



SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 13 2022 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 40

Good afternoon and happy Friday,

I hope you are doing well and that you had a good week. I first want to provide a reminder that the school board election and budget vote will be held next Tuesday, May 17. Whether you live in Schenectady or are in a neighboring district, please take the time on Tuesday to cast your vote.

Schenectady residents will vote on a \$239 million spending plan. While this is a 9.29% increase over the current year, there is no impact on the tax levy for the third consecutive year. Details are available [here](#). Voters will also be asked to consider a proposition to create a Capital Reserve Fund which would be an account for funding general building improvements, construction and renovations as needed.

Four candidates are running for the two open board seats. I provided information on each of the candidates, Vivian Parsons, Catherine A. Lewis, Kristen M. Holler and Emily Willey-Aulet (listed in ballot order) in my brief last week. Information is posted on our website [here](#). Earlier this week, the League of Women Voters held a ["Meet the Candidate" forum](#), and the local NAACP chapter held an [Online Forum](#).

Polling places will be open from noon – 9 p.m. The polling sites are listed on the next page. If you have any questions, please call the clerk of the board at 518-370-8100 Ext. 105.

On Wednesday evening, I had the honor of attending the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School (ECHS) Program ceremony at SUNY Schenectady. Twenty-one Schenectady High School seniors who have completed all their credits for degrees or are close to completion were recognized. Those who completed credits will have already earned a college degree when they graduate from high school next month.

The students began taking courses at the college during Summer of 2018 when they were entering 9th and 10th grade. In Fall 2019, while in 11th grade, they began taking courses full-time at SUNY Schenectady. Students in the program can then transfer as juniors to a four-year institution to complete their bachelor's degrees. They have been accepted into more than 60 colleges and universities.

Congratulations to these students and their families. Thank you to Dr. Moono and SUNY Schenectady for their continued partnership and the many opportunities they make available to our students. Just a couple months ago, Dr. Moono and I announced the "Schenectady Promise" in which all Schenectady High School seniors are automatically admitted to the college for fall. We are a community working together to give our students the resources, supports and opportunities they need and deserve to reach educational heights.
#schenectadyrising

Rondacia MacPherson, a Schenectady High School Junior and ECHS student was elected by the SUNY Schenectady student body as the student trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year. She will serve on the college's board of trustees and will represent and share student voice. This is the first time that an Early College High School Student has been elected to an office at the college. Please join me in congratulating Rondacia. We are very proud of her and know that she will do an amazing job representing her peers.

BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

NOON – 9 P.M.

See page 2 for polling locations

Smart Transfer Early College High School Program



CONGRATULATIONS



On Wednesday evening, our Schenectady High School seniors who are a part of the SUNY Schenectady Smart Transfer program were honored at their completion ceremony. We are very proud of these hardworking students. Seventeen students earned a college degree and the others will be finishing their course work this summer.

Rondacia MacPherson, an Early College High School Student, has been elected by the SUNY Schenectady Student body as the student trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year.



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I am honored and pleased to share I have been selected as one of 23 public education leaders from across the country to be a member of the second cohort of the Yale School of Management Fellowship for Public Education Leadership. As a fellow, I will have the pleasure of working with leaders from some of the largest school districts across the country. I will have access to leading management research and skills and will engage in peer-to-peer learning within the cohort and with leading practitioners in the field as we work to drive transformative work and advance and equity and excellence. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to applying the experience afforded through this program to our work in Schenectady.

As the weather is getting warmer and children are spending more time outdoors, we ask parents to please remind children about how to “be smart” and stay safe while walking to and from school, waiting for the bus, and playing outdoors especially if approached by a stranger. See below for safe passage “Be Smart” tips.

As you know, the end of the school year is coming quick. The countdown is on... There are only about 42 calendar days (27 school days) until the Class of 2022 graduation. As we get closer to the end of the school year and the weather is nicer, remind students that it's important to be in school every day. Let's continue to keep working hard and doing our best to keep each other and our students on track. I appreciate you and all you do.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the warm temperatures.

