

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Together, We are the Champions for Children in Poughkeepsie City School District

ISSUE NO. 75 | May 9, 2025

VOLUME 6



Poughkeepsie celebrates mothers



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Each year, as spring awakens the world, we are reminded of the quiet strength and enduring love of mothers. Mother's Day invites us to pause, to reflect, and to give thanks for the women who have shaped us with gentle hands and unwavering hearts.

From our first breath, they are our guides, our first and life-long teachers, our fiercest protectors, and our constant light. In their embrace, we learn love; in their sacrifice, we see benevolence. They nurture not only our bodies, but our dreams, our character, our very sense of being.

Our mothers' love is measured in abundance, through a thousand acts of care, the early mornings, the late nights of their thoughts of us, the encouraging words, and their steady presence through life's storms. It is a love unmatched, unshakable and unparalleled.

This Sunday, let us honor that love in the most meaningful ways, with gratitude, with tenderness and with the recognition that we are who we are because of them.

~ Eric Jay Rosser, Superintendent of Schools

Mott named next superintendent

The Poughkeepsie City School District will move forward with a leader who has not only been with the district for five years but has been an integral part of several key initiatives enacted.

The Board of Education voted Wednesday to make Gregory Mott the district's next permanent superintendent on July 1, the day after Dr. Eric Jay Rosser steps down from the post at the end of this academic year. Rosser's resignation was formally accepted Wednesday.

The board had previously tabbed Mott, currently the district's assistant superintendent of elementary education, as the interim superintendent beginning July 1. The decision to give him the reins, Board President Fatimah Carmen Martinez Santiago said, is not only reflective of the work he's done in the district since arriving in August 2020, but provides much needed stability during a time of transition.

"We believe continuity and leadership are critical to protecting the gains we've made and deepening the work ahead," the board president said. "We believe Mr. Mott is prepared to meet this moment and lead our district forward."

Mott has spent nearly 30 years as an educator, most of which serving his native area of Buffalo. A graduate from SUNY Buffalo, from which he also earned a Master's degree in elementary education and a certificate in school administration and supervision, Mott served as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal and an administrator.

He joined Rosser in Poughkeepsie as the district was preparing for the first fall of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has since had a hand in several major accomplishments, including, among others:

- Helping each elementary school earn the "good standing" designation from the State Education Department for the first time in 13 years.
- Increasing grades 3-8 proficiency rates in ELA and Math.
- Identifying, adopting and implementing a research-based K-8 ELA and math curriculum.
- Leading the creation of the "Mindful Morning" literacy program, extended learning time, the dual-language program, and a plan for greater supports for English Language Learners, as well as transforming and expanding the universal pre-K program from half- to full-day.
- Assisting in the development of the Community Schools model and the 5-year Strategic Plan.

Most recently, he's spearheaded not only the Elementary Reconfiguration plan but the movement to supply bus service to most elementary students, pending voter approval May 20.

"Mr. Mott has proven himself to be the leader that we need," board member Hon. Thomas O'Neill said. "This is what I believe is in the best interests of our students, most importantly, but the district as a whole."

Mott said he was "deeply honored and humbled" to become superintendent. His focus, he said, will remain on the students and improving academic outcomes. He also thanked the board "for the vote of confidence" shown in naming him to the position.



Gregory Mott will become the district's next superintendent July 1.

Video online

Visit [the district's website](#) to watch a Gregory Mott discuss his approach to his role as superintendent and what he loves about Poughkeepsie



"This moment is not only a professional milestone, but it is a personal commitment. I accept this role with a clear sense of responsibility, purpose and gratitude," Mott said. "Our schools really are the heart of our community and we're going to put children and families first. That is going to be what you hear from me on a regular basis. Oftentimes we, as adults, have conversations about adults. But our kids are who we should be advocating for. We are an institution of learning. I think we have to keep that at the forefront." Kimberly Popken, president of the Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association, said the organization "remains steadfast in our commitment to our students and the district. We look forward to continuing our work with new leadership."

Mott, in his five years in Poughkeepsie, has fully embraced the community, and you can often find him on the Walkway Over the Hudson or at other community events. His contract in his new role begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2028. "New beginnings start today. We're going to focus on our work, we're going to build on our strengths, we're going to build on our successes and together we can do greater things than apart," Mott said. "I'm looking forward to this journey."



