

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

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

ISSUE NO 66 | June 12, 2020



## Chronogram interviews Children's Cabinet

Chronogram, the Kingston-based magazine, spoke with myself and City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison about the Children's Cabinet and its efforts as part of a larger article focused on education and the vision leaders have for their institutions, this morning.

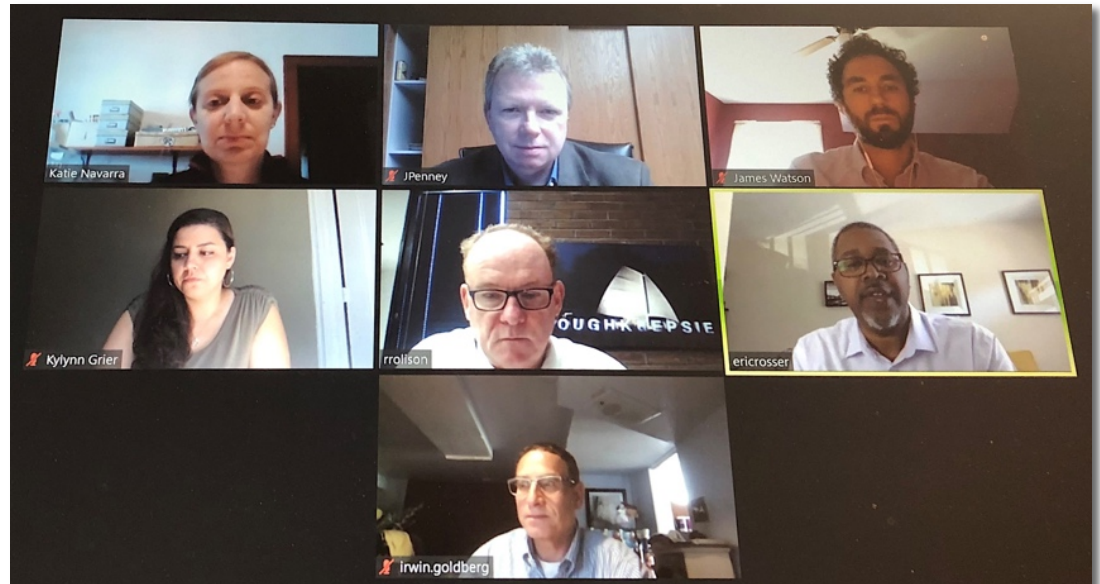
Freelance writer Katie Navarra met with us via Zoom for about 30 minutes to familiarize herself with the purpose, evolution and direction of the Children's Cabinet.

During the conversation, the mayor, myself and members of the Children's Cabinet team shared information about the importance of PCSD's and the City of Poughkeepsie's partnership and how the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet has made an impact on the lives of our children in a short period of time. Mayor Rolison shared that when he learned that 80 percent of a child's education takes place outside of school, he knew the city had to take an active role. He indicated that the city has set aside money for youth for several years now as part of its budget. In 2020, that amount was \$150,000 and some of it was used during the Covid-19 pandemic to help provide food to those in need.

John Penney, director of community engagement for the city, shared how the cabinet was able to help secure Wi-Fi service and hotspots for children in need of it to participate in distance learning. This transpired as a result of leaders of Nubian Directions II and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District serving on the cabinet's executive board, learning of the need and jumping into action to support children. I shared that the cabinet provides a forum to give a voice to everyone of sharing their thoughts on what is in the best interest of children and providing a medium for collective action. I also shared my vision for providing cradle to career supports for children at school as well as for their families and spoke about the development of a Parent Empowerment Center (PEC). The PEC will provide services, programs, and free workshops to parents with children in the city school district, expectant parents and those who may soon have students in the district.

Ms. Navarra asked about the value of Poughkeepsie being asked to join Harvard's By All Means Initiative and Mayor Rolison responded, "We now have an opportunity to discuss what we do here with a dynamic group of people and talk with other mayors, school superintendents who share their challenges with us - what works and what doesn't. ... it's good to know we've got teams behind us, next to us and sometimes in front of us."

