



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 14

THANK YOU TO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

This week is "School Board Recognition Week," a time to pause, recognize our board members and express gratitude for their commitment to our students and work of our district. School board members take on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of our community's children.

Serving on a school board is tough work and, quite frankly, a labor of love. School board members are volunteers who do not receive any compensation for their service. They are members of our school community who sacrifice countless hours, give of themselves, and are dedicated to improving our district. In addition to the many hours they spend at meetings, they also attend school board learning and development classes, serve on committees, advocate for our schools, and attend school and community events. They make difficult decisions and spend many hours learning about current education issues and regulations.

As the new superintendent in Schenectady, I am extremely grateful to our board of education for their leadership, dedication, and trust in me to move our district forward. It's been a pleasure getting to know our board members and learning about their experiences with the district. Whether a parent of a former or current student, or a community member who wants to make a difference, each of our board members has one thing in common; they care about our students and want our district to be the best it can be.

Please join me in thanking our board members for their support, vision, dedication, and service to Schenectady.

Community Partnerships

The importance of community partnerships cannot be overstated. We can't do the work alone and must commit to joining forces and working together as a community to broaden our network and to provide opportunities, resources and supports so that our students can be successful in school and in life.

I, along with my district leadership team, met with our school principals on Wednesday (secondary in the morning and elementary in the afternoon). While our meeting was to check in and discuss topics such as attendance and process and procedural types of things, we took the opportunity to visit and learn more about an important community partner. We decided to hold our meetings at the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) on Albany Street. Reverend Doctor Amaury Tanon-Santos, executive director, and members of his team were fantastic hosts. They gave us a tour of their facility, provided us with a delicious lunch made with food from their gardens and pantry, and spoke about the incredible work



2021-2022 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Reilly, Princella Learry, Jamaica Miles, Cathy Lewis, Bernice Rivera, Erica Brockmyer, Nohelani Etienne



THANK YOU

Thank you to Burlington which donated \$5,000 to Hamilton Elementary School this morning at the ribbon cutting and grand opening of their new store in Mohawk Commons.



www.schenectady.k12.ny.us
518-370-8100

that they do to address food insecurity. They not only opened their doors to us on Wednesday, but they offered to help any families in our schools who need food at any time. SICM is currently partnering on a food pantry with King Elementary School. Thank you to the team at SICM.



Schenectady Police Chief Eric Clifford and members of his team stopped by to share the work they are doing across the community and to discuss how we can work together and strengthen our partnership supporting our kids and community. We know often what happens in our schools goes out to the community and vice versa. We look forward to strengthening our partnership and collaboration.



Earlier this week, I enjoyed visiting SUNY Schenectady and the Smart Transfer Early College High School Program. I also attended the Schenectady United Neighbors Meeting. I was pleased to be part of their discussion and to answer their questions about the school district. I'm overwhelmed by the support we have in the community. I will continue to engage in the community and look forward to many ongoing discussions and partnerships.

Sincerely,
Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



Mr. Soler attended the Schenectady United Neighbors meeting.



On Monday, October 18, Superintendent Soler met with Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY Schenectady, and students in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program. Sixty Schenectady High School juniors and seniors are earning their associate degrees while still in high school.

WELCOME TO SCSD

New to our team!

Welcome to the following:

Administrative Appointment

Daryle Redmond, Assistant Director of Fine Arts

Instructional Appointments

Ashley Armer, Music, Central Park M.S.

Melissa Bodenstab, Physical Education, Central Park M.S.

