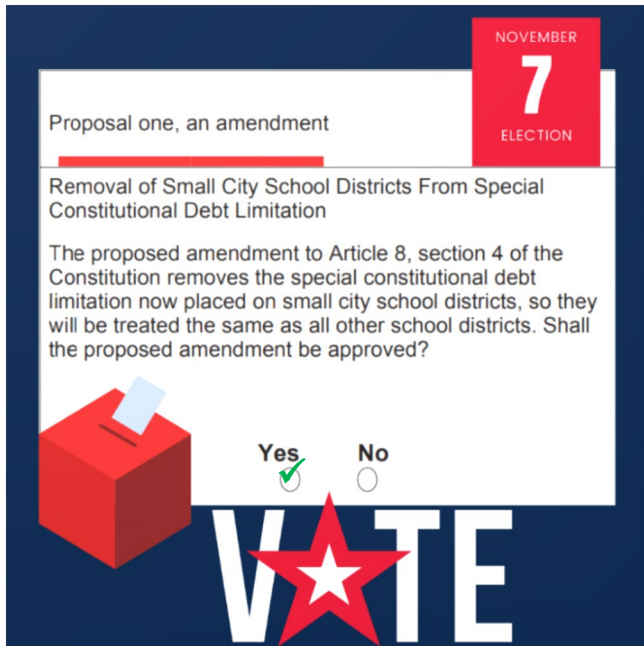


# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

ISSUE NO. 23 | November 3, 2023

VOLUME 5



## Nov. 7 vote impacts district projects

Next week registered voters will have an opportunity to vote on a very important ballot proposal that impacts small city school districts like Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Albany, Binghamton and 53 other districts throughout New York.

Currently, these districts have difficulty financing capital improvements that range from health and safety projects, HVAC improvements, roofing replacements and facility renovations needed to transform schools to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning needs of our children. Small city school districts must break large projects into smaller projects over a number of years in order to stay under the 5 percent debt limit cap. This can lead to more costly projects and inefficiencies in maximizing funding to expand projects. The 5 percent debt limit

was created in 1951 when the landscape of our communities were very different from today.

Voting **YES** will not affect school or property taxes. It will simply remove an outdated restriction that limits the ability of small city school districts like Poughkeepsie to more efficiently continue our efforts to transform our schools into 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments.

Voters would still need to approve capital projects.

## Normal transportation resumes Monday

Thursday morning the Poughkeepsie City School District yellow bus provider, First Student Transportation, experienced wide scale vandalism at its Town of Poughkeepsie Fitchett Way bus depot. The incident impacted First Student's ability to transport many Poughkeepsie City School District students to and from school on Thursday, Nov. 2.

While it is unknown who the culprit/s responsible for the vandalism are, Town of Poughkeepsie Police are actively investigating.

The Poughkeepsie City School District is working diligently with First Student Transportation to restore school bus services to all regularly serviced PCSD students. For today, modifications were made to several routes which allowed First Student to restore all routes. It is anticipated that these modifications would only be in effect today. First Student is working to resume normal pick-up times and routes for Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.

In correspondence from the district to parents, it was noted that "First Student and the Poughkeepsie City School District appreciates your understanding during this time. Together, we are working to ensure PCSD students are present in school every day. We appreciate your partnership in making this happen."



# Rosser selected for leadership institute

Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser was recently nominated and selected to participate in the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Michael J. Casserly Urban Executive Leadership Institute for Superintendents.

The Institute is designed to build upon the capacity and talent of senior level education administrators and is led by Michael Hinojosa, the CGCS superintendent-in-residence and former superintendent of the Dallas Independent Schools District. Cohort members will receive instruction and coaching from Hinojosa as well as current and former superintendents who have had a history of success and significant tenure in large urban school districts throughout the country.

"It is an honor and privilege to be nominated and selected to participate in such a prestigious institute. It's been well established that while Poughkeepsie City School District is a small urban school district, we face the same challenges of larger urban school districts with less resources to address our challenges. As part of my desire to strengthen my effectiveness as a district leader, I look forward to continue my learning from recognized large urban school leaders and serving as a contributing participant to the institute," Rosser said.

