

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District
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State Ed team visits Morse Elementary



A team from New York Education Department office visits Morse elementary school on Oct. 24.

The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Innovation and School Reform (OISR) visited Morse Elementary School Oct. 24 as part of its Fall 2023 OISR Onsite Technical Assistance Support and Collaborative Review.

The purpose and goal of the 2.5-hour meeting was for OISR to provide targeted technical assistance and support to Morse Elementary School due to its Receivership NYSED accountability status. The meeting also assisted OISR in determining the extent to which Morse Elementary is on track to meet the goals set out in the continuation plans with a focus on ensuring all students have sustained equitable access to high-quality educational programs and SEL-based services in a safe

academic environment.

The meeting included four members from OISR including Dr. Ray. Giamartino Jr., assistant commissioner; Samantha Mitchell, Morse Elementary principal; Janet Bisiti, director of elementary education; Patrice Woods, supervisor of elementary education; and Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools who is also the Morse Elementary Receiver. The visit provided the opportunity for Principal Mitchell to outline the core strategies, lead indicators and use of data to monitor and adjust processes and plan professional development that meets teacher needs, and results in:

- Improved student academic growth, achievement, and grade-level reading and math proficiency based on school-based formative assessments and NYS grades 3 – 5 data.
- Increasing student average daily attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism.
- Assessing the degree to which the school climate is safe, welcoming, inclusive, and conducive to learning and students are provided equitable access to high-quality educational programs and Social-Emotional Learning based services.
 - Reducing duplicated and unduplicated out-of-school suspensions and rates of recidivism.
- Assessing English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities disproportionality data.
- Identifying specific areas of strength and challenges met during the improvement process.
- Identifying the top three school- and district-based actionable commitments in actualizing and ensuring sustainable support to classrooms in meeting the above target areas.

The visit also included three 10-minute classroom visitations to two English language arts classes and one math class.

Excellence Key for Clinton's new assistant principal

Clinton Elementary School's new assistant principal wants students, families, faculty and staff to know she is there to help. Da Vetta Price comes to Poughkeepsie City School District from Beacon City School District where she worked as a teacher/educator. Prior to that she worked in a charter school. She longed to have a greater impact beyond the classroom, so she returned to school to obtain her school and district leadership certifications and after completion saw the opening to come to Poughkeepsie and after seeing how Poughkeepsie emphasized holistically supporting all children.



Da Vetta Price, Clifton Elementary School's new assistant principal

"Poughkeepsie is so involved in the community which is a big deal," she said. "They provide food, phones, school supplies - the district takes care of its kids and its parents. Not many districts are doing that." In her new role, Price will work with Principal Dr. David Scott and the teachers to improve the outcomes for students. She will also work with students with exceptionalities so they have a better experience and reach their full potential. "I'll be working with teachers and support staff and help with transitions so they can maximize their time in school," she said, adding that her experience with elementary students and students with exceptionalities will help. She sees the school's outreach to the community as a strength as well as how they treat their students. "Excellence is everywhere," she said. "They call their students scholars." Price said she was raised, "with a standard of excellence and hard work was not optional." So, for her students and staff, "I want nothing but excellence and expect nothing but excellence and I will do whatever I can with the students, staff and parents to make that happen." Of course, she also realizes that for every person, excellence is different.

As a mother of two boys, ages two and five, she feels a connection with parents as well as with teachers. Between work, taking care of her children and her volunteer efforts (she is a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority and does a lot of community service) her free time is limited. But, she enjoys spending time with her husband who is in the military, crafting, travel (especially cruises) and taking in a Broadway musical. "I would be on Broadway if not for bad stage fright," she said with a smile.

Superintendent hosts first chat of the year



This Saturday, Nov. 4, Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser hosts his first of four Superintendent Fireside Chats at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District located at 93 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. The Fireside Chat will be from 9-10:30 a.m. and will feature a Community Schools presentation and a Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet presentation. Chats are intended to engage members of the community in a two-way dialogue on topics including, but not limited to, the district's improvement strategy, recommendations from community stakeholders on how school and community stakeholders can collaborate to increase

the academic, social, emotional, and wellness success of PCSD students and the district's annual budget. The Superintendent Fireside Chats were developed as a strategy to engage the community in

conversation with Poughkeepsie City School District leadership. The Community Schools' presentation will provide an overview of the initiative specifically highlighting activity at the district and school level that are providing opportunity and access for children and parents to attain success in and out of the school environment.

The Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet presentation will introduce the newly appointed executive director, Jill Gomez, but also serve as an overview of the purpose of the Cabinet 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. There will be a raffle drawing for those in attendance courtesy of the Community Schools team.

Parents, community leaders, community-based organizations and vested stakeholders are encouraged to attend this informative meeting.