

# SUPERINTENDEN 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
  - o Expansion of the Community Engagement Officer Program
  - o 9 Security Monitors
  - o 8.5 School Safety Officers
  - o 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.

#### **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, <u>click here</u>.

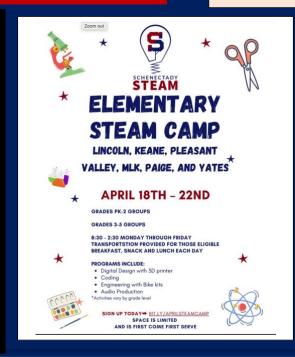


#### SECONDARY REDESIGN

The <u>summary sheet</u> outlines what school redesign is, the work that has been done so far, goals, timeline and next steps.









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 Baroody, 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



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 o 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.

ent 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

#### **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

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

#### **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

### 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

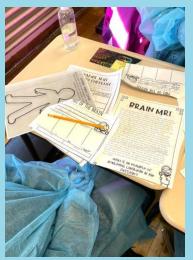




In preparation for the NYS ELA test this week, 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Ms. Trumpler's class at Hamilton performed "Surgery" on main idea, theme, point of view, figurative language, and character traits from stories. We see future surgeons and writers in these great pictures.

#### **ENGAGING TEST PREP AT HAMILTON**















# 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



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.

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

