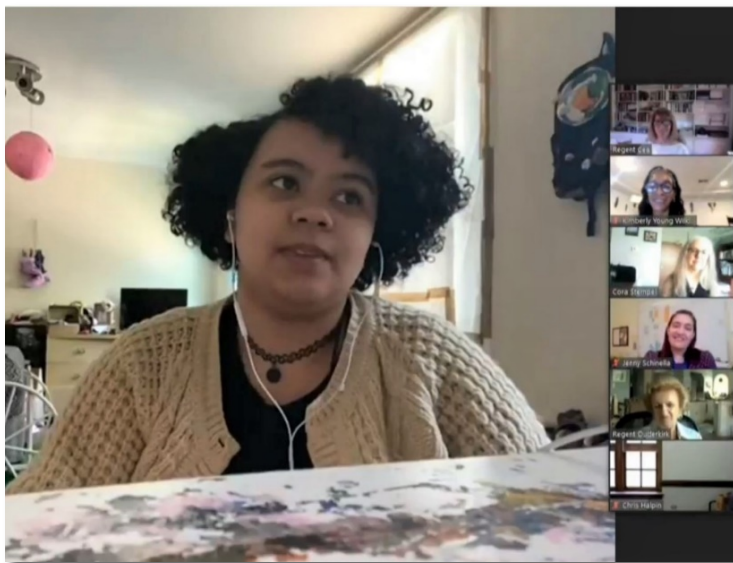
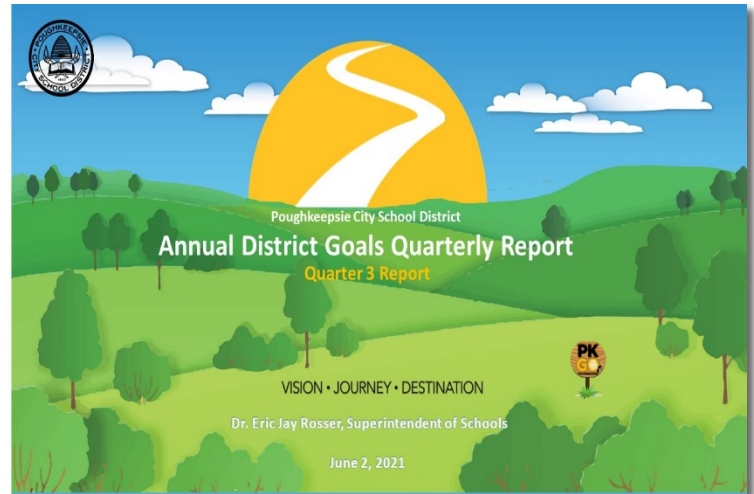




District continues progress toward stated goals

The Poughkeepsie City School District continues to show progress in achieving its 2020-21 annual performance objectives, Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser noted in his quarterly update to the Board of Education and community. Rosser provided an executive summary of the district's status, sharing that of the 97 performance objectives, 34 goals have been achieved, 53 are on-track, four are off-track, and six goals have been suspended due to a combination of modified state assessments and/or the implications of COVID-19 on the traditional in-person instructional model.

When asked about the district's success in achieving these goals Dr. Rosser said, "Amid a global pandemic, we have continued to move the needle forward in our districtwide transformation efforts. Not one person has done this alone, what we have accomplished to - date is the collective impact of many stakeholders who hold the moniker of being Champions for Children of the Poughkeepsie City School District high in their various roles and responsibilities". Rosser also noted that he looks forward to presenting the year-end data during a summer BOE meeting and also sharing the 2021-22 performance objectives that will guide the work next year. To review the 3rd quarter report click [here](#).



Poughkeepsie High School senior Amya West talks about her experience at a recent conference on equity and subsequent presentation to PHS staff.

She shared her experience of speaking to her school's faculty and said, "Though I'm leaving shortly, I promised I would work alongside them and open the door for other students to go and help."

After her presentation, West said that it was a bit "nerve-wracking" when she was first asked.

"I was very surprised Ms. (Jenny) Schinella asked me - I didn't know I'd be the only one," she said. "I felt a little scared but also honored that I was the only one chosen. It felt like I was doing something good."