Emoni Raysor, Special Education, Schenectady High School

Substitute Teacher Appointments

Lia Bourque-Mooney

Ottavio Lo Piccolo

Laura Conti

Shana Mavila

Bailey Dineen

Rachael Moquinn

Michele DiPace

Lauryn Rowland

Hope Johnson

Carlo Sorriento

Elizabeth Lehmann

Michael Verro

Tutor

Kristine Moore, Washington Irving Educational Center

PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS

Operations and Maintenance

Tosya Randolph, Cleaner, Zoller Elementary School

Justin Moore, Cleaner, Schenectady High School

Paraprofessionals

John Allen

Griffin Pallen

Audrene Parnell

Draynel Griffin

Renia Ramprasad-Negron

Lunch Monitors

Shakia Johnson

Lawanda Game

Sondra LaBombard

Charmaine Beard

Visit to SUNY Schenectady and the Smart Transfer Early College High School Program



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period October 15 (9:30 a.m.) through October 21 (8 p.m.):

Total of 48 cases

40 students and 8 Staff members as follows:

- Hamilton: 6
- Howe: 4
- Keane: 1
- King: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 4
- Oneida: 2
- Pleasant Valley: 2
- SCLA: 1
- Schenectady High School: 17
- Van Corlaer: 3
- WIEC: 1
- Zoller: 6

Approximate Percentage of School Population COVID-19 Positive this week:

- Students: .43%
- Staff: .50%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .44%

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness or are waiting for COVID-19 test results, do not come to school or work. You should instead do the following immediately:

STAFF MEMBERS

Stay home, contact your supervisor and email Lindsay Baroody at Lindsay.Baroody@neric.org or call 518-312-8848

STUDENTS

Parents please keep your child home and contact your school nurse.

If your child is exposed to a person who tested positive, you will receive a phone call immediately.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Schenectady County offers vaccinations at several locations on a variety of days and times. No appointment needed. Just walk-in. The schedule is posted [here](#).

New York State School COVID Report Card

PARENTS: PLEASE COMPLETE THE DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is asking all parents to participate in a [Digital Equity Survey](#). Digital equity is about making sure students have equal access to technology and technology tools. [Link to survey](#)



PARENT UNIVERSITY

Schenectady parents, guardians and caregivers are invited to Parents University on October 28 to talk about challenges, opportunities and much more. In-person meeting will be held at 1 p.m. at The Bridge Church, 735 Crane St and virtual meeting at 6 p.m. [here](#). More information in the flyer [here](#).



SCARE-NECTADY HAUNTED PATROL STOPS



Join members of the Schenectady Police and Fire Departments for this year's **Scare-nectady Haunted Patrol** on Thursday, October 28 beginning at 5 p.m. [See the flyer](#) for more.



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

[Click here](#) for the October Newsletter

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Schenectady County continues to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at a variety of locations throughout the month. All PODS are open to walk-ins. The October schedule is available [here](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR PRINCIPALS

YATES ELEMENTARY

Meet the Principal

Robert Flanders

Choose Kind ❤️

What do you love most about your job?



"Greeting the kids each morning and getting all students and staff excited for a positive day."

PROFILE

- 9th year as principal of Yates
- Former Hamilton principal
- 23 years in district
- Previously Dean at SHS
- Father of 4 daughters



ONEIDA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet the Principal

Tony Farina

Oneida Timberwolves 🐾

What do you love most about your job?



"Watching students and teachers grow as individuals and as life-long learners."

PROFILE

- 20th year in the district
- Former SHS science teacher
- Loves the outdoors
- 6th year as Oneida principal



STAFF NOTES

STAFF FLU SHOTS

A flu shot clinic for SCSD staff is being held on **Thursday, October 28** from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Schenectady High School Pool Lobby and Mont Pleasant Middle School Gym. Please bring a copy of your insurance card.

COVID VACCINATION FORM

If you have not yet completed the required COVID vaccination form, please do so now. Login in to [SchoolFront](#) [here](#).

SCSD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2021 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The SCSD Educational Foundation is awarding \$15,000 in grants this semester with award up to \$1,500 per recipient. Please review grant guidelines because they have been revised since last year. You can [apply here](#). For more information, [go here](#).

If you have any questions, please email Agnes Phillips at atphillipsagnes14@gmail.com or Nancy Sagendorf at nancysagendorf@gmail.com.

NOMINATIONS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2022 SCSD Teacher of the year. [Click here](#) for more. Nominations are due by November 5, 2021.

