



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 01 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 35

Good afternoon and happy Friday,

I'm going to start my brief today by extending a huge thank you to all of students, families, staff, and community members who came out to the Schenectady Community Fair last Saturday. We had a great turnout and by all accounts everyone enjoyed the afternoon. This was our first big community event in over two years, and we are looking forward to the next one.

Thank you to Shane Bargy, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, to our community partners, Dr. Carlos Cotto and the members of the district's Innovation, Equity and Engagement Team, and to all who had a hand in coordinating this event. This was a great event because of all of you. We are all in this together. It's all about community collaboration and partnerships. I'm grateful to all. #schenectadyrising

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Gillooley, chief financial officer, presented a [first draft 2022-2023 Budget proposal](#) to the Board of Education. The initial proposal lays out a \$242.4 million spending plan which is a 10 percent increase over the current year. With this proposal, there is no impact on the tax levy.

The proposal was built from a zero-based approach meaning last year's expenses were not assumed and rolled forward. Mr. Gillooley met with department heads and each of the school leaders to determine staffing, programming, and other needs as well as each school's list of wishes. Each teacher in the district is being allotted \$300 to spend on classroom supplies of their choosing. Our goal is also to purchase all student supplies so that parents don't have to buy any.

The following staffing additions are also included in the proposal:

- 41 teachers to fill open positions
- 4 assistant principals to fill vacancies and ensure that every school has a principal and assistant principal
- 3 special education teachers and 2 speech therapists
- 8 library media specialists so every school has a librarian
- 29.5 positions to address school climate and safety at all levels.
 - 2 Operation Center Personnel
 - Expansion of the Community Engagement Officer Program
 - 9 Security Monitors
 - 8.5 School Safety Officers
 - 10 Community and Culture Engagement Specialists
- 7 attendance paraprofessionals so every school has one
- 6 school counselors and 2 social workers which will ensure every school has a counselor and two social workers on campus. With the addition of the social workers, our district would have a total of 60 improving the ratio to 1 social worker per 153 students.
- 4 restorative practice specialists.

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SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY FAIR



Continued from Page 1

The proposed \$23.6 million spending increase is possible due to an anticipated significant increase in our state aid and federal relief funding.

Again, this is just a first proposal and is subject to change until adopted by the board of education. There will be a **Board of Education Budget Meeting** next Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. At this meeting, the board will discuss the proposal and decide if they will adopt the spending plan or wish to make changes. This meeting will not be a regular meeting agenda. It is exclusively for budget discussion.

The district budget vote and school board election will be held on Tuesday, May 17.

I know many of you are anxious for the 2022-2023 School Calendar. The draft of the calendar is being finalized and will be presented to the board of education for approval in April. Once the calendar is adopted, we will post and share it with all staff and families.

I appreciate your continued passion, commitment, and dedication. Hang in there. Spring recess is just two weeks away. We got this.

Don't forget ... the marking period closes next Friday, April 8.

Have a great weekend. Don't forget to unplug, relax, and enjoy.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

GOOD LUCK WISHES



What do the younger students do while 3-5 grade students are taking state tests? They come up with unique ways to wish them good luck.

Top left: Members of MLK's student band, led by Mr. Krupanich, performed a pump-up song in the auditorium after students paraded through the hallways to cheers of good luck. [Watch the performance here.](#)



Bottom left: At Yates, Mrs. White's 2nd grade class performed a song of their own to wish the upperclassmen good luck. [Watch them on YouTube](#)

Hamilton students also held a pep rally for their test takers and Mrs. Shubert's PreK class joined in with signs of their own.

MORE SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY FAIR





Alumni Profile

"I attended Hamilton, Mont Pleasant, and Schenectady High School and now I'm able to make a difference in my community as a TA and through my work with local non-profit organizations."

Zhamanique Sanders

**Teaching Assistant
Schenectady High School Class of 2013**



This week's featured alumnae, Zhamanique "Nikki" Sanders, attended Schenectady schools from kindergarten through graduation in 2013. She currently works at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School as a teaching assistant, where she also leads an after-school step and dance program. Nikki also works with local non-profit organization My Daughters and Me/My sons and Me as an administrative assistant and instructor.

Did you graduate from Schenectady Schools?

Tell us about yourself. If you are a graduate of Schenectady Schools, we would love to feature you in an alumni profile. To share your information, [click here](#).

SECONDARY REDESIGN

The [summary sheet](#) outlines what school redesign is, the work that has been done so far, goals, timeline and next steps.



