

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



CHPS WEEKLY

District News for the week ending January 11, 2019

Bond Rebuild

WE are moving forward – with renewed interest and input from the community – to put together a new bond to fund our facilities’ critically important needs.

A highlight of this first full week back to school after our winter break was the convening of our new Board of Education at its Work Session on January 8, 2019. The CHPS administration and the Board of Education are rolling up our sleeves and getting to work on the formulation of a new bond. This first round of Board conversation can be viewed on [our YouTube Channel](#), where videos of previous Board meetings are archived.

As most of you know, the District put up for vote on December 11, 2018 a three-part Bond Referendum which did not pass. Bonds, for those who do not know, are a way for school districts to raise money – which they then must pay back over a period of years – typically to finance building projects or other capital projects. Although we and the administrators, Board of Education members, and concerned citizens of the community before us have vigorously sought the funding we are owed from the state for decades, and will continue to do so, our lack of state funding has forced us to make tough choices. We have chosen to maintain small classes, important programs and quality staff. What little money has been left, even after using grant funding, has not been enough to fully cover our needed facilities improvements. We continue to fight to secure our fair share of funding, but even when we finally receive the \$29 million we should annually, our needs will far exceed those funds.

The community has let us know that they want to be more involved in the formation of the next Bond and that they are ready to share their voices and their

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cherry Hill High School West’s Production of *Almost Maine*

January 11 & 12 @ 7 pm

January 13 @ 2 pm

[Tickets available online](#)

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Martin Luther King Day of
Service

January 21

Board of Education Action Meeting

January 22 @ 7 pm

Malberg Administration Building

Policy & Legislation Committee Meeting

February 4 @ 6 pm

A. Russell Knight
Elementary School
140 Old Carriage Road

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

February 4 @ 7 pm

A. Russell Knight
Elementary School
140 Old Carriage Road

energy. To that end, the Board during its January 8 meeting discussed:

- Holding Town Hall Meetings devoted to community input about the Bond
- Appointing an ad hoc Bond Committee, comprised of a representative group of community members
- Determining an election date for the Bond, likely in the fall of 2020

I encourage you to become as informed and involved as you can in this process. Our [Bond web page](#) is still live and linked from not only the [District web site](#), but from each school web site as well. There you will find a synopsis of the situation with the failed bond, as well as all of the background information about it. The page will be continually updated as we move forward with new plans. Developing a bond for our buildings is a long and detailed process. Please check the [Bond web page](#) regularly, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel to receive the latest updates. If you haven't been keeping up with what's happening in the District, [back issues of this newsletter](#) are archived on the District web site. Videos of our Board of Education meetings and other events are archived on our [YouTube channel](#). Our [District Events Calendar](#) is continually updated. Be sure to check your school's web site for school-specific information as well! Remember, too, that all of our Board meetings and Board Committee Meetings (except the Human Resources Committee) are open to the public. Dates, times and locations for the latest meetings are always included in this newsletter. Dates throughout the year are available on the [District Events Calendar](#). Have a question? Submit it via our [Quick Question](#) portal, for an answer made available to the public.

I am confident that a large and diverse contingent of our community members will be engaged in the building of the Bond this time around. Cherry Hill's children are ALL our children, now and in the future. **WE** owe it to them to provide the best learning environment possible.

Please be sure to attend the events around the District that showcase our talented students! I will be attending Cherry Hill West's production of *Almost Maine* this weekend (show times listed in the "Upcoming Events" column at right). I hope to see you there!

I wish you a safe weekend – stay warm!

Business & Facilities Committee Meeting

February 5 @ 6 pm

John A. Carusi Middle School
Media Center
315 Roosevelt Drive

Board of Education Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

February 5 @ 7 pm

John A. Carusi Middle School
Media Center
315 Roosevelt Drive

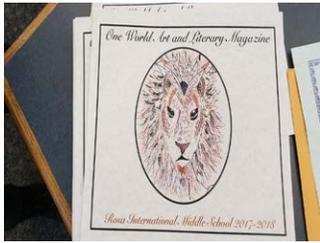
Regards,

Joe Meloche

Joe Meloche

Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

*"Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all.
They're underused." – Tommy Lee Jones*



Rosa Middle School's Art & Literary Magazine Wins 1st Place National Award

Congratulations to the staff and contributors of Rosa International Middle School's Art and Literary Magazine, *One World*, on receiving the honor of first place in the American Scholastic Press Association competition for student publications. Rosa's Art and Literary magazine placed first in the middle level category in this highly-competitive national contest!

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Evan Crescenzo
Sera Ko (graduated)
Abby MacCarthy (graduated)
James MacCarthy
Phoenix Pike
Emma Ronge (graduated)
Kyra Reilly (graduated)



Dates for Kindergarten Registration and Middle School Information Nights Now Available

Kindergarten and first grade registration (for children entering public school for the first time) for the 2019-2020 school year will begin on February 1, 2019. Children must be five years old on or before October 1, 2019 in order to be eligible for kindergarten. [Dates for registration at specific schools, as well as information on the registration process, are available online.](#)

[Dates and times for the CHPS Middle School Information Nights for 5th graders and their parents also are now available online.](#)



CHAACA Holds Essay/Poster/Video Contest for Black History Month

The Cherry Hill African American Civic Association (CHAACA) is now accepting entries for its Black History Month 2019: The Reverend Ivan George Essay/Poster/Video Contest. The contest, open to all Cherry Hill Public School students K-12, focuses this year on the topic "Famous Local African Americans (born in/from New Jersey/Philadelphia). Monetary prizes will be awarded to winners at each grade level.

Submissions will be accepted until Friday, February 1, 2019. Full contest rules and information are available on the [Cherry Hill Public Library web site](#). Entrants also may contact their school's

Ahava Sacks
Yaz Shaghnessy (graduated)

guidance counselor for more
information.

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