Sincerely,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Vote and Election Polling

- ❖ Fulton Early Childhood, 408 Eleanor St.
- ❖ Howe Elementary, 1065 Baker Ave.
- ❖ MLK Jr. Elementary, 918 Stanley St.
- ❖ Mont Pleasant Middle School, 1121 Forest Rd.
- ❖ Paige Elementary, 104 Elliott Ave.
- ❖ Schenectady High School, 1445 The Plaza
- ❖ Woodlawn Elementary, 3311 Wells Ave.
- ❖ Yates Elementary, 725 Salina St.

If you have questions, please call 518-370-8100 Ext. 40105

MAY REMINDERS

Friday, May 27

No School

Monday, May 30

No School Memorial Day

District offices are closed
on both days.

BE SMART OUTDOORS SAFETY TIPS

Buddy System: Don't be alone. Take someone with you.

Eyes Open: Be aware of your surroundings.

Stay Away from Cars: Don't be tricked into getting into a stranger's car

Make a Plan: Let someone know where you are going and when you are coming home

Avoid Strangers: Only speak to people you know

Run Away: if someone makes you feel uncomfortable make noise and run away.

Tell: Tell an adult you know if someone bother you

No
Go
Yell
Tell

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS



If you are interested in the 2022 Summer Enrichment Program and haven't completed the survey, please do so. It is available on the parent portal. If you are not a registered user of the parent portal, it's easy to sign up. Go [here](#) to sign up today.





Alumni Profile

"I enjoy living and working in Schenectady because of its diversity. I'm in my 23rd year of teaching and my goal continues to be to welcome all kids into a classroom that is safe and celebrates each of them for who they are as individuals."

Nicole Boone

**Grade 5 teacher, Zoller Elementary
Schenectady High School, Class of 1993**



Nicole Boone, a 1993 graduate of Schenectady High School, is in her 23rd year of teaching in the district. She credits her mother, a nursery schoolteacher, and the teachers she had while attending Woodlawn Elementary for inspiring her to pursue this career.

"When I was a senior in high school, I would attend my classes in the morning and each afternoon I would go to Woodlawn Elementary to shadow teachers, work with children and learn what it is like to be a teacher firsthand. I felt very lucky because I was placed at the school I attended. They were my teachers as a young child and now guided me in my upcoming career which I will never forget. The program in high school allowed me to experience teaching firsthand and solidified my career decision."

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](#).

SCHENECTADY UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Tuesday afternoon our Schenectady Patriots Unified Basketball Team played their first home game of the season against South Colonie. It was a great game. Patriot Pride!



COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period May 5 – May 13 (8 a.m.)

Total of 117 cases

47 Staff | 70 Students

- Central Park: 7
- Hamilton: 6
- Howe: 6
- Keane: 3
- King: 2
- Lincoln: 1
- Mont Pleasant: 6
- Oneida: 7
- Paige: 10
- Pleasant Valley: 10
- SCLA: 4
- Schenectady High School: 41
- Van Corlaer: 2
- Yates: 3
- Zoller: 4
- Central Office: 5

[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 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](#)

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

ATHLETE VACCINATION NOTE

Only athletes who participate in high-risk sports are required to be vaccinated for COVID-19. This change was approved by the board of education on April 6 and is in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The change goes into effect immediately.

**SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
MARCH 23, 2022**

The following is a summary of the updated guidelines and protocols provided by the New York State Department of Health on March 15, 2022.

UNIVERSAL MASKING NOT REQUIRED

The general mask mandate for schools ended on March 15, 2022. As such, masks are no longer required to be worn in schools or on school buses but are still advised in some situations. This applies to everyone.

Please use the following mask requirements after testing positive or when exposed to COVID-19.

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

- They feel that mask-wearing is necessary for personal protection.
- They were exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- They were exposed to COVID-19 in a setting within the previous 10 days.
- They are unable to socially distance and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider.

IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO A PERSON WHO TESTED POSITIVE

Regardless of vaccination status, it is highly recommended that any person exposed to COVID-19 wear a mask for a full 10 days.

Exposure that requires mask use for 10 days includes:

- Masking around the person.
- Any person who has been exposed or potentially exposed should be tested for COVID-19 as follows:
 - Consider testing immediately upon learning of the exposure or potential exposure.
 - At least 1 week after the last date of exposure to prevent reinfection.
 - If asymptomatic, retest on day 10 and day 16.
 - If symptomatic, retest on day 10 and day 16.

