



The BUCCANEER



**BOGOTA
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Prepared by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane - Interim Superintendent - For Parents, Students, and members of the community Sept-Oct 2017-2018

BACK TO SCHOOL

by Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

WELCOME BACK! The Bogota Board of Education is proud to announce the many fine accomplishments that took place during the 2016-2017 school year. Because of the board's dedication to the educational environment, and their commitment to the taxpayers of Bogota, we as an administration and board, along with our entire staff, have created an educational climate that promotes success in the lives of our students.

So here we go. The new school year, 2017-2018 will see the benefits of the following initiatives that were implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

Adoption of Realtime

This program is a comprehensive, all inclusive database program that coordinates student records, student scheduling, parental notifications, parent portals for accessing student progress from home, and is a comprehensive communication system between the home and the school. This program replaces several separate programs used in the past for the same purpose, and is slightly less expensive than the programs used last year.

Foundation repair at Bixby

Classroom 16 on the Chestnut Street side of Bixby has had a leaky basement for many years. A section of the floor was replaced in 2015. Last year, the source of the problem was found and corrected. Soil around the foundation was removed. Cracks were repaired in the foundation along with the installation of insulation and waterproofing materials. Inside, a section of the damaged floor was replaced with solid concrete. Problem corrected permanently!

Jr/Sr High School Gym completely renovated

The Speary Gym received a brand new maple floor, new bleachers and new mats around the perimeter. New banners of similar size and color replaced the old faded ones of varying sizes creating a neat uniform look. In addition, the entire gym was repainted white and purple.



Begins with "YEAR in REVIEW" 2016-2017 Accomplishments



Jr/Sr High School Biology Rooms.

Rooms 31 and 32 received new LED lighting, new floors, all new cabinets with counter tops, and a bright new coat of white paint. In addition, new furniture replaced the old creating a new state of

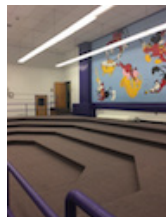
the art facility that compliments the Chemistry room that was renovated during the summer of 2016.

Jr/Sr High School Band Room.

This summer the entire space was painted bright white with new carpet installed. It had been many years since this area saw a face lift.

Jr/Sr High Weight Room.

Still in process. New rubber floor mats, new weight equipment, and a new sliding dividing door.



Choral Program Jr/Sr HS.

The Choral program at Bogota Jr/Sr High School was created in January 2017 with the hiring of Andrea Lynch. Prior to Ms. Lynch's hiring, Mrs. Hughes conducted the Chorus as an extra curricular activity. Now Chorus is a credited course and is offered during the school day.

Jr/Sr High School Creation of Usable Space.

The area behind Bogota High School was covered in grass and was not usable for student activity. Today, students now enjoy outdoor activity during lunch and gym. The area was graded with drainage installed. Decorative retaining walls were constructed and the area was paved. Twelve foot high fencing replaced the old rusted fence that was intertwined with



overgrown brush. Three basketball courts were installed along with volleyball and box ball courts. Twenty PVC tables were purchased with umbrellas so that students can enjoy outdoor dining.

NJ STATE MONITORING QSAC.

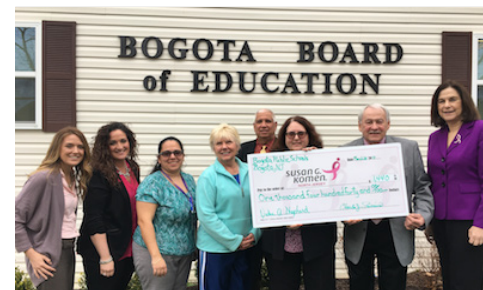
Quality Single Accountability Continuum is a periodic (MONITORING Continued on next page)

Bogota Faculty "Dress Down" raises \$1,440 for Breast Cancer 2016-2017

by Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

Faculty members of the Bogota school District agreed to donate \$20 to "dress down" on Friday's, 12:45 dismissals, and delayed openings. Dress down means faculty members were permitted to wear jeans to work. While the new dress code allows for increased comfort for the staff, the donation of \$1,440 to the Susan G. Komen foundation will provide greater comfort for those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer is not gender specific, men can also contract the disease.

The mission of the Susan G. Komen Foundation is to "save lives by meeting the most critical needs of our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer." Seventy-five percent of all donations are disseminated to local communities for education, screenings, treatment, and research. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds go to the national organization. Breast cancer mortality has decreased 38% in the United States during the time period of 1989-2014. Good news!



