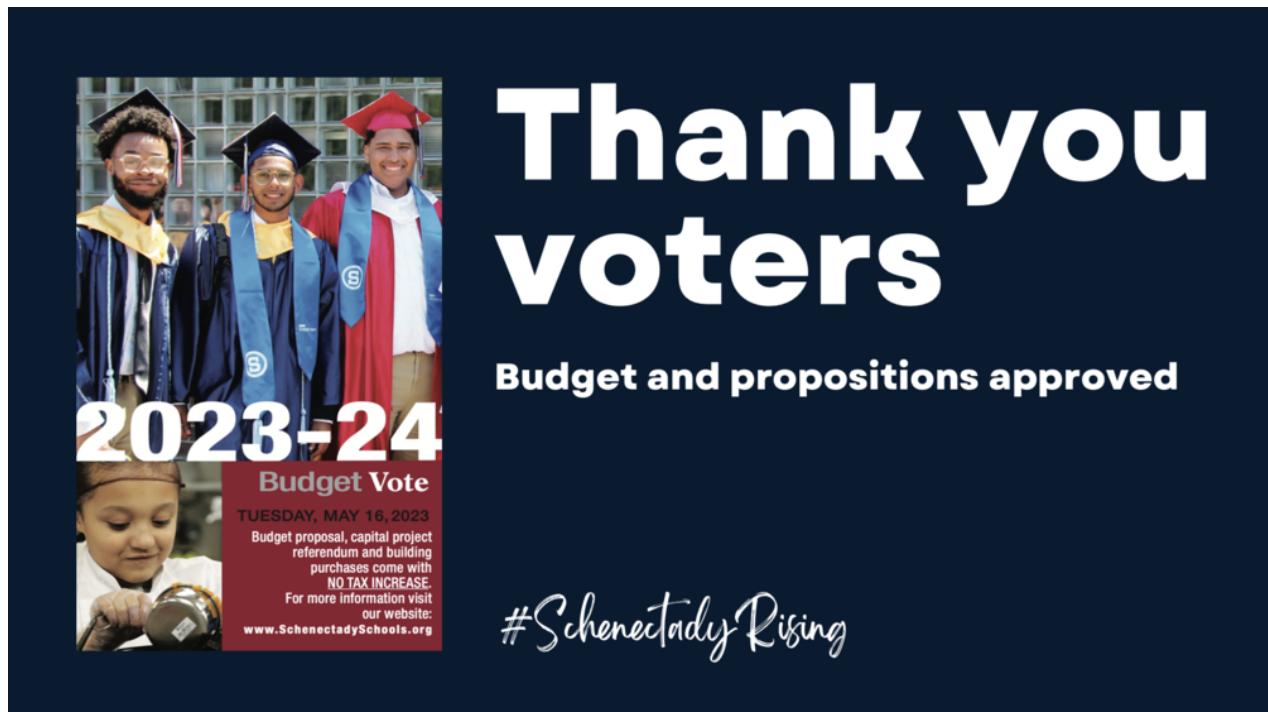


WEEK ENDING MAY 19 2023 | VOLUME 2 ISSUE NO. 36

**SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.**

Good afternoon,

So, we are officially entering the final six weeks of school. It's around now when we 'gear up to gear down.' It's the final mile of the marathon. It's an exciting and sometimes stressful time for teachers, parents, and students. Whether you are a parent, teacher, principal, or student, be sure to take a deep breath and focus on succeeding, not just surviving. Don't get overwhelmed by the long list of things that need to be done over the next few weeks. Begin by prioritizing and reinforcing routines. Stick with what's worked all year. Keep expectations high and continue to enforce rules and procedures and don't stop teaching. Focus and stay in the moment. Remember people are more important than the tasks. Be realistic about what you can accomplish and remember it's okay to talk about stress. Students take cues from you so let's make sure we remain calm and set them up for a fantastic finish. The last weeks of school hold big potential for meaningful discussions that can truly impact students.