Champions of Change

Congratulations to Victoria Candida, a social studies teacher at SHS and Patrick Jean-Pierre, principal at Paige Elementary School. Ms. Candida and Dr. Jean-Pierre were each presented with the **Champions of Change** award.

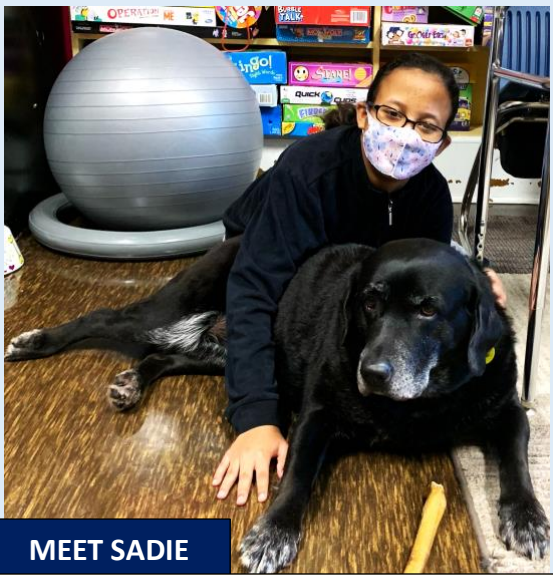
Dr. Jean Pierre was recognized for the *Pathway to Education Jobs Program*.

Ms. Candida was recognized for her creation of the *culturally responsive video game "Liberation."*



Watch [the video](#) to learn where this awesome idea came from.





MEET SADIE

The students at Mont Pleasant love when Sadie, Kris DeAngelo's therapy dog visits. Sadie has been a friend at Mont Pleasant since 2014. She has Canine Good Citizen Certification 1&2 and Therapy Dog International Certification. Mrs. DeAngelo, a speech therapist at MPMS, said Sadie loves coming to the school and pushing into the classrooms as well as attending sessions in the speech room.



Our Varsity Football Team visited some classes to build excitement for homecoming! Homecoming is tonight at 6 p.m.

Farm to School in Our District

October is National Farm to School Month! Our district is a recipient of a USDA Farm to School planning grant. The Farm to School initiative brings healthy, local, and fresh food to schools in Schenectady, while providing students with hands-on learning opportunities through agriculture education and growing activities.

The initiative connects schools, farms, and community partners to improve student nutrition and learning through agriculture, health, and nutrition education; and strengthens our economy by supporting local farmers and food producers. The curriculum was piloted this summer with second graders in our Summer Enrichment Program, and we are now working to implement academic year activities at those sites while expanding to other schools in our district.

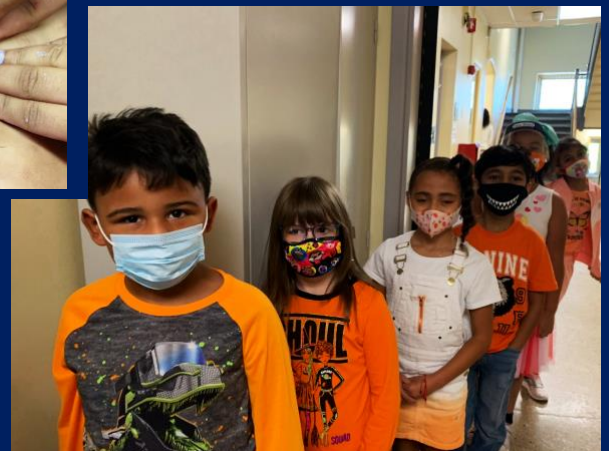
If you are interested in Farm to School curriculum and growing at your school, please contact [Rebekka Henriksen](#)



Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Unity Day at Yates and Van Corlaer

Wednesday, October 20, was Unity Day. Schools were invited to wear and share orange and plan special activities that show unity for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion and to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. Students at Yates participated in a story walk around the school that focused on kindness and inclusion. Check out the video to learn more about the story walk from Mrs. White's class.



#SchenectadyRising