Gregory Mott speaks at the high school's Senior Honors Breakfast earlier this school year.

Administrative reorganization proposal

Appointing Mott superintendent was one of several changes to the district's leadership structure discussed during Wednesday's Board of Education meeting. Rosser and Mott jointly presented a proposal for reorganizing district leadership, after [last month announcing four positions would be dissolved](#) at the end of this school year. The presentation can be [found on the board's webpage](#) and the full meeting is available on [the district's YouTube page](#).

Under the portion of the plan discussed, six positions would transition to new titles with new responsibilities. They would include:

- Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education becomes Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Resource Stewardship becomes Director of Data, Assessment & Accountability
- Senior Personnel Administrator becomes Executive Director of Human Resources
- Director of Elementary Education (PK-6) becomes Director of Curriculum & Instruction (PK-12)
- Director of Teaching & Learning (PK-8) becomes Director of Teaching & Learning (PK-12)
- Director of Instructional Technology becomes Director of Technology

The goal is to enhance services and programming for students, provide building leaders and teachers with greater support and guidance, reduce district supervision costs, streamline office functions and better align responsibilities, among other benefits. Reducing costs, Rosser noted, allows for resources to be reallocated to support key initiatives like expanding extended learning and establishing elementary transportation.

The full reorganization, Rosser said, will be a two-year process. Previously, the positions of director of secondary education, executive director of community schools, supervisor of secondary education and assistant superintendent of elementary education were eliminated as part of the district's budget process. The plan presented Wednesday, which also included revised organizational charts, was only a proposal to put in front of the board. Rosser said he plans to present resolutions for the board to approve the changes at its June 4 meeting.



Ampact tutoring secured despite federal cuts

Ampact tutoring will remain in Poughkeepsie City School District buildings through the end of the year and continue into the next despite federal funding cuts that caused services to be paused for one week.

The Board of Education Wednesday approved a one-time increase to the amount the district pays for the Ampact high-impact tutoring service that will keep the program funded through Aug. 1, when the program's funding moves to a National Direct grant.

On April 25, funding for AmeriCorps' New York programs through

An Ampact tutor works with students.

the New York State Commission on National and Community Service was eliminated as part of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency's decision to cancel grants through the AmeriCorps State and National program. AmeriCorps, through its Ampact Early Learning Corps and Math Corps, partners with the district to provide high-impact tutoring to elementary students using evidence-based strategies. In all, 256 Poughkeepsie students receive Math Corps services and 90 receive Early Learning Corps services. Service to Poughkeepsie students resumed May 5 using existing funding in the district's contract with Ampact, though board approval was needed to ensure the program could be funded through the end of the year. According to Ampact data, 68% of Poughkeepsie students at the Early Learning Center taking part in the tutoring are on or above the target for numeracy for kindergarten readiness, compared to 36% in the fall, and 76% of students improved in at least three of the five skills measured by the program since the fall.

Other newsletters to keep you informed:

Poughkeepsie City School District publishes a variety of newsletters throughout the year. Here are the available newsletters: [Curriculum & Instruction Weekly](#), May 9, 2025; 7 Mindsets for [Parents](#), for [Parents \(Spanish language\)](#), for [Staff](#), April 2025; [College Readiness and Workforce Education](#), April 2025.

Upcoming events

- **May 12:** Job Recruitment Fair: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Jane Bolin administration building, 18 S. Perry St. [Visit this link](#) to set up an interview in advance and, for more information, contact the Office of Human Resources at 845-451-4900 or HROffice@poughkeepsieschools.org.
- **May 13:** Elementary Reconfiguration live informational session: 4:30 p.m., Clinton Elementary, 100 Montgomery St.
- **May 15:** Elementary Reconfiguration live informational session: 4:30 p.m., Warring Elementary, 283 Mansion St.
- **May 15:** Morse Elementary Circus: 6 p.m. at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House; tickets free; a donation of \$6 is suggested
- **May 15-16:** High School Musical Jr.: Doors open 5:45 p.m., show begins 6 p.m. both nights, at Poughkeepsie Middle School, 55 College Ave.
- **May 17:** Community Schools Spring Family Festival: Noon-3 p.m. Poughkeepsie High School track and field, 70 Forbus St.