



# BOGOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prepared by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane - Interim Superintendent for Parents, Students, and members of the community NOV DEC JAN 2016-17

## T'WAS THE SEASON



HS Jazz Ensemble performs (above) and the HS Concert Band (below) Thursday, December 15, 2016



Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble were under the direction of Mr. Barry McCann. The Chorus was under the direction of Ms. Hughes.

## Court dedication ceremony held for Coach Jay Mahoney December 22, 2016

by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

It was the evening of Thursday, December 22, 2016 when the official court dedication ceremony was held for coach Jay Mahoney at Bogota High School. A legend in Bogota, Coach Mahoney has amassed 610 wins going into the game on the 22nd against Midland Park.

Coach Mahoney is a business teacher at Bogota High School of 39 plus years and he also coaches Cross Country. This year the Boys Cross Country Team finished in the sectional finals.

The Court Dedication Ceremony was coordinated by Mr. Chris Clark, a former player and an alumni from Bogota High School.

Below is a list of Coach Mahoney's numerous accomplishments.

**COACH JAY MAHONEY**  
**Bogota High School Basketball Coach**  
**1979-Present**  
**WINS: 609 LOSSES: 331**  
**64.8 Winning Percentage**  
**League Record: 443-202**  
**68.7 Winning Percentage**  
**The Record #1 Sports Story 1990**  
**The Record #2 Sports Story 1993**  
**6th Place in 1990 State Poll**  
**22nd Place in 1989 State Poll**  
**17th Place in 1993 State Poll**  
**Won 20+ Games 10 Times**  
**Won 31 Games One Time**  
**LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**  
**1983, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993,**  
**1994, 2004, 2011, 2016**  
**JAMBOREE INVITEE**  
**1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996,**  
**1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2016**  
**STATE TOURNAMENT INVITEE**  
**1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988,**  
**1989-Finalist, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995,**  
**1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004,**  
**2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013,**  
**2015, 2016**  
**STATE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS**  
**1983, 1985, 1989, 1990**  
**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS 1990**  
**GROUP ONE STATE FINALIST 1985**  
**BERGEN COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1990, 1993**  
**GROUP ONE STATE CHAMPIONS - 1990**  
**HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**  
**1984, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1997, 2006**



Coach Jay Mahoney

## State Department of Education coming to Bogota for QSAC Visit

by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent

QSAC - Quality Assurance Accountability Continuum is the name of the NJ State Department of Education's monitoring program for school districts. Every three years, NJ school districts are monitored rigorously by the state. This year is our turn.

We will be monitored in five areas: Instruction, Personnel, Governance, Operations, and Finance. Districts must maintain an 80% compliance score in order to be labeled a "High Performing District" by the state. While all five categories are important, the area of instruction concentrates on student performance, curriculum, graduation rates, and compliance areas such as professional development.

Instruction is strictly monitored by our administration. Our teachers are diligent in completing lesson plans that reflect the NJ Student Learning Standards. Curriculum mapping ensures that information asked on the PARCC is covered by the time the test is administered. Bench mark assessments and testing by the individual teachers must now reflect the types of higher order thinking skills questions that the students must be prepared to answer when taking the PARCC.

Our administrators have been extremely diligent in analyzing test scores from the 2015 PARCC administration. Scores have been compared with similar districts of our size and DFG (district factor grouping). The 2015 results from PARCC in English for 11 grade students placed Bogota at #1 of approximately 50 districts similar to ours.

Personnel from the Bergen County Superintendent's Office will conduct an on site visit on January 31, 2017. They will be reviewing policies, curriculum, facilities and they will also visit classes. There will be discussions with administration and members of the Bogota Board of Education.

## T'WAS THE SEASON Continued



Bixby Winter Concert



Steen Winter Concert  
Both the Bixby and Steen concerts were  
under the direction of Ms. Sarah Colaluca,  
Teacher of Music

## TWO NEW MUSIC TEACHERS HIRED AT JANUARY MEETING

by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane  
Interim Superintendent

After a month long search, the Bogota Board of Education appointed two new music teachers to the district at their January 17th meeting. Mr. Mike Webb will replace Ms. Murray as instrumental music teacher for both Bixby and Steen Schools. Ms. Andrea Lynch will be the new Choral Director and teacher of Music Appreciation at the Junior Senior High School.