Thank you voters

Budget and propositions approved

2023-24

Budget Vote
 TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
 Budget proposal, capital project referendum and building purchases come with **NO TAX INCREASE.**
 For more information visit our website: www.SchenectadySchools.org

#SchenectadyRising

As you know, this was a big week for us with the school budget vote and an unprecedented long list of propositions, including the the Schenectady Revitalization Plan 2030, and the purchase of two buildings. Thank you to all of you and all Schenectady residents who went out to vote and supported our proposals. I'm pleased to share that everything passed by an overwhelming margin.

The final vote tallies on the budget and propositions were:

- Budget Proposition #1 (Budget) - Yes 1040 | No 245
- Budget Proposition #2 (Revitalization Plan) - Yes 1026 | No 267
- Budget Proposition #3 (Liberty Purchase) - Yes 851 | No 437
- Budget Proposition #4 (Keane Purchase) - Yes 1053 | No 238
- Budget Proposition #5 (Student BOE) - Yes 1051 | No 237

Additionally, voters selected Amanda Sponable-Pantalone (908), Nohelani Etienne (792), and Bernice Rivera (972) to fill the three open seats on the board of education.

Now the work begins. Since we now have community approval, we will begin the planning process for the Capital Project work that will be slated for the next seven years. Our plans need to be developed and then submitted to the NYS Education Department for approval. I will keep you updated as we move along.

Earlier this week, more than 200 young men from MBK Schenectady were at Proctors to hear Dr. Eric Thomas, the top motivational speaker in the world, about his three rules for success.



Thank you to Dr. Carlos Cotto and Mr. Brian Ledbetter for their guidance and leadership and for working to bring great opportunities to our students.

Click on [the video](#) to watch highlights from the event.

Congratulations to our two new MBK Fellows. Our fellows and mentors had a great time at the MBK Symposium.



At Wednesday's Board of Education meeting two administrators and ten teachers were appointed tenure . I offer each of them congratulations on this significant professional achievement. Congratulations to principals Christina Howard and Kerri Messler and teachers Corey Armstong, Shireen Bogue, Sarah Brady, Lindsey Esposito, Melissa Hughes, Alioune Mbodj, Jacklyn Newberry, Erin Ullich, Stephanie Wilcox, and Hayley Yettru.

Thank you to our team that presented a comprehensive third quarter academic report. These reports and presentations take a great deal of planning and collaboration. Thank you for your hard work. You can download the presentation [here](#).

It was a fun week as we welcomed several special guests into our elementary school classroom to take about their jobs and career pathways. Elementary Career Week is new and aims to get our youngest learners thinking about college and careers and helping them connect with adults who serve as role models. Thank you to all involved in planning this exciting and fun event for our elementary schools.



Yates was part of United Way's 518 Day. 518 day provides opportunities for individuals, families, and groups to be a part of solutions to building a more resilient Capital Region through volunteerism and community impact. At Yates, the volunteers helped build the school garden and prepare the front entrance for the installation of a "kindess rocks" garden.



The Suburban Council Music Festival was held at Ballston Spa HS in late April. Representing Schenectady were Max Tobey, CP (band); Michael Medina, MP (band); Angelo Delaney, SHS (Jazz); Zoe Daniels, OMS (band); Ayan Datt, OMS (band); River Henriksen, OMS (orchestra). We are so proud of their accomplishments and participation in this festival.



The High School Musical Theatre Awards were held at Proctors last weekend.



Schenectady students Yael Woods and Fred Durocher were the first Schenectady students to ever be nominated for the High School Musical Theatre Awards.

Congratulations to Yael Woods (left) who won best supporting actress.

The HSMTA program culminates on the MainStage at Proctors with an awards ceremony, modeled after the Tony Awards®, to recognize outstanding musical theatre productions and students. Winners are announced for each category interspersed with lively production numbers from the shows nominated for Best Musical and finalists for Best Actor and Best Actress. Additionally, students selected from each participating school perform in the opening and closing numbers for an inclusive and celebratory event,

also featuring a full orchestra and music direction and choreography by theatre professionals.

