

Core Values

EN ROUTE

Empower. Challenge. Grow.

TIME FOR SENIOR CHATS

The Superintendent values the time he has to meet with students to collaborate and gather their insights and feedback on various topics. One of the recommendations received from seniors who graduated last spring, was to have members of the Student Council Executive Boards from both High Schools meet with the Superintendent. In their first-quarter meeting, the students discussed their interest in developing "coursework strands" that would align with a course of study for the students. Similar to a magnet school design, the students were suggesting teachers deliver the content through the lens of a specified strand with the skills embedded. (Examples of coursework strands could include, Architecture/Interior Design, Fashion Design, Entertainment Technology, Industrial Design, and Visual Communications/Web Design.)

Students also shared their experience using the tool, Naviance. This software allows students, counselors and parents to identify students' strengths through interest inventories, explore various pathways to college and take virtual tours to learn more about different professions and college majors. Students work with their counselors to set goals and track their progress. Students shared that the tool provides a good starting point to begin the conversation, but more is needed to help students maximize the benefits it has to offer.

The topic of a 9-period day was also discussed. While there would likely be cons to adding an additional period, students felt it would provide them more opportunities and options for coursework. Students shared it can be frustrating when trying to register for a course and not being able to take it because of the scheduling constraints. (e.g. cycle days, courses that only have one section.) In addition to exploring a new schedule, the students also mentioned their interest in offering after school extra-curricular options that complement the interest of the students.

Students voiced their interest in building community between the high schools. One suggestion was to coordinate common events in an effort to celebrate them jointly, as a district, rather than in isolation. (e.g. Breast Cancer Awareness.) Students felt there was strength in completing these types of challenges in tandem and it would build unity between the schools and community.

During the second-quarter meeting with the RCK and JJ Student Council members the Superintendent, Mr. Lolkema, Dr. Cardwell, and Mrs. Ruiz-Giovinazzi discussed the new course offerings recently approved by the Board of Education. The students were enthusiastic about the course offerings and provided some insight as to how they would like to see the District promote course electives in the future, including the creation of an online course catalog that would be easier to browse through than the current paper-based version.

In addition, the group reviewed the latest iteration of our District logo design. Student responses to the design were very positive and insightful.

The students have been very appreciative of Superintendent Carrion's time and the opportunity to give students a voice. These meetings will continue to happen quarterly. The next meeting will be held at John Jay High School.

*CV3:
Everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*

*CV5:
The collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBALFOUNDRIES

In the spring of 2016, District administration was invited to attend a planning event with other area school districts including Arlington, Spackenkill, and Dutchess Community College to design a meaningful partnership with GLOBALFOUNDRIES. That June, GLOBALFOUNDRIES extended an invitation to area school districts to attend the

National Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) at GLOBALFOUNDRIES in September of 2016. Arlington sent approximately eighty students. Spackenkill brought approximately twenty students. Wappingers was thrilled to have approximately 200 students from both John Jay HS, Roy C. Ketcham HS and Brinckerhoff's 6th grade. Students participated in various design challenges. These can be reviewed on our website. Students provided feedback to the Board of Education in November. This feedback led to an additional conversation between GLOBALFOUNDRIES and our teachers to honor the requests of students to be paired with a mentor in the field of engineering and have the opportunity to tour the cleanroom. We are pleased to share that both of these requests are being honored. Students from John Jay, Roy C. Ketcham, and Orchard View AHS have had the opportunity to listen to a panel of engineers share about their diverse backgrounds, the paths they took in college and how they chose

their current position at GLOBALFOUNDRIES. Students then engaged in four "speed mentoring" rounds in which groups of 2-3 students rotated to a different engineer to ask them questions about their field of engineering. Students returned to GLOBALFOUNDRIES in small groups to be paired with a mentor in a field of engineering of their choice and toured the manufacturing floor. For the remainder of the school year, students will engage in monthly online meetings to continue the conversation with their mentors.

We look forward to hearing from the students and their mentors to learn how this opportunity helped to inform and prepare them for their transition to college. The District just hosted a panel of professionals from GLOBALFOUNDRIES. These individuals took time to speak with 8th-grade students on topics including their career choice, the types of courses they felt were beneficial to their growth and development and what skills they use most in their work. The timing of their visit aligns with the electives 8th-grade students will be selecting for their freshman year in high school.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 10- No School. Superintendent's Conference Day
- March 10 & 11- Van Wyck Muscial Production & March 10, 11 & 12- RCK Musical Production
- March 13- Board of Education Meeting with Budget Presentation
- March 24 & 25- WJHS Musical Production/March 31, April 1 & 2 John Jay Musical Production

MOVING TO TWO-TIER BUS ROUTES

What Do You Need to Know?



