



Superintendent's Report September 27, 2023

The Bond Referendum vote was held yesterday, and our community voted to support our students and to maintain our facilities! The unofficial vote tally is Yes: 543 and No: 153. The official results will be available in a few days after counting the 27 provisional votes and any mail-in votes post-marked by September 26, 2023. The Board of Education and I thank all voters who took the time to vote and to express their opinions on this referendum. I wish to thank the Board of Education, the Board's finance committee, and Floro Villanueva for their tireless efforts in planning for this referendum. Now, our work continues as we secure the funding and vendor proposals for replacing boilers and roofs at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School, replace windows at Tenakill Middle School, and install HVAC in the Tenakill Middle School gymnasium. I will keep you updated on our progress.

In other good news, Closter Public Schools was awarded a \$47,940 *Trees for Schools* grant to fund the costs associated with the purchase and planting of trees, including planning, site preparation, watering, monitoring, and related expenses over a three-year period. The *Trees for Schools* program is a joint effort of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Sustainable New Jersey, and The College of New Jersey. We are one of 23 public school districts, two public charter schools, and nine public colleges and universities in New Jersey that were awarded the grant. We will be working with the Borough Shade Tree Commission in developing a tree project design and will participate in tree-planting workshops. The tree plantings are scheduled for spring 2024.

We have submitted our grant proposal for the NJDOE high-impact tutoring competitive grant for grade three. If awarded, we can provide intensive tutoring to students in grade three who are not performing at grade level in English language arts and mathematics. The grant requires that school districts use an approved vendor for the tutoring services. We selected Catapult Learning for its outstanding reputation and its ability to offer tutoring in person at Hillside Elementary School. The administration, faculty, and staff of Closter Public Schools continue to seek grant opportunities to provide support for our students. The NJDOE has said they will be making the announcement of grant awards in October 2023.

Yesterday, our Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Committee met to complete the District Performance Review, which will be used in the monitoring by the New Jersey Department of Education. The QSAC process monitors and evaluates school districts in five key components: Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. The committee reviewed the sixty-nine indicators and determined that our district has met the criteria for each. At the October 11, 2023, Board meeting, we will have an agenda item asking the Board to approve the District Performance Review for submission to the NJDOE before our QSAC monitoring, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Our [District Assessment Calendar](#) has been posted to our district website. This document lists the standardized assessments that will be administered this year, with information about the grade participating, the testing time, the test administration window, and when results will be available. Principals sent this information home to all families. Please take a look at the district assessment calendar to be aware of when testing will take place throughout the year for your students.

Please visit the [Closter PTO website](#) for information on membership registration, the Fall Social on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Brasserie Memere, and the upcoming Trunk or Treat at the Halloween Festival on Sunday, October 29, 2023.

There will be a half-day session for students on Monday, October 9, 2023. Teachers and staff will have Professional Development in the afternoon.

Vincent Mc Hale