

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

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Week celebrates counselors



Join the Poughkeepsie City School District in celebrating the district's wonderful team of school counselors during National School Counseling Week, February 5-9, 2024.

Our school counselors play an important role in ensuring Poughkeepsie City School District students have meaningful educational experiences they can cherish. As integral members of school support teams, school counselors provide essential social-emotional support and connect our students to positive youth development opportunities and academic supports, and support the college and career aspirations of our children.

"Our School Counselors are the heart of our schools. They work tirelessly to ensure students meet their academic goals, take care of their social-emotional needs and play a pivotal role in helping students realize their college and career aspirations. While they need to be celebrated every day-let's take this week to celebrate their hard work." shared Dr. Janety Encarnacion, director of college readiness and workforce education.

Poughkeepsie City School District Counselors				
Elementary Schools	Olivia Post (Pre-K - 5)			
Middle School	Shavon Ashe 6 th Grade	Louis Gibson 7 th Grade	Ann Marie Tucker 8 th Grade	
	Rachel Birsner Social Emotional Learning Counselor			
High School	Amairani Perez-Antonio 9 th Grade	Jason Conrad 10 th Grade	Takiyah Ingram 11 th Grade	Stacey Lee 12 th Grade
	Dr. Marjorie Ambrose Social Emotional Learning Counselor			
College Readiness and Workforce Education	Kelly Semexant (Pre-K-12)			
Transition Counselor	Stephanie Fata (Student with Exceptionalities)			

This week let's all thank our colleagues for their unique contributions and how students have greater opportunities to succeed as a result of what they do.

Residents urged to advocate for more funding

The Poughkeepsie City School District's 2024-25 budgeting process is underway. School districts across New York State have received the governor's projected state aid allocations. Unfortunately, the Poughkeepsie City School District - along with over 300 other school districts - is anticipating state aid reductions. Poughkeepsie City School District's projected decrease is \$1.4 million. "Our goal for the 2024-25 budget will be to maintain student programming, resources, and staff to the best of our ability. However we need everyone to advocate for an increase in funding to the Poughkeepsie City School District," shared Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools.



Gov. Kathy Hochul presents highlights of New York State's fiscal year 2025 budget Jan. 16, 2024.

ACT NOW

The New York School Board Association (NYSSBA) offers a "[Take Action](#)" email letter you can automatically send to the governor and your state legislators. The letter includes NYSSBA's budget priorities but is customizable to fit Poughkeepsie's needs.

Those interested in supporting Poughkeepsie City School District children please voice concerns and request an increase in State Aid allocations to Poughkeepsie.



"We all worked extremely hard to achieve the success that is evident throughout the district. We cannot take steps backward in our forward progress in Poughkeepsie," Rosser said.

Morse students on field trip help Pines at Poughkeepsie residents

Fifteen Morse Elementary School students took a trip Jan. 26 to visit The Pines at Poughkeepsie Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation to spend time with residents there. Made possible through the Community Schools department, the students made friendship bracelets, worked on puzzles, and read books about Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) and Black History with the residents. ACC AmeriCorps Community Schools Fellow Jules Lindquist originally developed this event with the goal of honoring MLK Day through an act of service.

Melinda Berroa, an employee of The Pines, was thrilled to help coordinate this event as she claims, "Intergenerational programs have been valued for years. The elders enjoy the children and the children learn about empathy and develop self-confidence. Many of our elders miss their grandchildren and light up when the students come in."

After spending time with the residents, the Community Schools staff debriefed the students, teaching them about what it means to perform an act of service, and the impact that it can leave on a community. The students shared out acts of service that they have done in the past and recognized how strong the community would be if everyone served.

In the spirit of MLK Day, the 15 students from Morse Elementary volunteered their time to serve others, and it was a beautiful thing. "What began as one act of service has transformed into a Community Partnership," Natasha Brown, executive director of community schools, said. "We have committed to visiting the Pines once a month with scholars from across the district."



Jules Lindquist, 4th grade students, Natasha Brown, Melinda Berroa, and a resident of the Pines.

Board of Education uses winter retreat to set district goals



The PCSD Board of Education meets with Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser and a trainer to help set district goals.

As part of its winter retreat last Saturday, the Poughkeepsie City School District Board of Education, Becky Torres, board clerk, and Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, superintendent of schools, engaged in a day of professional learning around setting goals facilitated by Darci D'Ercole, director of leadership development for the [New York State School Boards Association](#) (NYSSBA). The purpose of school board retreats is for the members of the Board of Education along with the superintendent and board clerk to come together to enhance knowledge, strengthen skills and to build relationships that will improve the ability for board members to govern, engage in strategic conversation, planning, and action that can't occur during regular board meetings. These retreats provide the governance team an opportunity to assess the board's performance and set goals accordingly.

The morning session focused on the governance team understanding the process for establishing board goals, best practices, becoming more familiar with the NYSSBA tool for establishing goals, and understanding the school board evaluation process and NYSSBA tool for evaluation.

The afternoon entailed the board and Rosser beginning the process of identifying priorities and needs and developing goal categories and goal statements. An additional professional learning session with NYSSBA is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2024, so the board can complete developing goals, goal statements, and finalizing its approach to self-evaluation.