FREE COUNSELING FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Call 518-881-3412
Or [Sign up Here](#)



Learn more about kindergarten in our district by watching [this short clip](#).

Children who are enrolled in a district Pre-K program are already registered for kindergarten.

PRE-K

We will begin accepting Pre-K applications April 14.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period March 25 – April 1 (8 a.m.)

Total of 10 cases

4 Staff | 6 Students

- Howe: 1
- King: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 1
- Paige: 1
- SCLA: 2
- Schenectady High School: 2
- Zoller: 1
- Multiple Buildings: 1

[New York State School COVID Report Card](#)

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 April schedule is available [here](#).**

New York State [Vaccination Schedule](#)

VACCINATION RESOURCES

All you need to know about COVID-19 Vaccine and Children [English](#) [Spanish](#)

10 Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered [Here](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health](#)
- [Schenectady County Public Health](#)

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Based on Schenectady County's community level, prevention strategies at this time are:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

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

To better streamline communication with Lindsay Barood, please follow the new guidelines AND self-report using this [link](#) when you have:

- have tested positive
- have COVID symptoms and need to test
- have been directly exposed and need to quarantine

STUDENTS

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

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS MARCH 03 2022



The following is a summary of the updated guidance and protocols provided by the New York State Department of Health on March 1, 2022.

UNIVERSAL MASKING NOT REQUIRED

The universal mask mandate for schools ended on March 2, 2022. As such masks are **no longer required** to be worn in schools or on school buses but are allowed to be worn if desired. This is optional for everyone.

Please see below for masking requirements after testing positive or when exposed to COVID-19.

The Department of Health recommends students, teachers, and staff wear masks when:

- They feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons.
- They were exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- They were exposed to COVID-19 in any setting within the previous 10 days.
- They are moderate-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider.

COVID TESTING

FREE TEST KITS FROM COVIDTESTS.GOV

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-tests. Order them now [here](#).

FREE TESTING SITE

To make an appointment at the Schenectady County Public Health testing site located at Ellis McClellan Campus (600 McClellan St.), click [here](#).

Please continue to watch for COVID-19 news and updates



WELCOME TO SCHENECTADY

Management Confidential

Jenna Fretto, Human Resources Assistant
Alfred Tompkins, Innovation, Equity & Engagement Specialist

Operations & Maintenance

Thomas Braun, Maintenance Mechanic-Plumber
Garry Cordy, Maintenance Mechanic-Mason
Luis Cornier, Custodian, Pleasant Valley
Lawanda Game, Cleaner, SCLA
Zachariah LaFountain, Cleaner, Paige/Van Corlaer
Jennifer Livingston, Cleaner, Mont Pleasant

Project Aide-Parent Liaison

Tonia Thomas, Schenectady High School

School Safety Officers

Patrick Thomas
Amanda Costello

Congratulations! If you are new to the district, welcome to our team.

Secretarial

Sean Murray, Information Processing Specialist II,
Mont Pleasant

Tutors

Griffin Pallen, WIEC
Joan Scanlan, WIEC
Ayla Stoecklin, WIEC

Paraprofessionals

Rebecca Etwaroo, Zoller
Aquila Johnson, Schenectady High School
Yahayra Lind, Mont Pleasant
Madina Massie, Zoller
Todd Spottswood, Jr., Mont Pleasant

Lunch Monitor

Alaika Jones, Lincoln



REGIONAL FOOD BANK of Northeastern NY

Drive-Thru Pantry
April 4-8, 9:30 a.m.
Crosstown Plaza,
Schenectady

SCHENECTADY COUNTY CONNECTS

SCHENECTADY COUNTY CONNECTS				
APRIL 2022				
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
1 Intro. to Career Services 11am	2 Intro. to Career Services 11am	3 Intro. to Career Services 11am	4 Intro. to Career Services 11am	5 Intro. to Career Services 11am
6 SEDCU Business Basics 11am	7 SEDCU Business Basics 11am	8 SEDCU Business Basics 11am	9 SEDCU Business Basics 11am	10 SEDCU Business Basics 11am
11 How to Attend a Virtual Job Fair 11am	12 How to Attend a Virtual Job Fair 11am	13 How to Attend a Virtual Job Fair 11am	14 How to Attend a Virtual Job Fair 11am	15 How to Attend a Virtual Job Fair 11am
16 Financial Aid for College 11am	17 Financial Aid for College 11am	18 Financial Aid for College 11am	19 Financial Aid for College 11am	20 Financial Aid for College 11am
21 Financial Aid for College 11am	22 Financial Aid for College 11am	23 Financial Aid for College 11am	24 Financial Aid for College 11am	25 Financial Aid for College 11am
26 Financial Aid for College 11am	27 Financial Aid for College 11am	28 Financial Aid for College 11am	29 Financial Aid for College 11am	30 Financial Aid for College 11am

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



In preparation for the NYS ELA test this week, 5th graders in Ms. Trumpler's class at Hamilton performed "Surgery" on main idea, theme, point of view, figurative language, and character traits from stories. We see future surgeons and writers in these great pictures.



