

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



## CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending June 1, 2018

# The Value of Student Voice

As we embark on the final month of the school year, it's time to look back on all that **WE** have learned from our students, and how we'll apply that knowledge moving forward.

Happy June! This is always a bittersweet time of year for me. It marks many "lasts" in our students' lives – the final field day competitions for our rising sixth graders, the final days of "houses" and "LCs" for our rising ninth graders, and of course, our graduation and moving up ceremonies, marking the last time students will walk out of their buildings as elementary, middle or high school students. At the same time, it marks the transition to new and exciting opportunities for our students, whether at a new grade level, a new school, or at college or the beginning of a career.

One of my own "lasts" of the school year took place this week, as I held the last of my 2017-2018 Student Town Hall Meetings. When I first embarked on my position as superintendent in the fall of 2015, [I decided I wanted student voice to be an integral part of what takes place in the Cherry Hill Public Schools](#). One component of this effort is our Town Hall Meeting series, in which I meet three times a year with student groups from each of our middle and high schools. These meetings have been incredibly helpful to me in seeing daily school life through the eye of our students. Their insight and respectful honesty about what works well – and what can be improved – have made a significant impact during the past two years:

- Student perspective on school safety and security was taken into consideration when new protocols and procedures were enacted at our schools in early March 2018. The new requirement for parents to present their student's ID number prior to entry to a school building was a direct result of student input.
- On March 14 this year, students from each of our middle and high schools, with assistance from their respective school administrators, proposed, organized and carried out events on the day of

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

June 4 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Agenda available online](#)

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

June 4 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Agenda available online](#)

### Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 6 pm

Malberg Administration Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Agenda available online](#)

### Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

June 5 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

45 Ranoldo Terrace

[Agenda available online](#)

### Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent

June 6 from 7-8:30 pm

Cherry Hill High School East Little Theater

1750 Kresson Road

*This is our final Coffee & Conversation Meeting*

### Board of Education Work

the National School Walkout, a national response to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

- Student interest contributed to the addition of Chinese to the high school World Language course offerings.
- Student feedback led to changes in eighth grade science learning, which now includes instruction about and completion of formal lab reports as a precursor to freshman Biology in high school.
- [Summer Reading assignments now may be completed via a variety of formats](#) according to students' preferences, based on suggestions from students.
- Students have provided direct feedback to teachers and administrators regarding building-based activities and decisions on philanthropic events and service learning opportunities.

Looking ahead to the 2018-2019 school year, I anticipate an even broader, more diverse range of students will participate in our Town Hall Meetings, with new participants at each gathering. I am especially excited hear from those who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in a Town Hall. We value a diversity of perspectives in all decision making. And even though everyone's wishes may not come to fruition, a discussion that includes active listening to many points of view ensures that decisions are well informed. These opportunities for me to learn from our children are some of the best times of my year. Our children are thoughtful and honest – they have valuable perspective to be shared. We must all subscribe to the notion that education is something we are doing *with* our children, not something we are doing to them or for them.

Please continue to stay informed about what's happening in the CHPS community. Attend our Board of Education meetings, listed on the [District Events Calendar](#) or view them on our [Live Stream](#). Ask a question through our "[Quick Question](#)" portal on the [District web site](#). Be sure to follow 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 the recording of my latest "[Online Lunch](#)" broadcast on our [YouTube channel](#).

I wish you a wonderful weekend. As you talk to

## Session

June 12 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Administration  
Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

## High School Commencement Ceremonies

June 19  
Both take place at  
Temple University's  
Liacouras Center  
West: 11 am  
East: 4 pm

## 8th Grade Graduation Ceremonies

June 20  
Beck: 9:30 am, Cherry Hill High  
School East, DiBart Gym

Carusi: 10 am, Cherry Hill High  
School West, Jones Gym

Rosa: 2:15 pm, Cherry Hill  
High School East, DiBart Gym

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

June 21  
Early dismissal for elementary  
and middle school students

## Board of Education Action Meeting

June 26 @ 7 pm  
Malberg Administration  
Building  
45 Ranoldo Terrace

your children about the future, ask them who they want to be instead of what they want to be – next year, in five years, in twenty years. Our children listen and watch what we say and do as adults, all of the time, we are all responsible to be to do our best to serve as a positive character role models. When we make mistakes, as we all will, our children will learn from us when they see us apologize and move forward in a positive manner.