While serving in Washington D.C., and Buffalo, NY, Rosser was a contributing member of the CGCS Males of Color Policy Committee and was a regular presenter at the CGCS Annual Fall Conferences. Rosser is one of nine senior level education administrators selected from over 20 highly qualified nominated leaders representing school districts from across the country.



**Dr. Rosser is one of nine senior level leaders selected to participate in the Council of the Great City Schools Urban Leadership Institute for 2024. The rigorous selection process involved reviewing nominations of over 20 highly qualified leaders.**

# Runner aspires to help heal animals with cancer

Saniya Jenkins dreams of attending Cornell University and one day operating an animal hospital. The Poughkeepsie High School senior ranks second in her class and is waiting hopefully for an acceptance letter from Cornell.

"I plan on being a veterinarian oncologist," said the district's athlete of the month for September. "I love animals. I like them all."

Jenkins runs cross country, indoor track and outdoor track for Poughkeepsie.

"It's definitely a pleasure due to the fact it's not so much watching her ability get better in terms of her running, it's watching her mindset become stronger and to know where she can achieve more," said varsity cross country and track coach Jason Conrad.

"Watching her academically, she's always been strong, but she's become a much more rounded student-athlete with the programs she's in and



**Saniya Jenkins is the New Athlete of the Month**

keeping her academics up, and participating in track and field and cross country."

Jenkins just completed her senior cross-country season with two wins and a second-place finish in dual meets.

At invitational, Jenkins has dropped six minutes from her time at the start of the season. At the Section I League 1A mega duals on Sept. 12, she was 31<sup>st</sup> and clocked a time of 33 minutes, 32.20 seconds on Bowdoin Park's challenging course. On Oct. 3, she placed 19<sup>th</sup> at the Section I League 1A championships with a time of 27:19.8 at Bowdoin Park.

"When I'm running, it feels like I'm flying. I like the feeling. When I run, I feel at peace with myself," she said. Jenkins said her best track events are the middle-distance runs, 600 and 1,000 for indoor and 800 for outdoor.

"I'm trying to make it to the state meet before I graduate," she said. "That's my biggest goal right now when it comes to running."

Jenkins is the daughter of Travis and Adrienne Jenkins and has three siblings, Aubrey, Skyler and Travis. When she's not running, she enjoys reading, studying and participating in JROTC.

## Stay informed with other district and related newsletters:



Poughkeepsie City School District publishes a variety of newsletters throughout the year. Here are the ones that are available now:

- [CI Weekly](#), our curriculum and instruction newsletter.
- [Poughkeepsie Pioneer](#), our athletics newsletter.
- [Puentes](#), our Spanish newsletter in conjunction with the City of Poughkeepsie.
- [College and Career Readiness](#), tips, resources and news.
- [Community Schools](#), activity highlights, upcoming events and classes.

## Upcoming events

- **Sat., Nov. 4:** Superintendent's Fireside Chat, Poughkeepsie Public Library District, 93 Market St. 9am – 10:30pm
- **Sat., Nov. 4:** Saturday Morning Lights, Poughkeepsie Middle 9am – 12pm
- **Tue., Nov. 7:** Superintendent's Conference Day - No school
- **Nov. 7-10:** National School Psychology Week
- **Thu., Nov. 9:** End of 1st marking period
- **Fri., Nov. 10:** Veterans Day - No school

**Poughkeepsie City School District**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**firesidechats**

Fireside Chats are opportunities for the Superintendent to share with community members important information and updates concerning the education of children. As a vehicle for two-way communication, community members will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment to the Superintendent.

**TOPICS:**  
Community Schools Initiative  
Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet

**Participation Details**  
Saturday, November 4, 2023  
Poughkeepsie Public Library District  
Adriance Memorial Library  
93 Market Street  
9:00am – 10:30am

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