

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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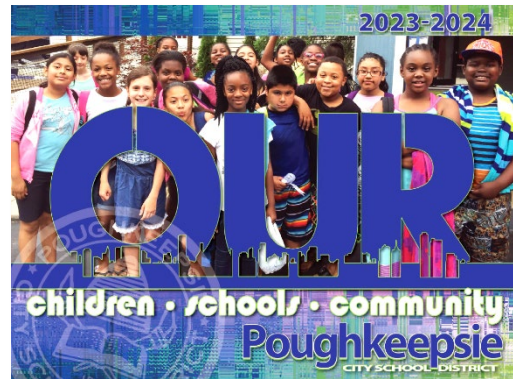
VOLUME 5



## Calendar distribution starts

The Poughkeepsie City School District's 2023-24 school year calendar will be distributed to parents and caregivers starting this week at each of the schools and the district office.

This year's calendar theme "Our Children, Our Schools, Our Community" is a frame of mind for everyone vested in the interest and success of our children to embrace. Our collective goal is to place all children on paths of upward mobility. Our strategy of employing a school, home and community approach – utilizing a Community Schools model to address the needs of children from birth to career – has greatly advanced our work of helping children to explore and maximize their full potential. Working together, we will elevate student opportunity and success and move the needle with educational and positive youth development opportunities thus improving the outcomes for our children. This year's calendar includes information about the district's Community Schools model, key dates, district contact information – including school addresses and phone numbers and important notifications. To access the [digital calendar click here](#).



## BTS Bash celebrates start of new school year



**The Poughkeepsie Pioneer cheerleaders were among the hundreds of people who attended the Back to School Bash.**

activities - many geared toward our youngest students. Plus, there was free food and refreshments. Designed to bring our families, community and staff together, the event had elements of fun, learning and networking. Bilingual staff and parent volunteers helped Spanish-speaking families engage in the festivities. About 30 community-based organizations who partner with the district to provide services and support to families had tables at the event to provide information to families.

"It is important for our families to realize that through Community Schools we bring resources from throughout the city, county and beyond to our students. We are excited to be able to again offer a variety of programs and workshops to students and their families," Natasha Brown, executive director of Community Schools said, adding that registration information for the district's flagship program, Saturday



**A face painter creates art for one of the young men in attendance.**

Saturday's fun-filled Back to School Bash welcomed approximately 800 Poughkeepsie City School District students and their families back to school with an outdoor event at Poughkeepsie High School's Track and Field. Attendance at

the second annual event mirrored the first year. Attendees were able to enjoy bounce houses, a petting zoo, pony rides and other

Morning Lights, - as well as a list of this year's workshops offered via the Parent Empowerment Centers - are expected within the next few weeks.

Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser and Board of Education member Bob Creedon attended the event speaking with parents, students and community based organizations.

Rosser briefly addressed the crowd, welcoming parents and caregivers and thanking them for all the work they do to support their children's success in and out of school.

He spoke to the importance of the partnership between school and home and noted that the Community Schools and other school faculty and staff were here in service to our children. He stressed the importance of student attendance noting that those who attend school every day and on time have greater chances to succeed in school and beyond, something the entire school community wants for our community's youngest citizens.

## District releases annual goals

Poughkeepsie City School District released its 2023-24 goals and performance objectives this week to keep the school community informed and on track with the [5-year Strategic Plan](#).

The ambitious document sets out 159 goals and objectives broken into four categories:

- Student achievement - PCSD will accelerate the academic performance of all students, 66 goals/objectives.
- Resource stewardship - PCSD will utilize existing resources to support the optimal operations of the district and identify new resources to support increased programming and access for all students, 25 goals/objectives.
- Internal processes, systems and structures - PCSD will build and strengthen internal processes, systems and structures to ensure the district is operating optimally to achieve its goals, 37 goals/objectives.
- Organizational effectiveness - PCSD will improve its effectiveness by making decisions that are research-based, fiscally sound and driven by data, 31 goals and objectives.

"The goals and objectives identified are selected based on the anticipated potential to propel the district forward," Lisa Spencer-Perry, the district's new executive director of strategic planning and resource stewardship, said.

Many of the goals are in the student achievement area, and this was intentional. "The performance measures identified reflect a significant number of student achievement measures as that is our primary goal and objective - to support student growth academically, socially and emotionally across cognitive areas as well as the development of interpersonal skills and college and career readiness," she said.

Many of the goals have a timeline end date of June 2024, at the end of the school year, while some have earlier deadlines, such as expanding implementation of the Comprehensive Attendance Improvement Plan, implementing Early Learning Corps and Math Corps tutors from Ampact in our elementary schools, distribution of a 2023-24 budget book to district leadership, implementation of school-based budgeting, implementing protocols and procedures to improve data quality and accuracy and executing the Capital Improvement Plan to meet all Phase 2 goals.

"By identifying the measurements clearly, the district as a whole is supported through actionable objectives," Spencer-Perry said.

Visit the [2023-24 PCSD goals and objectives page](#) to see all district goals and see the [Milestone Accomplishments page](#) for information on what we have already done.

"We are looking to provide ongoing updates ... there will be growth over time through the entire school year."

A formal presentation of the '23-'24 Performance Objectives will be made at the Board of Education September 20, 2023 Workshop Meeting.



**Philene Tanner and Jahmir Reeder are two of the Math Corps tutors serving students at Morse Elementary School. Part of the Ampact program, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps members are serving students in all district elementary schools this year.**