This past November the Wappingers CSD Board of Education approved a resolution to change the start times of our schools beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. With this change in start times, the District will be able to improve student safety as well as reduce the number of transportation tiers from three

to two. The District has the potential to realize approximately \$280,000 in cost-savings with this change.

In September 2017, our Junior and Senior High Schools will run on the first transportation tier, and our Elementary Schools will all begin at the same time on the second transportation tier. This configuration will maintain separate buses for each of our schools. As a result of this change, our Junior and High School students will enter their buildings for the beginning of their school day at 7:25 a.m. and all elementary school students will enter their buildings at 8:25 a.m. The length of our school day will remain the same. The end time for our schools will be adjusted the same number of minutes as the morning arrival time. For example, students entering at 8:25 a.m. would begin loading buses for dismissal at 3:15 p.m.

The District's focus to change the start times was to improve student safety. Adjusting the start times reduces the amount of time students will be outside waiting for their bus before daylight. This change will also improve the District's ability to make weather-related delay and closing decisions, including the possibility of utilizing a three-hour delay when needed.

[Draft two-tier bus routes](#) were posted on the District website in January and an email alert was sent to notify parents that the information was available for review. If you have questions regarding the routes, please do not hesitate to email wcsd.transportation@wcsdny.org.



Continuing Education offerings available on our website by going to the red Global icon bar and clicking on Continuing Education. Click [here](#) to review the offerings.

Be sure to sign-up for [SchoolMessenger](#) to receive email alerts from your child's school and the District including the weekly [Rewind](#) for highlights of what is happening in our schools each week. (Click on the bold words above to visit these pages.)



WHAT IS IN A BRAND? A NEW LOGO for WCSD

The Wappingers Central School District has been speaking to students, staff and community members about our logo. During the 2015-2016 school year, students from John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools had the opportunity to put the skills they were learning in graphic design to real-world use as they explored what makes a brand successful.

Students developed prototypes that were presented to the Core Strategic Planning Team, the Community Communications Committee and administrators for feedback and revision ideas.

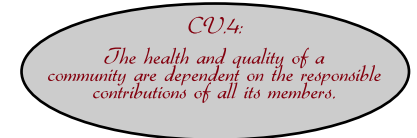


The District's current logo is a bell with the outline of a

book. Research was not able to uncover how this logo emerged, but it was adopted over thirty years ago.

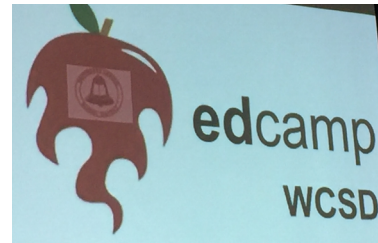
A brand needs to be recognizable without explanation. Similar to the Nike swoosh, the District wants members of our current community, as well as those visiting the area or considering moving to our District, to see our logo and recognize it as a symbol representing our District.

We are currently in the final stages of refining the logo design with a local professional graphic designer. Once finalized, the District will present the final logo to the Board of Education. The District will then begin to update our letterhead, web page and other identifying areas with the symbol of pride.



ORGANIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDCAMP WCSD STYLE

Faculty and staff throughout the District participated in professional development aligned to the District goals and objectives. On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, through the EdCamp model, numerous opportunities were available, for teachers and teaching assistants, to learn from colleagues on best practices and instructional strategies resulting in high levels of academic performance.



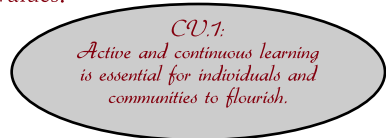
members, EdCamp has an agenda that contains the professional development topics that are generated by the participants. In alignment with the WCSD Strategic Plan, EdCamp provides an opportunity to



EdCamp is a non-traditional model of professional development designed specifically to meet the needs of teachers and other education staff members. Unlike traditional conference days in which the agenda and selection of facilitators are organized well in advance by Senior Office Staff

Plan, EdCamp provides an opportunity to

celebrate and share the talents and resources which exist within our community to foster a culture of collaboration. In addition, EdCamp empowers and motivates our teachers and teaching assistants to learn and share instructional practices that support the District's Mission and Core Values.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Core Planning Team (CPT) met this past November to check-in on our progress toward meeting the objectives of our Strategic Plan. Members of the team consisting of community members, parents, teachers, and administrators gathered to learn more about how we are addressing these goals.

