



## Facilities director key to district's future

As Poughkeepsie City School District's new director of facilities, Marcos Rodriguez knows he plays a key role in how the district will function and look going forward.

Rodriguez joined the district June 14 because, "I like the vision Rob (McDow) and Dr. Rosser had, that is one of the main reasons I came on board."

Prior to this, he worked as a project manager for a New York City-based construction firm and before that was the assistant director of facilities at Ossining Union Free School District for about five years.

Rodriguez jumped right in to familiarizing himself with the district's buildings and staff, toured upcoming projects with contractors, met with architects involved in the projects and started swapping old student furniture with new furniture authorized by the board.

His goal is to spruce up and clean up the school buildings. "I want to make them more livable for the children and the community. I want it to feel better than what they may have at home," he said.

Much of his role will be to support work being done as part of Capital Improvement Project authorized by voters in October - with work scheduled to begin on roofs at select buildings this summer. He is also overseeing the HVAC work at Poughkeepsie Middle School and the boiler at Morse Elementary School. The biggest challenge he sees in the district is getting the buildings back to where they need to be.

"A lot of that is tied to the capital project and looking at the schools this summer and patching them up until the day comes for replacement," he said. Part of that is ensuring that fixes are made to the boilers at the various buildings before winter.

To help with this and other projects, Rodriguez is seeking to fill two positions, one in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning trade and another in electrical.

Helping him get acquainted with the district is Gary McGrath, former director of facilities, who came out of retirement after 11 years to assist. McGrath said he agreed to come back because of his relationships with facilities personnel Sue Stevens and Jimmy McRay who both worked for him. Plus, he gave Rodriguez his stamp of approval.

Welcome to the district, Marcos.



Director of Facilities Marcos Rodriguez examines a ceiling in a bathroom at Krieger Elementary School before meeting with the architect designing improvements for district buildings.



## Summer meal distribution schedule set

Poughkeepsie City School District is happy to announce that it will provide summer meals at various locations throughout the city beginning Monday, June 28 and ending Tuesday, Aug. 31.

There will be 10 open sites, where anyone 18 and under can receive meals and five closed sites where only those registered will receive free meals.

The PHS mobile site will offer hot and cold meals, while the other locations will offer only cold meals, Allison Jackson-Stephenson, interim director of food services, said.



Breakfast may include yogurt, string cheese, juice/fruit, milk, bagel, cereal, breakfast bar, breakfast bun and banana bread among other items. Lunches will be assorted deli sandwiches with juice, milk, fruit and a snack, she said.

Sites will operate Monday through Friday. The district is not offering weekend meals. However, a separate Summer Backpack Program, which includes food items for the weekend, will serve previously identified families with the ability to add to the list, Jackson-Stephenson said.

### Meal sites

- PHS Mobile site, 70 Forbus St., will serve breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Eastman Terrace, 22 Montgomery St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Gov. Clinton Elementary School, 100 Montgomery St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Bixby Apartments, 12 Charles St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- New Hope Community Center, 104 Hudson Ave., will serve breakfast from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- Thurgood Marshall, 109 Delafield St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Harriet Tubman Terrace Community Center, 29 Jefferson St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Rip Van Winkle, 10 Rinaldi Blvd., will serve breakfast and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Warring Elementary School, 283 Mansion St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Apartments, 159 Washington St., will serve breakfast and lunch from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## Reflections on the school year

As the school year has come to a close, on behalf of the Poughkeepsie City School District Board of Education and Central Office leadership, I thank the entire community for your partnership throughout a year of challenge, adversity and change. Your partnership, which encompassed adaptability, perseverance, resiliency, creativity, collaboration and commitment resulted in our children being provided with the support and instruction needed to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

Our collective impact is a source of pride and will serve as a stepping stone for us to advance the important work we are obligated to engage in for our children. The success of our children is predicated on our capacity and commitment as adults to champion quality learning and positive youth development opportunities for our children. With the blend of talented teachers and support staff, engaged and empowered parents and students, passionate and dedicated leaders and supportive and involved community members, I remain confident that our children will have what they need to find success in and beyond the K-12 continuum.

### Planning for the 2021-22 Academic Year

District leadership has started the process of planning for the 2021-22 academic year. This summer, district leadership will be engaged in intense activity to build upon the improvements made over the last two years. There is much work to do as we continue to transform the Poughkeepsie City School District through our 5-Year Strategic Plan.





Beginning Sept. 9, 2021, we anticipate that all Poughkeepsie City School District pre-K -12 students will return to in-person instruction five days per week, following appropriate Center for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health and New York Department of Education guidelines. Work this summer will ensure that our children return to school environments that are safe, welcoming, and conducive to high quality learning and instruction.

### Highlights from 2020-21

During the past year, we've made improvements in the following areas:

- Equitable allocation of resources to schools – instituting a school-based budgeting process for the 2021-22 academic year
- Effectiveness and efficiency of district processes – through a review of board policies and district operational systems and procedures and using technology to replace antiquated systems
- Internal and external customer service – added communication tools including the Superintendent's Briefs, Principal Fireside Chats, revamped website and new phone system.
- Culture of high expectations to support college and career readiness for all students – collected feedback from the public on program pathways aligned to emerging industry and occupations in the Hudson Valley and worked with community-based organizations to expand student college and career exploration.
- Developing effective and sustainable leadership – by offering monthly professional development for administrators and implementing an Aspiring Leadership Academy for teachers and administrators to maximize their leadership potential.
- Developing 21st century learning environments – through the passage of the Capital Improvement Project, the launch of an Energy Performance Project, upgrades to student furniture and classroom technology
- Creating a culture of accountability – by establishing an accountability system to evaluate staff as well as academic, operational and fiscal performance of the district.

To review more about the accomplishments of the past year, see "[Reflections on the 2020-21 school year](#)" on our website.

In closing, thank you for your unwavering partnership this year. Our children would not have found success in the absence of our collective effort. It has been an honor to serve as superintendent of the Poughkeepsie City School District. I wish our entire school family a joyous, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer. I look forward to engaging in the very important work of championing high quality educational experiences and opportunity for our Poughkeepsie City School District students after our summer recess.



After July 2, 2021 the Superintendent's Brief will resume the week of August 23, 2021.

Yours in Education,  
*Dr. Eric Jay Rosser*  
Superintendent of  
Schools