

# CHERRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## CHPS Weekly

District News for the week of December 5, 2014

## Negotiations

Contract negotiations are ongoing in the Cherry Hill Public Schools. Negotiation is a process that takes time, effort and much discussion, and it continues to move forward in our District.

Members of the Cherry Hill community, as well as parents and students in the Cherry Hill Public Schools, have begun to express curiosity about the

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Cherry Hill East Fall Show: Our Town

December 5, 6, 12 & 13,  
7:30 pm

#### Middle School Early

status of the teachers' contract. Negotiations have been underway for several months. As is typical, there are many challenging issues to address throughout the process.

In November, both the Cherry Hill Education Association (CHEA) and the Cherry Hill Board of Education agreed that the involvement of a mediator would be helpful to facilitate negotiations. A mediator is a neutral professional who assists the parties to reach an agreement. Mediation has been helpful in the past to assist the Board and the CHEA to reach agreements. The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), the state agency which supplies mediators, has three full-time mediators. They are responsible for covering more than 2000 bargaining units for school districts, municipalities, counties and the state government. The New Jersey School Boards Association reports that more than 100 school districts in the state of New Jersey currently do not have settled contracts.

Because the full-time PERC mediators are handling an inordinate work load, the Board's representative conferred with PERC and PERC agreed to hire an outside mediator for Cherry Hill negotiations. This prevented mediation from being delayed into 2015.

December 15 was one of the two dates proposed for mediation. The other date was during the week of December 8, coincidentally the same week as parent-teacher conferences. Because parent-teacher conferences are important, and we did not want schedule anything that would conflict with them, I asked the mediator to avoid scheduling the meeting that week. The Board and the CHEA agreed to hold the next negotiation meeting on December 15.

All parties are hopeful that a resolution will be reached quickly and we look forward to reaching a satisfactory agreement soon.

As always, please continue reading our three department pieces below. This week, you'll learn about Cherry Hill East's production of Our Town,

## **Dismissal**

December 8-11,  
Dismissal at 12:15 pm

## **Elementary School Early Dismissal**

December 8-11,  
Dismissal at 1 pm

## **PARCC Primer Series**

*Part I: Overview*

Cherry Hill East Auditorium,  
December 8, 7 pm

Cherry Hill West New  
Auditorium, December 10,  
7 pm

[Click here for a flyer about  
the series.](#)

## **CherryHill-opoly Family Game Night**

December 10, 6 pm,  
Republic Bank, 399 Route  
70 Cherry Hill. Advance  
registrants get a free  
CherryHill-opoly game.

[Click here for event details  
and registration  
information.](#)

opening tonight – and the Mayor’s recognition of the play. You’ll also find a story about the new Town Hall Meeting series we’ve launched in our high schools. And don’t miss the December installment of “Where Are They Now?”

Please continue to [nominate Cherry Hill graduates](#) for our monthly “Where Are They Now?” column. And of course, [email us](#) about the accomplishments of the students and staff of the Cherry Hill Schools. You’ll find all of our district news, including the departments in our former “e-news” – Up Front, District News, School News, Upcoming Events and Community News – [by clicking here](#). Check our [Activities Calendar](#) on the [District web site](#) for updates about upcoming events and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest District information. For easy access to all of the media listed above, be sure to download our free [District App](#). And tune in to our new [YouTube channel](#) as well, which is updated regularly with videos of what’s going on around the District.

With kind regards for a nice weekend,



Maureen Reusche, Ed. D.

Superintendent



### ***Our Town* Receives Mayoral Recognition**

This week, Cherry Hill High School East had the pleasure of hosting Mayor Chuck Cahn as a precursor to the classic



### **Town Hall Meeting Series Begins at Cherry Hill West**

As part of a new way for students in the Cherry Hill Public Schools to have their voices heard and questions answered, Dr.



### **Where Are They Now?**

This week we’re featuring a recent Cherry Hill graduate. Shayna Penn (Cherry Hill East, '10) has

play, *Our Town*, which will open at East tonight (12/5) at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Cahn paid a visit to the school on December 2 to talk with students about the history of Cherry Hill. He also presented a proclamation to the cast and crew of *Our Town*, wishing them a great run for the show.

The Mayor remarked not only about the Cherry Hill's proud history, but also about how it has evolved into a diverse community dedicated not only to healthy commerce, but to healthy living through the Township's and School District's [Sustainability Plan](#) and the [Mayor's Wellness Campaign](#). Mayor Cahn also discussed his pride that our schools are not only excellent in terms of student performance, but also in terms of student diversity, acceptance and overall character.

"Our students could go to college anywhere and not be shocked to be among other students of different races or religions. The same will be true when they enter the working world," the Mayor said. "They are not only prepared well academically, but socially, to go on to the next phases of life after high school."

Maureen Reusche, Superintendent of Schools, hosted the first in a series of Town Hall Meetings at Cherry Hill High School West this week.

A group of students met with Dr. Reusche (pictured above with Board of Education Student Alternate Representative Alexa Chiaro, left, and BOE Student Representative Katelyn Corris) to hear about what's going on in the District and to ask questions.

Topics of discussion included a general overview of how contract negotiations are conducted; traffic patterns during morning drop-off; snow day notification; school start times; PARCC testing; and food sales for fundraising.

Students were encouraged to think about topics for a future meeting, as well as small group formats and requests for guest speakers to address specific issues.

The next Town Hall Meeting will take place at Cherry Hill High School East with students on January 15, 2015.

been out of high school only 4 years, and she's pursuing her dream profession.

Ms. Penn spent all of her school years in Cherry Hill, beginning at Woodcrest Elementary, then Rosa Middle School, and finally Cherry Hill High School East. Ms. Penn recalls that although her academic classes were interesting, she was always more excited to go to her arts classes. She took a number of theater classes after joining stage crew freshman year. "I liked working backstage, but I wanted to know more about the onstage process," Ms. Penn says. "Stage management essentially combines the best of both worlds, and once I started assistant stage managing and stage managing the shows at East, I never doubted for a second that theatre needed to be a permanent part of my life."

After graduating from East, Ms. Penn pursued a bachelor of fine arts at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Upon her college graduation, Ms. Penn moved to New York to work in stage management. She currently works as a substitute stage manager on what she calls an "immersive show," combining circus, dance

and a feast. Subbing allows her to take on other stage management work as well. "I get to make people forget what's happening 'outside' for a few hours and change their lives, all in one performance," she says.

Ms. Penn says she remembers many great things about each Cherry Hill school she attended. "In elementary school, my parents let me take the class guinea pig for a weekend. That was huge!" She recalls. "I was able to prove myself responsible for another living creature for 2 whole days." Ms. Penn also has kind words for her English teacher, Mrs. Noreen Cunningham, whom she says changed her life. "I've never been so intimidated and in awe of one teacher," Ms. Penn says. "I am forever grateful to her."

Next week, Ms. Penn will begin working as the production assistant on a lab for two weeks. A lab is a 2-3-week-long workshop where people develop a show. Labs usually culminate in a presentation or two for additional investors, but this one will not, she says. "It has a number of huge names attached to it, and all I can disclose are the words 'puppets' and 'Elton John music,'" she explains. "I look forward to seeing what develops!"

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