

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



CHPS WEEKLY

Student Voice & Solidarity

“It is not enough to simply listen to student voice. Educators have an ethical imperative to do something with students, and that is why meaningful student involvement is vital to school improvement.” – Adam Fletcher

Student voice. It’s something I’m committed to as Superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public Schools, and it’s something all CHPS administrators are working to improve in our schools, every day. Since I took on the role of superintendent in September 2015, one of the ways I’ve included student voice in what I do is my Town Hall Meeting series. Each school year, three times a year, I meet with students from each of our middle schools and high schools for an hour of discussion. I ask them: What’s working? What needs improvement? What are your opinions about changes we’re considering as a District? Their responses are thoughtful and often mature beyond their years. We’ve incorporated their ideas into recent changes in how high school biology is implemented and into what’s offered on our school lunch menus. Other student ideas have been part of the discussion regarding possible new technology initiatives.

This month, student voice rose urgently about issues relating to safety and security in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Emotions understandably ran high as some of our students felt their voices were not being heard. But as we were able to take a collective deep breath – to gather as a community, to have our students sit in discussion with me, other administrators and staff – the CHPS student voice was channeled into meaningful actions, including the “National Walk Out Day” on March 14.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cherry Hill High School West Musical - *The Phantom of the Opera*

March 16, 17 & 23 @ 7 pm
March 18 & 24 @ 2 pm

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

March 17 from 9-10:30 am
Sharp Elementary School
300 Old Orchard Road

Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

March 18 from 1-2:30 pm
Carusi Middle School
315 Roosevelt Drive

Online Lunch with the Superintendent

March 20
Noon

[Live streamed](#)

Community Conversation: Safety & Security

March 20 @ 7pm
Carusi Middle School Cafeteria
315 Roosevelt Drive

Board of Education Action Meeting

March 27 @ 7 pm
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

Our students at Cherry Hill High Schools East, West (pictured above) and the Alternative High School, as well as at Beck, Carusi and Rosa Middle Schools, all had different visions for what they wanted the day to look like at their respective schools. Consensus among all was that the focus should be on solidarity with the students in Parkland, and that all wanted safer schools, not just for themselves, but for all students, everywhere. Under the guidance of administration and staff, some schools planned outdoor walks, as pictured at Cherry Hill West above, some planned student-led assemblies, some planned indoor demonstrations, some conducted “Walk Ups,” sharing “17 smiles” with people they didn’t know throughout the day, to build a stronger school community in honor of the 17 people in Parkland who perished in the shooting. I had the privilege of attending the events at both High School West and High School East, and as I greeted the participants, I was struck by how seriously they took their role in making their voices heard. I am incredibly proud of the people they are, and the adults they are becoming. OUR future is in excellent hands.

Student voice will remain a strong and central component of our district as we move forward. We need the broader community voice as well. I strongly encourage you to attend our upcoming meetings: Our Coffee & Conversation Meetings regarding the upcoming bond referendum will continue through the school year – our next two are this weekend: Saturday, March 17 from 9-10:30 am at Sharp Elementary and Sunday, March 18 from 1-2:30 pm at Carusi Middle School. Our next Community Conversation about Safety & Security is March 20 at 7 pm at Carusi; another will be held on March 28 at 7 pm at Rosa. All of these meetings follow a discussion format where your questions will be answered. If you are unable to attend and have questions of your own, please submit a [Quick Question via the portal on our web site](#). You may also tune in to my next “Online Lunch” at noon on March 20, [streaming live](#), where I take live questions and those submitted in advance via email to publinfo@chclc.org. I strongly recommend that you not rely on social media chatter as your information source.

Our first Safety & Security conversation on March 15 was an informative exchange with many good questions and suggestions. I appreciated the respectful, thoughtful tone maintained by the 28

Community Conversation: Safety & Security

March 28 @ 7 pm

Rosa Middle School Cafeteria
485 Browning Lane

SCHOOLS CLOSED

March 30-April 8

Spring Break

Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 10

Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace

*(This meeting replaces the C&I,
P&L, B&F and Strategic
Planning Committee meetings
for the month of April)*

people in attendance and look forward to our upcoming meetings, with the hope that they will be even better attended.

I hope, too, that I will see you this weekend at Cherry Hill High School West's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* (full list of dates and times under "Upcoming Events" at right).

Whatever your weekend plans, please make sure they include extending kindness wherever you go! Make it a point to share a smile and a thank you as you go about your days. Our children are watching, and learning, and modeling.

Regards,

Joe Meloche

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Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



Student Assistance and Mental Health Resources Available Via District Web Site

As has always been the case, a plethora of mental health resources for students and families is available under the "Departments" pull-down menu on the [District web site](#), via the "[Student Assistance](#)" tab.

Links from the "[Student Assistance](#)" page include social services resources,



2018 PARCC and General Assessment Information Available

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment schedule is now set. Assessments will begin Tuesday, April 17, 2018 with high school testing. Middle school testing will begin Tuesday, April 24, and elementary school testing will begin Thursday, May 3.

[A full schedule, including make-up dates](#), is available



Earth Festival Offers Many Opportunities for Involvement

Think spring! Opportunities abound for getting involved in the 2018 Earth Festival on Saturday, April 28 at historic Croft Farm; 10 am-2 pm. Some of the highlights:

- Volunteer at the festival – registration at Web site below. (Students earn service hours.)
- Deadline April 1 for students to enter and win prizes showing creative posters (elementary) and videos (middle/high school) displaying the festival

suicide prevention resources, resources on helping children cope with a community tragedy, helping children cope with a traumatic death and loss, grief counseling services, resources on drug and alcohol use and addiction, and understanding eating disorders.

Also available [via the link](#) are Camden County Access phone numbers for mental health services for children, emergency services, inpatient and outpatient services, substance abuse treatment resources and self help support resources.

on the District web site. Additionally, [high school graduation assessment requirements for the classes of 2016 through 2021 and beyond](#) are now available on the District web site, as is [a full calendar of all assessment dates](#).

theme: Reduce Plastic – Fantastic!

- Register for the Family Fun Bike Ride; starts at Croft Farm 8:30 a.m.
- Plant swap: bring your labeled and wrapped outdoor perennials plants to the festival – take home new plants and get some gardening tips. No vines or invasive species, please.
- Recycle depot: bring all those extra wire hangers, plastic shopping bags, gently used shoes and sneakers; all will be recycled, upcycled, or donated
- LourdesCare- outdoor yoga – 8:15 am; chair yoga: 10:30 am.
- Make-and-take kiddie craft (pictured above): bring plastic bottle caps/lids!

Learn more at

<http://www.sustainablecherryhill.org/>; click on Earth Festival.

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