Try to look at each day as an opportunity to spread kindness to those you hold dear and to those with whom you cross paths in daily life. Kindness is contagious – let's all keep spreading it at every opportunity!

Regards,

*Joe Meloche*

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools



### Summer Reading Books for Sale at Schools, at a Discount, Beginning June 4

Super busy this time of year? Not thrilled about paying full price for Summer Reading books? Beginning with Rosa Middle School on Monday, June 4, 2018, Barnes & Noble is coming to CHPS middle & high schools to sell the books on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade Summer Reading list at about a 20% discount, with no sales tax! [Dates, times and order forms for each school's sale are now available!](#) The 2018



### Registration Open for Summer Workshops on College Applications & Testing

Registration is now available online for the Cherry Hill Public Schools' summer [ACT](#), [SAT](#), [PSAT](#) and [College Essay](#) workshops.

Parents/guardians and students also may register for the district's [free Common App/Naviance Summer Workshop](#), open to all students and parents and held at Cherry Hill High



### Cherry Hill high School West Student Wins First Prize for Poem

Congratulations to Cherry Hill High School West senior Joe Tozzi, who won first place in a poetry contest at the Walt Whitman Birthday celebration on May 30, 2018 in Camden, where Whitman spent the final years of his life. This year's theme for the poetry contest submissions was "look forward -- imagine a future that may pertain to yourself,

Summer Reading [titles and assignments for rising 6th through 12th graders are available online.](#)

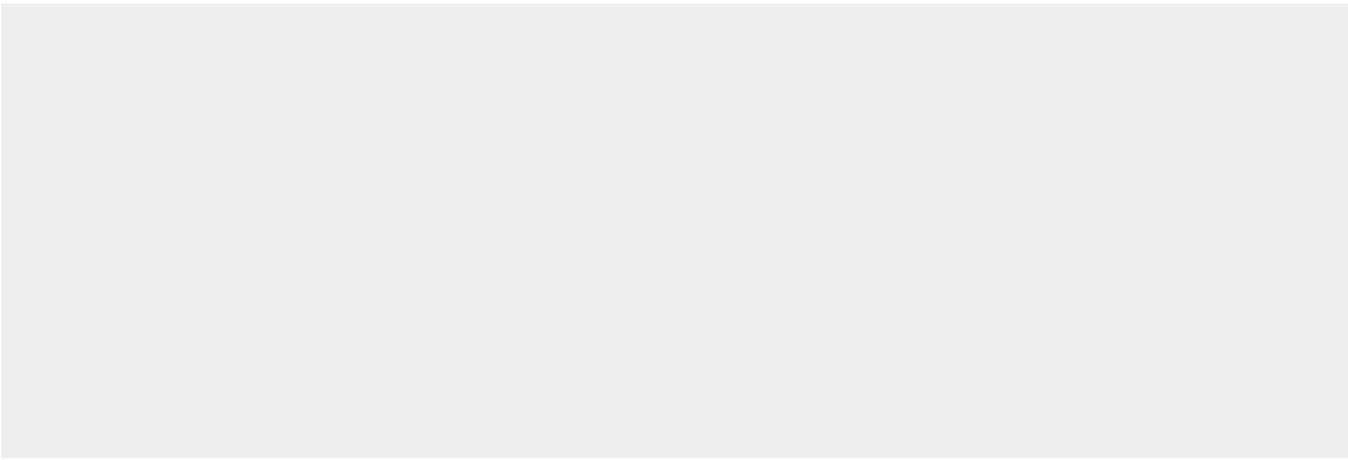
Books on the 6th grade list also are available at a discount from Barnes and Noble IN STORE. [The flyer for the in-store discount also is available online.](#)

Additional discussion about the philosophy behind Summer Reading, the new titles this year, and resources for students may be found on our [YouTube channel in the recording of Dr. Meloche's Online Lunch on May 24, 2018.](#)

School East.

your community, our nation and/or humanity as a whole." Joe's poem, "Peach Pits and Prosperity," won the first prize in a unanimous vote by the judges.

Joe is pictured above at left with a Walt Whitman impersonator and West English teacher Ms. Tracy Cooper. Ms. Cooper was an Honorable Mention winner of the poetry contest in 1992, making her and Joe the first ever Teacher/Student winning pair in the history of the contest.



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