson poses with high school seniors Gabriel Kladakis, of Poughkeepsie, Haley Winters, of Webutuck, Alexis Macina, of Dover, and Maven Frederick, of Poughkeepsie and the posters they created.





missing against a blue backdrop. It was inspired by a picture that Lawson told him to enhance, which made the message stronger. For Kladakis, he is hopeful that people are encouraged to not judge deaf people after seeing the poster.

"It's not really all that hard to be kind to people," Kladakis said. "If it's someone that can't hear, it's not right to just judge them on that." While Frederick does not know anyone personally who is deaf, she was nonetheless happy to design a Japanese Manga-styled poster that displays the phrase "Can we be friends?" in sign language to highlight how a simple conversation for deaf people can be a struggle due to their impairment. Frederick hopes this encourages people to reach out to deaf people.

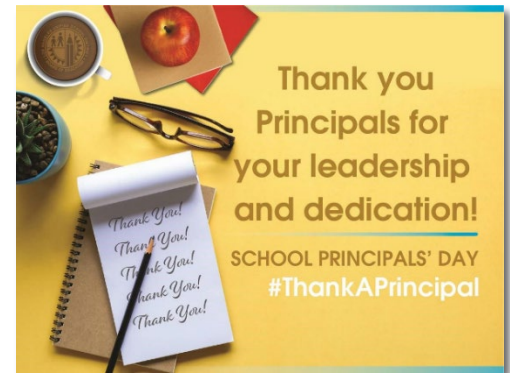
"They want to move past the barrier to talk to you, to get to you," Frederick said. "We want to get to know them as a person, not just that they're deaf."

This is not the first time Frederick has had her work recognized on a larger scale – her design was chosen to be the official logo for the 2023 Hudson Valley Polar Plunge held in February.

PCSD celebrates its principals

School principals are the leaders of their schools, they set the pace, help establish the culture and support teachers, staff and students. "I wanted to take time to acknowledge the role each of you play in leading your school and pushing a student centered agenda," Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser said, recognizing PCSD principals on School Principals' Day, May 1. "Your work is tireless and your impact is not always acknowledged and celebrated. Thank you for all that you do every day on behalf of Poughkeepsie City School District students."

According to [National Today](#), School Principals' Day was created by Michigan teacher and social worker Janet Dellaria with the support of many teacher associations.



Registration for PMS mentorship program launches



PCSD Community Schools, in collaboration with Nubian Directions II, is hosting a mentorship program for Poughkeepsie Middle School students. AmeriCorps Lead for Poughkeepsie Fellows Julia Kisilinsky, serving with PCSD Community Schools, and Tina Hannan, serving with

Nubian Directions II, have organized the program as one of their service projects for their Lead for America Fellowship. The goal of this mentorship program is for students to hear firsthand from former PCSD students the value and importance of positive interaction and giving back to your community. This program will take place May 9, 2023 from 3-4 p.m. in the Poughkeepsie Middle School auditorium. During the program, PMS students will have the opportunity to meet students from Nubian Directions II and take part in an open dialogue regarding community engagement, creating a positive impact, and possibilities for their future. Students will be asked to consider their strengths and areas for improvement, and reflect upon their past experiences and how they are doing presently. Pizza, snacks, and refreshments will be provided. Those interested in referring students who could benefit from this program should [fill out this form](#) and submit it to the student's school counselor no later than Monday May 8. Questions about this program should be directed via email to jkioslinsky@poughkeepsieschools.org.

Upcoming events

- **Tonight, May 3:** Board of Education Meeting/Budget public hearing, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 18 S. Perry St.