From L to R: Gina Fernicola-Director Susan G. Komen, Kerry Shearer-Director Susan G. Komen, Theresa Henriquez-HS, Theresa Ciccone-Steen, Dr. Varcadipane-Interim Superintendent, Vickie Ann Shepherd-Bixby, Charles Severino-Board President, & Tina Jacobs-Director Susan G. Komen



Almost completed - back paving project at HS

(MONITORING Continued from previous page)

NJ State monitoring program that evaluates NJ school districts. Bogota passed the "Program and Instruction" component in January 2017, verifying that our students are achieving academically.

Received a Silver Medal - US News and World Report for Best High Schools, ranked #68 in NJ

After School Homework Club HS.

Students have the option to seek extra help and to work in a quiet supervised environment from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 2:45 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Internet and copy machine tools are available.

Test Score Analysis

Developed by Principals.

The new HS Data Team provides an in depth analysis of student performance on the NJ PARCC Assessment. This information is shared with teachers enabling them to develop an educational strategy they employ for each individual student.

This same practice is implemented at Steen and Bixby. Their PARCC Committees are comprised of the principal, Special Ed, General Ed, and BSI teachers. PARCC Standards and question types, showing student deficiencies, are identified and used as a basis for improvement. Free extra help sessions for students are offered Mondays through Thursdays.

Introduction of District Newsletter

This edition of "The Buccaneer" represents the high level of communication between the Bogota Board of Education, Administration, staff and students, parents, and members of the Bogota school community.

Technology Innovations

The board employed a full-time Technology Coordinator who assists in all areas of technological capabilities. Now you can follow us on twitter: @BOGOTAJRSRHS. The district purchased six new Chrome Book Carts with 30 laptops for the 2017-2018 school year. Some of the monies were received from a grant at no cost to our taxpayers. Also, additional access points were installed at each school for increased internet capability. The new Bogota School District Website was introduced in January 2017.

Video Production Course created and implemented for 2017-2018.

High School Video Production teaches students editing, shooting video, script writing, public speaking, and the development of interviewing skills. Final productions will be uploaded on a new Bogota YOUTUBE channel to be announced.

The return of DECA

DECA (also known as Super Collegiate DECA on the college level, and previously known as Delta Epsilon Chi and Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an international association of high school and college students, and teachers.

The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas. It is one of ten organizations being led by a parent organization known as "CTSO" Career and Technical Student Organizations. The new course offering also includes the following courses: Marketing, Financial Literacy, and our Student Internship Program.

Creation of new

Limited Learning Disabled Class (LLD).

This program is housed at Bixby for primary students. Students attend their neighborhood schools in a "least restrictive environment." There is a huge cost savings for taxpayers (tuition, transportation) that equates to a WIN – WIN for everyone! In addition, a new bus driver was hired to transport these students saving additional monies for Bogota taxpayers.

The return of home soccer

Initiated by the administration and board last April, Boys home soccer games will now be played in Bogota saving taxpayers \$5,000. Many thanks to the Mayor and Council for spending approximately \$2,000 to fix the field. Parents and fans can now truly root for the "home team."

New sound system Jr/Sr High School

In October, the auditorium will receive a brand new wireless microphone system with speakers. This system will further enhance the sound quality during dramatic and musical performances.

Pride in Bogota Schools

All schools professionally landscaped and manicured.

Refurbished Boilers in all schools

The Farmer's Almanac is calling for a cold and snowy winter for 2017-2018. Good thing, the boilers in all the schools have been replaced or refurbished. This project will keep our students and staff warm for many years.

Permanent Business Administrator hired

Mr. Irfan Evcil comes to Bogota from Watchung Boro and the Paterson Charter School. An already improved and efficient operation will contribute to positive audit recommendations.

New fencing at Feigel Field

A new fence was installed in April behind the field house at Feigel Field. The old rusted fence with over grown brush was removed. A thank you to the DPW for cleaning out all growth and stumps and clearing the way for the new installation. Shared services at its best!

Jay Mahoney Court

In December, 2016 the Bogota High School gym floor was dedicated to Jay Mahoney who compiled over 600



BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Charles Severino-President, Patrick McHale-Vice President
Consuelo M. Carpenter, Jo-Ellen Granquist, Lisa Kohles,
Eileen Lewis, Amanda Montgomery, Jim Moore,
Kathy VanBuren

wins as the Buc's Basketball coach.

Reduced administrative costs

The superintendent and the board agreed to eliminate the positions of Director of Curriculum and Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. The current administration will absorb the workload and save the taxpayers \$165,000. There will be no decrease in services.

Asbestos abatement

Asbestos was professionally and legally abated in the boiler rooms at all schools and in the High School gym creating a safe worry-free environment.

Before



Summer 2017



Usable space construction in July 2017. Bogota HS



Raw floor