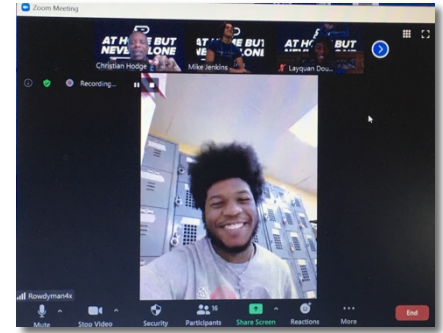
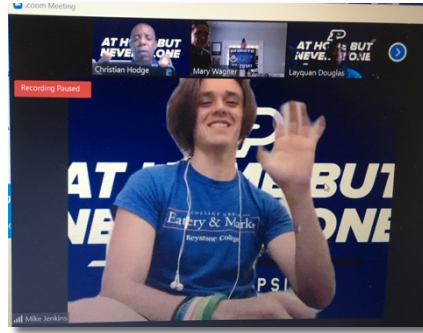
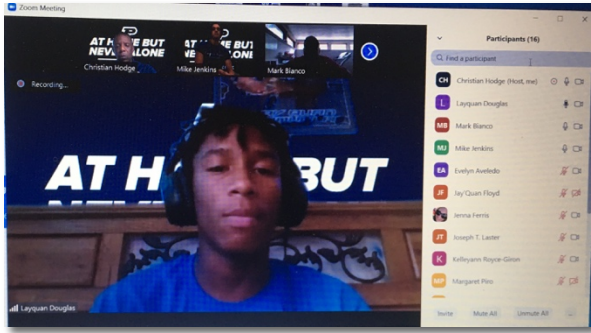
We appreciate the interest of the Chronogram in learning more about the great things occurring throughout the Poughkeepsie community. We look forward to reading the article when it is published.



Top left, Katie Navarra, a freelance writer for Chronogram, interviews myself, Mayor Rob Rolison and others about education issues.



# PHS athletes make college commitment virtually



LayQuan Douglas, Mike Jenkins and Amari Paul each signed letters of intent with Keystone College in a virtual ceremony Thursday night.

Three Poughkeepsie High School football players have committed to Keystone College. The decisions were announced via a virtual signing ceremony Thursday. Mike Jenkins, wide receiver; LayQuan Douglas, wide receiver/defensive back; and Amari Paul, linebacker/running back all signed to play football at the school. Keystone College is a private college located in Factoryville, PA and is a Division III institution of higher learning. While enrolled, Jenkins plans to study sports management; Douglas, business; and Paul, digital media. "I think that overall virtual college signing was great. The staff showed up and the principal and coach were able to speak. The kids were really excited," said Christian Hodge, interim director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics, and Recreation.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire high school and central office staff, we congratulate all of our PCSD student athletes who will be transitioning to college to maximize their academic and athletic talents.



The girls crew team is recognized as banners are hung at Poughkeepsie High School earlier in the year.

that the Poughkeepsie Journal's projection is spot on. To read the entire article click on the following link: [PoJo Top 10: A projection of the top-ranked local teams, had coronavirus not nixed the season.](#)

## Journal recognizes girls crew team in article

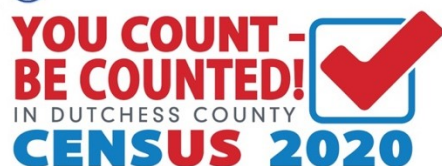
Poughkeepsie Journal reporter Stephen Haynes recently published an article projecting which area high school sports teams would be "tops" in the area had the coronavirus not shut the spring season down.

The Poughkeepsie High School Pioneers' girls varsity lightweight quad and girls varsity quad was listed as #1 on the list given their state championship last year.

While our young ladies were not able to showcase their talents this year, we know

## Please take some time this weekend to respond to the Census

 Poughkeepsie City School District



Visit <https://cityofpoughkeepsie.com/census2020> to be Counted.

While so much is occupying our thoughts and dictating our daily actions, it is important that we remain mindful of the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census is now open—and its results have deep impacts on the Poughkeepsie City Schools and the City of Poughkeepsie. Please make sure that you are COUNTED and that you are getting the word out about the census. As we engage in conversations with other members of our community, start your conversation with this "I'm Counted, Are You? If they are not, please direct them to PCSD [website](#) to learn more and to complete the Census.