Mike Webb is a graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelors in Music and holds a Masters Degree in Multiple Woodwind Performance from Jersey City University. Mr. Webb just finished a national tour performing with a theatre ensemble from November 2016 through December 2016. He began his tenure in Bogota on Wednesday January 18th and is eager to build the instrumental program.

Andrea Lynch will be the new Choral Director at the Jr/Sr High School. She holds a Bachelors degree from Lebanon Valley College, PA. Ms. Lynch is a vocalist and a trombonist. She will begin her tenure in Bogota on Monday, January 23, 2017.

## BOARD CONSIDERING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane Interim Superintendent

When the 2016-2017 school year began, students at the JR/SR High School attended classes in a newly renovated science lab. In the gymnasium, two new wireless scoreboards will be installed within the next month.

Some of the projects that the Board is researching include the replacement/refurbishing of boilers at all three schools. The boilers at the HS date back to 1965 when they operated on coal and oil. At Steen and Bixby, those boilers have been more recently updated (1987) and then renovated in the early 2000's.

While our students have been warm so far, maintenance personnel have been busy making repairs, fixing leaks, and opening and closing valves manually. Estimates are being gathered for proposals for scope of work. The bidding process will determine the costs for that work.

In addition, the Board is reviewing proposals for sidewalk replacement at Steen, which may be covered under a grant that the municipality may be awarded, a new gym floor at the HS and a new weight room. At the field house, the interior design needs to be reworked. This renovation will allow for the maximum efficiency of use for the space available. Also, shrubs, fencing and paint will contribute to its beautification. The snack stand is also under development.

The larger issue before the Board is the possible influx of students from the new housing development "Riverfront" project that will include construction of 421 units. Currently, the schools are out of space. If additional classrooms are needed at a grade level, there currently exists no available space, even with consideration of using the music and/or art room for classroom space and having the art/music program "on a cart" where the teacher would travel to the classroom for instruction. This solution is not ideal, but can be effective as no other alternative would be viable.

Currently faced with a lack of indoor educational space, and a gross lack of outdoor space, especially at the JR/SR high school, the district may be faced with an expansion project at some point in the future. During preliminary discussions between the Board and administration, one of the few spaces left for expansion would be the front of the High School where the board offices are located. A building along that property connecting to the left side of the high school may be the only option for a new structure.

While monies have been allocated for a driveway renovation project at the HS, the Board awaits the possibility of a grant that could fund most of the cost. But, if an expansion project is in the future, any work done from the driveway project will be destroyed with the construction of a new facility if located where the board offices currently exist. So therefore, it seems wise to wait on the driveway project until it can be determined just how many students will enter our district in the next few years.

### 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

## BOGOTA - STIGMA FREE

by Ms. Connolly, Social Worker

Bogota Public Schools were declared a "Stigma Free Zone" in April 2016. The Stigma Free Campaign is a county-wide initiative to raise awareness about mental health and to reduce the stigma associated with seeking treatment for mental health conditions. Statistics show that one in four people will experience mental illness in a given year, yet less than half of those people will seek treatment.

On November 19, 2016 the Borough of Bogota hosted a "Walk with the Mayor" in honor of this initiative. High school students that participated earned community service hours for helping to bring awareness to this cause. Leading up to the walk, Bogota Jr./Sr. High School hosted a "Stigma Free Week" where students learned about mental illness, as well as ways to maintain an emotionally healthy lifestyle. We hope by maintaining a Stigma Free school that our students will learn the importance of taking care of their mental health and that those that may be experiencing emotional difficulties find the help they need.

## ACCOLADES FOR LADY BUCS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

by Brad DiRupo, Athletic Director



The Girls Middle School Volleyball team, The Boys Cross Country Team and the Girls Volleyball Team are recognized by the Board of Education January 17, 2016. Brad DiRupo, Pat McHale and Charles Severino issue jackets to the players

The Lady Bucs Volleyball Team finished the year with a record of 28-3. Team highlights include winning the NJSIAA Group 1 State Championship at William Paterson University and the NJSIAA North Section title as well as the NJIC Patriot Division for the 12th straight year.

Individual honors go to Samantha Gioiosa who was named First Team All State (top 8 players in the state) as well as Lisbeth Suarez who was named First Team All State for Group 1. Samantha and Lisbeth also achieved the honor of being selected First Team All Bergen County.

The following players also achieved First Team All Patriot Division: Samantha Gioiosa, Lisbeth Suarez, Julia Goni and Anna Granquist.