

#### Superintendent's Week In Review Vol. 1 Issue 34: May 16, 2025



Superintendent, Aníbal Soler, Jr.

#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Families,

This week reminded me why I'm so proud to lead this district. From inspiring student projects to major community celebrations and transitions in leadership, it's clear that Yonkers Magic is alive and well and growing stronger every day.

A highlight of the week was the Board of Education who unanimously re-elected



Superintendent Soler Joins Yonkers My Sister's Keeper (MSK) Students to Celebrate MSK Day in the City of Yonkers

Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio as President and Trustee Gail Burns as Vice President. Their commitment and steady leadership continue to help us push our schools and our students forward.

I also had the opportunity to present our proposed school district budget to the Board. On Tuesday, I'll bring that same presentation to the Yonkers City Council. As always, the goal is simple: Protect the investment. Protect the progress. Protect Yonkers Public Schools.

There were some big moments of recognition across the district as well. We surprised some of our incredible educators this week with Teacher of the Year notifications – special recognition to teachers Jessica O'Neill, Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School, Tatiana Galasso, Family School 32 and Cristina Doley, Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies. And our very own Associate Superintendent Dr. Erik Wright was honored as he prepares to step into a new role as Superintendent of Wyandanch Union Free School District. We're proud of him and grateful for all he's brought to Yonkers.

Meanwhile, our schools were alive with energy. At Gorton High School, Councilmember Tasha Diaz generously donated 38 winter coats to our My Brother's Keeper students – a heartfelt reminder of how powerful community support can be.



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Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

At Lincoln High School, the Mayor and I visited a powerful student created space called Lavender Lane, a clothing and care closet started by seniors as part of their Seal of Civic Readiness project. That space represents what's best about our students – vision, empathy, and pride in making a difference.

We also joined our My Sister's Keeper chapters for the first-ever official MSK Day in Yonkers, with a proclamation from the Mayor. The "Rooted and Radiant" event was filled with joy, empowerment, and sisterhood and I left reminded of just how much strength our young women bring to our schools every day.



The Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council Met this Week to Share Input on the New York State Cell Phone Ban in School Starting Next School Year

I also had the pleasure to meet with the Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council members to discuss the statewide "bell-to-bell" cellphone ban in schools, starting with the next school year. This means students will not be allowed to use their smartphones or internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the entire school day. Students shared their perspectives on how to create a more distraction-free learning environment.

Finally, I hope you'll join us this Saturday for our District-Wide Student Art Showcase – a celebration of creativity, self-expression, and the talents that make our schools shine.

Thank you for your continued support and being part of this work.

Aníbal Soler, Jr. Superintendent of Schools

From key moments with Superintendent Soler to exciting events across our schools, Yonkers Magic was on full display. Catch up on all the highlights and celebrations happening in YPS this week!

#### **Board of Education**



Dr. Del Vecchio and Trustee Burns Re-Elected to Board Leadership

The Yonkers Board of Education unanimously re-elected Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio as President and Gail Burns as Vice President. Their steady guidance and commitment to student success continue to serve as a foundation for the District's mission of equity, excellence, and innovation.

#### **Investing in the Future**



#### Superintendent Soler Presents 2025–2026 Proposed Budget

Superintendent Soler presented his proposed budget to the Yonkers Board of Education, focusing on priorities that support academic growth, mental health, and student achievement. He will present the plan to the Yonkers City Council on Tuesday, May 20 at 1 PM at City Hall.

#UonkersMagic

#### **Community Support in Action**



**Councilmember Diaz Donates Overcoats to MBK Students** 

At a recent My Brother's Keeper event at Gorton High School, Councilmember Tasha Diaz donated 38 winter coats to support YPS students. Her generosity highlights the deep partnership between the city and our schools and the shared commitment to lifting up every child.

#### **Student Voice, Civic Pride**



Lavender Lane Initiative Recognized by Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent Soler

Inspired by a student-led article, Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent Soler visited Lavender Lane, a clothing and care closet created by seniors at Lincoln High School as part of their Seal of Civic Readiness project. The space reflects the heart and initiative of our students and the pride they take in giving back.

#YonkersMagic

#### **Rooted and Radiant**



Yonkers My Sister's Keeper Celebrates Official Proclamation Day

May 13, 2025 will forever be known as My Sister's Keeper Day in the City of Yonkers thanks to a proclamation from Mayor Mike Spano and championed by Superintendent Soler, Associate Superintendent Lissette Colón-Collins, and MSK Executive Director Madelyn Guzman. At this week's Rooted and Radiant Celebration, students lifted their voices in unity, empowerment, and sisterhood.

#### **Pathways to College**



#### Monroe University Awards 90 YPS Students Full Scholarships

At the Monroe University Presidential Partnership Reception, 90 YPS students were honored for receiving four-year full scholarships to Monroe. This partnership, rooted in the MBK framework, is transforming college access for young people of color and driving real progress in graduation rates across Yonkers.

#YonkerSMagic

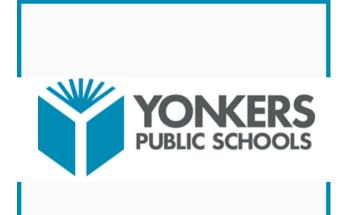
#### **A Standing Ovation**



#### Students Shine in 'A Chorus Line' Musical Production

The 1975 Broadway classic "A Chorus Line" came to life thanks to the passion and talent of students at Barack Obama School for Social Justice. With direction and mentorship from Ms. Jessica Ford, students delivered a performance full of heart, dedication, and artistry. Bravo to all who brought this show to life!

#### **Celebrating Excellence in Our Classrooms**



2024–2025 Teachers of the Year Announced

In partnership with the Yonkers Kiwanis Club and the City of Yonkers, we proudly recognize Jessica O'Neill, Tatiana Galasso, and Cristina Doley as this year's Teachers of the Year. Their dedication, passion, and impact uplift the entire Yonkers Public Schools community. Congratulations!

#YonkersMagic

#### **Upcoming Events**





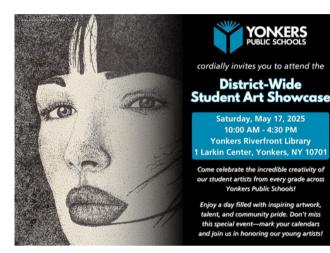




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#### Digest DISTRICT

#### **Upcoming Events**





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## District

Superintendent Soler's Week in Review Photos



# District

#### Photos From Across The District



Great Collaboration During This Week's Principals Meeting





The Lavish "Lavender Lane Boutique" @ Lincoln High School

PlantingDay @ Boyce Thompson School



Cross Hill Academy Fourth Graders Visit the Katonah Art Museum

## **YPS STUDENT ARTWORK**