The winners of Best Actress and Best Actor go on to represent the Capital Region in The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®). This program impacts more than 140,000 students who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. For more information, please visit jimmyawards.com.

I was honored to participate in Resilience and Equity Conference that took place this week at Syracuse University. I was a feature speaker and today I sat on a panel and shared some of the work we are doing in Schenectady.

RESILIENCE AND EQUITY CONFERENCE

Finger Lakes COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MAY 17-19 2023
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

flxcommunityschools.org

REGISTER HERE

This year's lineup includes local, state, and national speakers with powerful voices to guide the work!

Thank you to Reading is Fun and all the participants in the Scrabble-Rama Competition that was held at Schenectady High School last month. Nearly \$5,000 was raised. Money will be used to purchase books for students in the early grades. I am grateful to RIF and the nearly 100 volunteers who mentor our students. Anyone interested in becoming a RIF reading mentor, should email rifvolunterplacements@gmail.com. To learn more about RIF, please visit the website at <https://www.readingisfun.org/>. This is another example of our community stepping up to support our students. We are all in this work together.

Calendar Reminder: There is no school and we are closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Have a fantastic weekend. We'll see you on Monday.

Sincerely,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Photo of The Week



Howe held a dance in celebration of their Read for Ronald McDonald charity efforts. The students at the school raised \$4,643.68 to be donated to the Ronald McDonald house. Check out this picture from the red carpet!

Congratulations

The following were appointed by the Board of Education on May 17. If you are new to the district, "Welcome to Schenectady."

Instructional

- Nor Awad, Hamilton
- Tamara Belanger, Paige
- Lauren D'Annibale, TBD
- Rachel Dorato, Pleasant Valley
- Scott Hartman, MLK
- Cari Imreh-Allegretta, TBD
- Jamie Levandusky, TBD
- Samantha McKillop, TBD
- Ann Palmer, Remedial Reading, Howe
- Randi Ramos, TBD
- Christina Rocco, ENL, Hamilton, Zoller
- Sue Snyder, TBD
- Tabetha Thompson, ENL, Woodlawn, Keane

Lunch Monitor

- An Alli, Woodlawn

Paraprofessionals

- T-cya Darh, Howe
- Elasia Jeter, Howe
- Nylyse Rios, SHS
- Rebekasue Wainwright, Zoller

Nurse

- Margaret Van Wagner, Oneida

Secretarial

- Angela Tryon, IPS IV, WIEC

Operations and Maintenance

- Taylor Vincent, Head Custodian, SCLA

P-EBT FOOD BENEFITS

There is another round of P-EBT food benefits that is being dispersed from April and May from The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) for the 2021-22 school year and Summer 2022.

For questions or concerns related to the latest round of P-EBT food benefit being issued from April & May 2023, these funds are managed by The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) for the 2021-22 school year and Summer 2022

- You can check your family's P-EBT food benefit transaction history by visiting www.connectebt.com or by calling **1-888-328-6399**.
- For other P-EBT related questions, please call the P-EBT Food Benefits Helpline at **1-833-452-0096** or submit <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6rhs9AB5EE2M64Dowcge5xOHCi6o8CpIhK5UIB98liVUQINLVkpSRFJQUikwR1ICT1E4T09SVzc3Ry4u>
- For additional questions and answers please visit OTDAs [P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions](#) or <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>

Download Our Mobile App



Catch up with the latest student stories, events, and news updates. It's everything Schenectady Schools, in your pocket. If you haven't already, download the app!

 Download for Android

<https://bit.ly/3Mzposx>

 Download for iPhone

<https://apple.co/3IAXbWA>

MOBILE APP SUPPORT Click here to watch a short video on how to set your school and language preferences on our mobile app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sANC9ek2Lqg>

#SchenectadyRising

PREVIOUS BRIEFS: For the index of Volume 1 and Volume 2 Briefs, [click here](#).