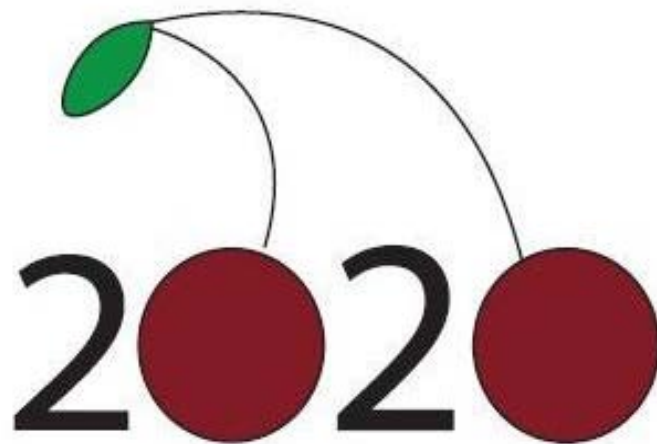


A message from Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools.



# *Cherry Hill*

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*A Clear Vision for the Future*

**CHPS WEEKLY**

District News for the week ending May 12, 2017

# Deliberations and Decisions

**When it comes to moving forward, sometimes the best course of action is to let go.**

In my letter last week ([the May 5, 2017 issue of CHPS Weekly](#)) I discussed the importance of collaboration – how it is the defining factor in our success and in improving our future. At the same time, I was involved in a number of discussions regarding the possible reconfiguration of our schools – specifically, the idea to possibly change Rosa International Middle School into a sixth grade center. This possibility galvanized many in our community to voice strong opinions. Although the concept of a sixth grader center was merely one idea among several to consider in the coming months, it seemed to take on a life of its own. By Monday, May 8, it became clear that the broader discussion about the future of our district had been derailed by the unintended controversy surrounding the potential sixth grade center.

After much more discussion and deliberation, Board of Education President Dr. Barry Dickinson and I decided to take the sixth grade center idea out of the discussion, permanently. Dr. Dickinson read [a statement at the May 9 Board of Education Work Session explaining the decision](#). I would like to reiterate that we believe in the academic opportunities that could be provided in a configuration model that includes all of our sixth graders being together. However, the divisive reaction in our community created the opposite effect of one of the main outcomes we continue to strive for: a unified school district.

Clearly, there is a great deal of work to be done to solidify among the community as a whole what we – the Board, the administration, the teachers, the staff and the students – will attest to: *all* of our schools provide excellent opportunities and produce

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Board of Education Action Meeting

May 23 @ 7 pm, Malberg  
Administration Building Board  
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

### SCHOOLS CLOSED - Memorial Day

May 29

### Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 6 pm, Malberg  
Administration Building Board  
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 7 pm, Malberg  
Administration Building Board  
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

June 6 @ 6 pm, Malberg  
Administration Building Board  
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

### Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

June 6 @ 7 pm, Malberg  
Administration Building Board  
Room, 45 Ranoldo Terrace

excellent students. *All* of our schools will continue to evolve to provide an even better foundation for our students to achieve success in their lives.

We continue to seek your input. I encourage you to attend the May 23 Board of Education Action Meeting (7 pm in Malberg Administration Building, or on our [Live Stream](#)) to see the most up-to-date presentation regarding our long range strategic plan, "CHPS 2020: A Clear Vision for the Future."

Familiarize yourself with the CHPS 2020 work to date by visiting our [web site](#) and clicking the link in the center of the home page to "[CHPS 2020: A Clear Vision for the Future](#)." Ask a question through our "[Quick Question](#)" portal on the District web site. Be sure to stay informed by following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you haven't already, download our free District App from Google Play or the App Store. And catch my next "[Online Lunch](#)" broadcast on June 2 at noon. Previous Online Lunches are archived on our [YouTube channel](#).

I look forward to our continuing discussion.

Happy Mother's Day to all who fulfill the role of "mom" in someone's life – I wish you a lovely weekend. It is our moms who are our first and most impactful teachers.

Regards,

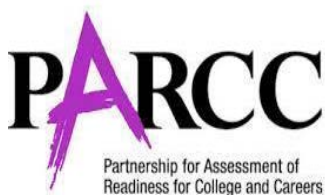
*Joseph N. Meloche*

Joseph N. Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Drama Students from High Schools East and West Earn



Middle and Elementary Schools' PARCC Assessments Continue



Three Schools Named National Schools of

## Awards at Drama Festival

Cherry Hill High School East under the direction of Tom Weaver and Cherry Hill High School West under the direction of Carolyn Messias took home numerous awards from the Mainstage Center for the Arts Annual Drama Festival on Saturday, May 6. Students from both schools competed in monologue performance, scene projects and one-act play competition.

### Winners from Cherry Hill West:

Nyrobi Watson, 1st place, Ability to Command a Space

Samantha Yellen, 2nd place, Performance of a Monologue

### Winners from Cherry Hill East:

ALMOST MAINE, "Best Play," Directed by Jackie Orlando

Justin Accardi, "Best Actor." ALMOST MAINE

Hannah Lehrfield, "Best Actress," ALMOST MAINE

Jared Camacho and Melissa Meltzer, "Excellence in Acting."

### [Middle and elementary school PARCC assessments are now underway.](#)

The Assessment Office offers a [Learning Heroes Guide, "Get Ready for the Test" for parents in anticipation of the upcoming PARCC assessments.](#) This one-page guide was developed by Scholastic in partnership with the National PTA.

Important new graduation requirements for the class of 2021 pertain to 8th grade students currently enrolled in as Algebra I PARCC-eligible course. [Please click here for details on requirements for 8th grade Algebra I students.](#)

As a reminder, the State Board of Education has approved updated state regulations for the high school graduation assessments requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the Classes of 2017 through 2021, and beyond. [Click here for details on these new regulations, which include the fact that the Class of 2020 is required to sit for the PARCC assessment in order to graduate.](#)

[A parents' guide to accessibility for English Learners taking the PARCC assessment is available by clicking here.](#)

Additionally, improvements have been made to this year's PARCC assessment. [Click here to see a chart of the improvements.](#)

Parents concerned about PARCC accessibility are encouraged to refer to the brochure, [Expanding Access: Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in PARCC Assessments—A Parent's Guide.](#)

The Cherry Hill Public Schools

## Character

Congratulations to A. Russell Knight Elementary, Richard Stockton Elementary, and Rosa International Middle School for earning the designation of 2017 National School of Character by [character.org!](#)

These schools are among 83 schools from 21 states named 2017 National Schools of Character. Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, Knight, Stockton and Rosa were found to be exemplary models of character development. This is both Stockton Elementary School's and Rosa Middle School's second designation as a National School of Character. Stockton earned their first national designation in 2012 and Rosa earned theirs in 2008. John A. Carusi Middle School also holds two National School of Character designations, one in 2011 and one in 2016.

A complete list of all CHPS National Schools of Character throughout the years may be found on the ["About CHPS"](#) page of the [district web site.](#) Character.org will honor the 2017 designated schools and districts at its 24th National Forum on Character Education to be held the weekend of October 20-21, 2017, in Arlington, VA.

Assessment Office also offers [an FAQ document to answer common questions about the PARCC assessment process](#). All parents are encouraged to read this FAQ.

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