



Court orders PCSD to reinstate employee

The Poughkeepsie City School District has received notification that the State of New York Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has reversed the judgment of a lower court and hearing officer in the disciplinary matter of Phee Simpson, former principal of Poughkeepsie High School. This matter pertained to the August 2019 termination of Dr. Simpson from the Poughkeepsie City School District.

The Appellate Division's ruling requires that the Poughkeepsie City School District reinstate the employment of Dr. Simpson. This ruling is currently under review by District legal counsel, the Board of Education, and district leadership who are in conversation about the recent ruling, associated implications and next steps. As in the case of the August 2019 independent arbitrator's determination, the Board of Education respects the outcome of all due process proceedings and will abide by the rulings of each tribunal throughout the process.

The Poughkeepsie City School District welcomes Dr. Simpson back to the district and looks forward to her contribution to the progress of the last three years.

In communication sent by Dr. Rosser to the school community, he assured parents and staff that this ruling would not have an immediate staffing impact at PHS,



A check-in, check-out system provides students with a trusted adult they can talk to.

school-level teams who will participate in training with the MTSS-I coach, Dr. Steven Rappleya, a former PCSD assistant superintendent, with more than 25 years of educational experience as a psychologist, teacher and school administrator.

The key to the program is tracking data related to not only academics but behavioral interventions, according to Alicia O'Connell, PCSD's MTSS coordinator. "If a student has academic concerns, you have to look at why they are struggling. Is it because of a behavioral concern or a social-emotional need?" In her role, which is relatively new to the district, O'Connell has been working on shifting the mindset to have teachers, administrators and caregivers look at the whole child.

By the end of the program's fifth year, a total of 50 districts are expected to have received training. Each district is able to choose three schools to participate.

PMS and Morse piloted MTSS this year and have already made a lot of improvements and changes, O'Connell said. One aspect of it is the implementation of a check-in, check-out system that pairs students with an adult staff member at the school. Each morning the student checks in with their adult so the adult can see how they're doing and together they can set a goal the student will work toward that day. At the end of the day, the student checks back in and they review the day.

ELC was added to the grant because it works with the district's youngest students.

Grant helps find best support combinations

ELC, Morse and Poughkeepsie Middle schools are part of a New York State Education Department grant program designed to help all students - especially those with disabilities - through the creation of a statewide, evidence-based Multi-Tiered Systems of Support-Integration Center and related training.

New York State Education Department received U.S. Department of Education funding for the program and Poughkeepsie is one of the first 15 districts statewide to be involved.

As part of the grant, the district will form district- and



"If we get them academic supports and get them used to tiered supports for behavior at that age, when they go on, they will already be familiar with the check-in, check-out system," she said. Under the grant, the teams will meet at least quarterly to plan, analyze, review and monitor school-wide data. A staff member on each school leadership team will be designated to input data into the system on a daily or weekly basis.

"The goal is to have behavioral and academic intervention and supports that are done to fidelity using system management programs that teachers are comfortable with and use," O'Connell said. Eventually, the goal would be to roll out the training to the entire district.

High school students complete career programs

Four Poughkeepsie High School students completed courses of study at Dutchess BOCES' Career & Technical Institute (CTI) and were recognized for their accomplishment during an annual recognition ceremony at CTI on Saturday, June 11.

Tashana Ashley studied cosmetology, Jazai Green studied computer networking while. Rosa Celaya-Luis and Roy Santiago-Ventura studied graphic design.

As part of PCSD planned budgeting for the 22-23 academic year, additional seats are being made available to PHS students interested in participating in the CTI program. .

PCSD Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Charles Gallo and PHS Principal Kelleyann Royce-Giron were in attendance

proudly cheering on their students. Congratulations Tashana, Jazai, Rosa and Roy on completing your program and developing skills that will help you in life after high school.



Tashana Ashley receives her certificate from Dutchess BOCES cosmetology instructor Sharon Myers during the ceremony.



Evelynn Hunter (L) and Jiahni Higgs sport HOBY shirts at Poughkeepsie High School.

Weekend grows sophomores' leadership

PHS sophomores Jiahni Higgs and Evelynn Hunter recently attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar at Camp Chipinaw in Liberty, New York, joining more than 200 other young high school leaders from the region.

Each spring, select area sophomores from public and private high schools convene at one of the 70 State Leadership Seminars across the country to recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective and ethical leaders. Student participants (known as HOBY Ambassadors) take part in hands-on activities, meet leaders in their state, and explore their own personal leadership skills while learning how to lead others and make a positive impact in their community.

At the end of the seminar, the HOBY Ambassadors were challenged to give back by serving at least 100 volunteer hours in their communities. Students who complete the Leadership for Service (L4S) Challenge within 12 months of

their seminar are eligible for the HOBY L4S Challenge Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award. Alumni who log 4,000 hours of service receive the President's Call to Service Award from HOBY. To date, HOBY Ambassadors have performed over 3 million hours of volunteer service in their communities. Following a motivational meeting with Dr. Albert Schweitzer during a trip to Africa in 1958, Actor Hugh O'Brian was inspired to establish Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership. "One of the things Dr. Schweitzer said to me was that the most important thing in education was to teach young people to think for themselves," O'Brian said.

For more information on HOBY, visit www.hoby.org. Congratulations, Jiahni and Evelynn, we look forward to seeing how this experience impacts you and our community.