For Strategy 4, the CPT learned about the success of the third EdCamp the District held in the fall. EdCamps focus on the talent within our District and provide educators time to suggest topics for discussion with their colleagues. This type of home-grown professional development allows professionals to engage in discourse, reflect on their practices, share successes and receive support in areas of expertise from their colleagues. The Human Resources Department shared an improvement to the District's antiquated application system. An online application component will be available to streamline the process for potential candidates and provide the District with the ability to recruit the most qualified candidates for the position.

For Strategy 5, the District updated the CPT on how we are working to re-brand the District. One aspect of re-branding involves the development of a logo that represents the beliefs shared in our Mission statement. Working through drafts created by our high school students, vetting the logos with various District committees, we are near a final decision. The final logo will be shared with the Board of Education and rolled out to the community in the coming weeks.

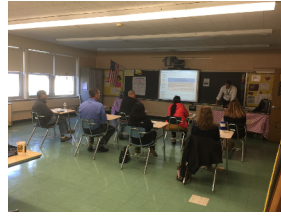
*CV2:
Embracing diversity in all its forms
enriches the human experience.*

Another part of Strategy 5 focuses on the development of community partnerships. To learn more about the work the District is doing to forge these partnerships, read the Building Community: Developing a Partnership with GLOBALFOUNDRIES article on page 1.

The District established a Community Communications Committee (CCC) comprised of community volunteers and District administration. This committee met in November to share other District Communications Plans. Time was provided to members of the committee to share ideas for improving communication in the District. The goal of the CCC will be to develop a communication plan to present to the Board of Education.



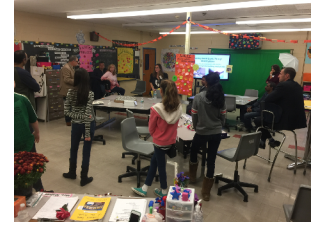
PARENT/COMMUNITY WORKSHOP EVOLVES



In continued support of the Strategic Plan and Core Value #1 (Active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish), the District held its Fall Parent/Community Workshop in



October. Those who were able to attend said the workshops were informative and extremely valuable. Parents and community members had the opportunity to attend three different sessions. Session topics ranged from understanding the new diagnostic tool, iReady, Inquiry-Based Learning, The Not-So-New Math, NYS Graduation Options, Building Equity Through Makerspaces, Instructional Technology Support for Students at Home (Grades K-12), What Does a Level 4 Look Like? and Navigating the District Website.



If you were not able to attend but are interested in reviewing the handouts provided, you can find resources from these sessions on our website.

The District continues to explore alternatives to providing these resources to our families and communities. As a result, the District is moving to a site-based model providing Parent Academies in your child's home school. Look for details in the coming months.

Budget VOTE!

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Look for information on the District website at www.wappingersschools.org

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Ron Broas, Director of Facilities and Operations, met with Rhinebeck Architecture to discuss the most beneficial way to separate the 2016 Capital Project into two phases. This decision assured the District would obtain maximum state aid. The designs of the 2016 Phase 1 projects have been approved. This work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2017:

- HS Sports Field Upgrades and Corridor Ceilings Replacement at both RCK & John Jay
- Wappingers JHS Windows
- James S. Evans ES Paving & Walks; Corridor & Stairs Floor Finishes
- Myers Corners ES Paving & Corridor Ceilings
- Kinry Road ES Paving & Walks; Cafetorium Floor
- Paving, Walks & Corridor Ceilings at Vassar Road and Gayhead ES.

Mr. Broas has been working with Rhinebeck Architecture on the design of the Phase 2 projects.

In addition, to the Phase 1 & 2 projects, we would like to highlight the following work that has been substantially completed this year:

- Main roofing areas at James S. Evans Elementary (completed)
- District-wide carbon monoxide detector project
- The Roy C. Ketcham press box (will resume in spring)
- The boring for the new sewer line near John Jay High School
- The steel for the outside overhang at the art room exterior entrance at James S. Evans (completed)
- The Board of Education approved the proposal from the Town of East Fishkill for the hook up to Town sewer to John Jay HS.
- The District is waiting for approval of Town water.

The District is mindful that the work being completed by the Town, in addition to the cold temperatures, have caused increased damage to the blacktop at John Jay. Once the major site work is completed, and the Phase 2 plans for the paving of John Jay HS is approved, the work will begin. In the

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meantime, crews are making repairs as needed.

Part of the 2016-2017 budget included significant improvements to our elementary playgrounds. The new playground equipment arrived and installation began at several of the schools. Installation will continue in the spring when the weather warms up. The new blacktop basketball court at Oak Grove was installed. The resurfacing of James S. Evans Elementary School's basketball court has also been completed.