A person with lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the last three months does not need to get tested unless they develop symptoms. If you need a COVID-19 test kit, please contact your school nurse.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Regardless of vaccination status, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school/work and tested as if positive or test before school/work for the day, or until other criteria are met for school attendance (i.e., resolution of fever) whenever it is longer.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you can return following a negative lab test, lab antigen test or two negatives over the course of 5 days (rapid antigen tests taken 36 hours apart [three test kits] with the ones provided at school).

If you or your child have symptoms and are not sure what to do or if you need a COVID-19 test, please contact the school nurse.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Regardless of vaccination status, any person who tests positive for COVID-19 must do the following:

- Stay home for 10 days.
- Stay away from the first day that you had symptoms or test positive (if asymptomatic).
- Mask around the person(s) if symptomatic.
- You can return to school or work on day 10 if asymptomatic or if symptoms are resolving.
- The last 10 following positive test, a small number for each is added and put on the school bus.

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





Check out the highlights from last week's "The Right Move" Chess tournament held at Oneida Middle School. Participants included students from Lincoln, MLK, Oneida, and even a few returning graduates of Schenectady High School. [Watch the video to learn more](#) about upcoming chess opportunities for students.

PANDEMIC EBT FOOD BENEFITS

NY continues to distribute Pandemic EBT food benefits to households with children who receive free school lunch under the National School Lunch Act. You can check your family's P-EBT food benefit transaction history by visiting www.connectebt.com or by calling 1-888-328-6399.

OTDA will begin distributing Summer P-EBT in May. Each eligible student will receive \$375 in food benefits. Start date has not been indicated. For more information, click [here](#).

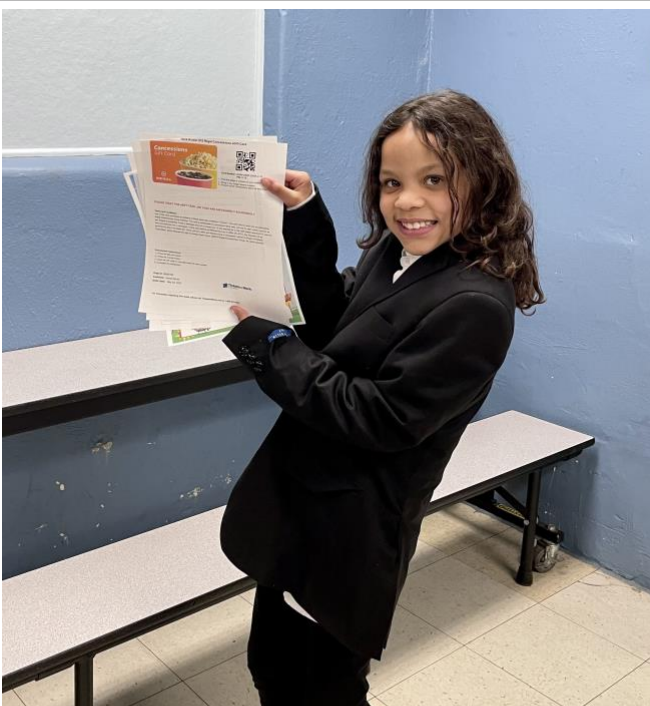
GIRLS INC. PROGRAM NOTE

Girls Inc. has informed us that the program will not be held on May 18.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



[Click here](#) to open the April/May Newsletter from the Office of Student Support Services



Congrats to Letijena Harris from Lincoln, a winner in the National Breakfast Week, Super Hero Story Contest. She won a pair of tickets to the movies, plus a gift card for concessions.

FLYERS



[Schenectady Track and Field Futures Championship](#)



[SHS Football Golf Tourney](#)



[Kids Art Festival](#)



['22 Summer Series at Jerry Burell Park](#)

Schenectady City School District Annual Art Exhibit



Jay'mya
Wright
Grade 5



Tahreem Pirzada
Grade 9



Sindy Kenga
Grade 4

Be sure to check out student artwork at the Annual Art Exhibit on display at the ViaPort Rotterdam Mall. Students in all grades have work on display. The show is open through May 22.



[Capital Region Job Fairs & Open Interviews](#)

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