Schinella attended the PHS staff meeting where West and other PHS students spoke. **See EQUITY Pg. 2**

PHS senior speaks on equity at Board of Regents meeting

Two weeks ago, PHS senior Amya West spoke to PHS's school faculty about equity issues. Based on her leadership, Dutchess BOCES asked her to join a presentation to the New York State Board of Regents on Monday during its monthly meeting. West, as you may recall, participated with several PHS students and students and educators from around the area in the "Designing Equitable Schools: A Youth and Adult Leadership Conference," held virtually in May as part of BOCES' Center for Educational Equity and Social Justice.

"I learned that other students struggle as well with becoming activists and using their own voice and to not only use my voice to help with issues similar to mine but other issues as well," West said.

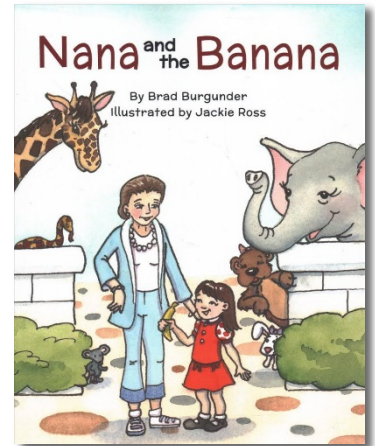
Author engages ELC students in book discussion

Reading books at school is common and so is having a guest reader. As part of her responsibility of elevating student learning, ELC teacher Heather Faircloth has taken the experience to another level, arranging for the authors of the books themselves to read to students at the school.

Last week, Brad Burgunder, author of "Nana and the Banana," read to the class virtually and interacted with multiple classes. He is the second author to do so, the first being Sanda Richards who read her book, "Rice and Rocks."

"I met these authors through my husband and they both were willing to read their books to our school," she said. Prior to the reading, Faircloth and Burgunder discussed ways to make this interactive with multiple classes, kids in class and at home.

"We discussed acting out animals, using their dry erase board and the chat window to answer questions. Brad focused on story elements, such as the problem, solution and the setting as well as the process involved in writing."



Author Brian Burgunder reads his book, "Nana and the Banana," to ELC students.

During the discussion with students, Burgunder talked about the author and illustrator and stressed the importance of the editor.

"The students were able to share who their editor was at school (their teachers). They pointed to us on the video /in the classroom. They enjoyed this experience and love that they are authors too!" Faircloth said. After the session, the class participated in a critique of the book and told him what they liked.

"They were very reflective and quite funny. Some examples were the repetitive text, the rhyming and the predictability. They loved the fact that

the pictures matched the text and that so many of their sight words and color words were in this book."

Burgunder read to the class free of charge and said he enjoyed their feedback.

Proceeds from the sale of his book go to a charity for students in Baltimore, Maryland.

EQUITY from Pg. 1 — "It was special to see how it evolved and how it is working," Schinella said, adding that all the students did well. "One reason we selected Amya is because of her comfort and grace in presenting what can be a real challenging conversation with adults. She did it in such a poised, confident way that was non-threatening to staff."

West said she is working with Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron and others to create ideas to help move the district along and is also trying to understand the funding mechanisms so she can "try to reinstate some clubs that we haven't had in a while."

This week, the district enrolled in services from the center for next school year.

Dutchess BOCES was one of four school districts statewide selected to present on the work being done to advance the board policy dealing with diversity, equity and inclusion. The other districts were Greece Central School District, New York City Department of Education and Eastern-Western Suffolk BOCES.

Regent Frances G. Wills commended all the participants for their efforts.

"I fully offer my respect to the presenters because I sit on an equity task force at Putnam-Westchester BOCES and I'm aware of the courage it takes to do this work to have students stand up and have courageous conversations."

She also sent an email to Dutchess BOCES Superintendent Richard Hooley after the presentation. In part, she wrote, "I hope they (Cora Stempel and Jenny Schinella) will also let student Amya West know how moved we were by her reflection."

Amya, you showed how a student can take what they've learned and turn it into action. You have shown other PCSD students that they can and do have a voice.