ENGAGING TEST PREP AT HAMILTON

#schenectadyrising



WWW.SCHENECTADY.K12.NY.US

THANK YOU SCSD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Thank you to the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation for the Winter/Spring 2022 Grants that have been awarded to our teachers and students. **Congratulations to the following who received a grant:**

Dina Allen, Pleasant Valley, \$500
Purchase supplies to start a rooftop garden

Keri Barber, King, \$1,440
4 Edison Robots for programming and coding

Rebecca Bokser, King, \$500
NYS History Hudson River Cruise on the Dutch Apple

Cecilia Contreras-Rottger, Woodlawn, \$700
Tween level emergent readers/phonics

Kerri D'Alessandro, Woodlawn, \$598
Building identity development: 3 sets of read aloud books that promote females and POC in important roles

Kristina DeAngelo, Mont Pleasant, \$1071
Large list of hands-on materials for speech and language development. Using play-based learning opportunities

Sara DiPietro, Hamilton, \$300
Subscription to Generation Genius, floor chair rack and metal shelving

Megan Eddy, Mont Pleasant, \$800
Subscription to School Library Journal, barcode scanner for library, long list of STEM materials and supplies

Leigh Feguer, SHS, \$3000
Two build 2 bioactive vivariums

Katherine Figueroa, Pleasant Valley, 1320
Skip Counting Math Mats to share with other teachers

Julia Holcomb, SHS, \$2005
Attend and facilitate the FreedomCon 2022 Youth Working Group Conference at HVCC

Jennifer Insull, SHS, \$3000
Field trip on the Hudson River.

Clarisse Kaufman, ML King School, \$838
Reading Comprehension Games and dry erase kits

Ann Koronowski, SHS, \$1200
Class set of GoEmerge Books to replace outdated set

Lori Lebel, SHS, \$2838
Copies of books that are multi-genre and culturally responsive

Kim Lencewicz, Mont Pleasant Middle School, \$1000
Variety of multisensory items

Katherine Leupold, Pleasant Valley, \$760
Indoor recess games, author kits

Matthew Macutek, SHS, \$39
One Global History text with two supporting texts

Tyler Maglar, MLK King, \$400
3 Gel Press Printing Plates

Kristin Moore, WIEC/SHS (JROTC), \$1750
Community Cleanup Day Project

Melissa Murphy, ML King, \$500
STEM Activities

Grace NG, Paige, \$1716
2 Copernicus Self-Regulation Classroom Cruisers

Daniel O'Brien, Oneida, \$99
Kami App Extension License

Lindsay Redick, Mont Pleasant, \$545
Movement Props

Miriam Rendon, Mont Pleasant, \$1000
Bean bag chairs and books

Christian Rossler, Hamilton, \$893
3 Swift with Trinocular Microscopes with Camera

Alexis Rytel, Yates, \$578
SnapWord System

Yacouba Sangare, Oneida, \$1000
Audio books and copies of books. Supplies for hands-on science activities

Robyn Stone, Pleasant Valley, \$1000
Scholastic books, sensory materials

Amy Snyder, SHS, \$1000
Games for new course "True Crime"

Octavia Tompkins, ML King, \$500
Hudson River Cruise

Jonai Trumpler, Keane, \$572
Butterfly Garden, Planting Supplies, Play Dough, Place Value Discs

Katie Walters, Central Park, \$960
Build and plant two garden beds

Michelle Weaver, ML King, \$450
Math Games, Learn to Code Mapping, African American Bio Library, Magnet Array Chart

S ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to re-open our track at SHS to the community!

Beginning Monday, April 4th the track will be open to Schenectady residents Monday through Friday 6-8pm when school is in session and when there are no interscholastic competitions.

Please adhere to the posted rules including no glass containers, no animals, no smoking/vaping or consuming alcohol on school property.

***Please note that school is not in session for spring break April 15th-April 24th, therefore the track will not be available for use.**

