District delays budget adoption date

While Poughkeepsie City School District leadership anticipated bringing forward the 2021-22 annual school budget for the Board of Education to adopt this evening, as a result of the state budget not being passed by the April 1 deadline, the district’s budget adoption vote will be delayed. Last evening, the state aid runs were released, which requires district leadership to make adjustments to the draft presented to the BOE and community in past meetings.

PCSD leadership will provide an update to the board of education tonight during the regular business meeting. A new budget adoption date will be proposed for the week of April 12.

PHS student government launches voter registration drive

Participating in Youth Lobby Day last year spurred PHS senior and student government President Briceida Reyes to take action upon returning from the New York Civil Liberties Union-sponsored event. She wanted to get more people - especially teens - registered to vote. “It’s important to talk about how few young people vote, so we are not the ones making decisions even though we are the ones demanding change.” Reyes said during an interview after a recent student government meeting. “We need to vote for it. It is important for us to be active in the community.”

Student government member and junior Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon, agreed, especially after seeing what happened during the previous federal administration. “I believe people feel they were not represented in the nation and they deserve to be represented. It’s important to demand what we need from the nation,” he said, and to do so, registering to vote is required.

Together with the other seven student government members, they engaged in research and put together a call to action to accompany a virtual voter registration drive. In part, it reads, “Vote for politicians that will fight for you and fight for what you believe in, regardless of what that might be. We have the privilege to live in a democratic country where our voices matter. Where we get to create the change we wish to see. Don’t just talk about change, vote on it, and if it’s not being voted on, propose it.”

An interesting fact they discovered is that in New York 16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register to vote so they are automatically able to vote when they turn 18.

PCSD encourages all students who are eligible to register to vote. On April 9, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:52 p.m. PCSD student government members will make themselves available to answer questions and assist students through the registration process. Those interested can log on at the following location: https://meet.google.com/ydx-tpup-qtp

ELC PTA stays busy; launches fundraiser

The ELC Parent Teacher Association has been busy this year, helping to arrange several programs for students at the school and raising funds to ensure that there’s money to continue the work next year. “The PTA’s first goal is to build community in the school and help families get to know each other, introduce them to what the PTA can and should do and get them involved in a positive way,” President Cornelia Harris said. Secondly, the nonprofit group works to enhance student education. Harris said the group brainstormed ideas when classes moved online to come up with programs that would work virtually. She discovered a group of
young magicians from Washington, D.C., that put on a show called, “Magic Within,” and brought that to the school virtually. Borrowing an idea from a local church, the PTA launched a fun event students could do from home – a snowperson day. Students were asked to build a snowperson and then share photos of their creation. The PTA chose four winners, giving each child a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card. They also brought in the Hudson River Estuary Program which taught children about eels, fish and other animals who rely on the river. Later this month, the National Children’s Theater will present a livestreamed program about energy, courtesy of Central Hudson.

Previously, the PTA helped raise more than $20,000 to buy furniture and books for the ELC library.

**Fundraiser begins**

Harris said as the year winds down, the group wants to ensure that next year’s group “has a sizable budget to use for things for the school. We thought it would be nice to hand off in a healthy way.” Her goal is to raise at least $1,000. To do so, the PTA is selling the Poughkeepsie Ultimate Discount Card, which features discounts that can be used repeatedly for a year (through April 1, 2022) at 37 area businesses. Some of the participants include Giacomo’s, McDonald’s, Planet Wings, Cold Stone, Texas Roadhouse, Adams, Red Lobster, Daily Planet, The Palace Diner and Best Buy. Cards cost $12 each and, if five or more are purchased, an additional one is provided for free. Those interested can purchase by clicking on the following link [Ultimate Discount Card](#) or scan the QR code above. Cards will be mailed directly to the homes of purchasers. To stay up-to-date with ELC PTA happenings visit The ELC PTA’s [Facebook page](#).

**Community garden plots available**

Scenic Hudson is hosting a virtual meeting tonight (April 7) to explore plans for Pershing Park. Participants will be able to learn how to apply for a free garden plot at the Pershing Avenue Neighborhood Farm and learn how to grow fruits and vegetables. There are 19 plots available and applicants will be entered into a lottery for selection. Local residents and businesses will be given priority. Once awarded, plots are expected to be accessible starting April 22, Kate Phipps, education and community engagement coordinator for Scenic Hudson, said. Possible plans for a new playground will also be reviewed and participants will be able to share ideas for other improvements. Those interested in attending the Zoom meeting at 6 p.m., should register at scenichudson.org/pershingpark. Those not able to attend, but want more information can email aconeski@scenichudson.org or call 845-926-6648.

**Sending thanks to all our assistant principals**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), National Association of Elementary School Principals and the American Federation of School Administrators are celebrating National Assistant School Principal Week this week. PCSD joins them in honoring and thanking all of Poughkeepsie City School District’s assistant principals for all they do for our children. To join in celebrating PCSD assistant principals here are some ideas from NASSP’s website:

- [Send an E-Card](#)
- Share pictures or words of thanks on Twitter and Instagram using #APWeek21
- Write a thank-you note to the assistant principals noting something specific they did to support student growth and learning.