

Featuring news from:
 Folsom • Mullica Twp. • Buena
 Egg Harbor City • Waterford Twp.
 Winslow Twp. • Buena Vista Twp.
 Collings Lakes • Williamstown
 Vineland • Galloway & More!

Neighbors

The Hammonton Gazette

Budget talk and educational initiatives discussed by Folsom BOE

BY SHANIELE BROWN
 GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

FOLSOM, N.J.—On April 30, the Folsom Board of Education discussed its budget and events happening around the school, such as an unexpected lockdown earlier that day.

Business Administrator Sara Simpson led the way with a short presentation. According to Simpson, salaries are projected to increase by 2.4 percent, health benefits will rise by 5.7 percent, and dental benefits will see a zero percent increase. Simpson also updated on programs that will remain and what will be implemented.

“We’re continuing our math program, summer learning academic support after school, and we’re adding a preschool three-year-old class for next year,” she said.

The board approved the adoption of the 2024-2025 school district budget totaling \$10,196,001 to the Atlantic County Office of Education. Additionally, there will be a general fund tax levy of \$1,927,828 and a debt service tax levy of \$157,971, bring-

ing the total to \$2,085,799. “We’re looking at 10.1 million that we’re bringing in and out,” Simpson said.

According to the agenda, the state of New Jersey has appropriated 7.5 million for “Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services. Additionally, the governing body of the Folsom Board of Education will join forces with Atlantic County and the Atlantic County Sheriff’s Office to apply for a LEAP Implementation Grant for \$112,500 to provide ‘bloodhound tracking, narcotics detection, and explosive detection K-9 services when needed.’

When it comes to Curriculum and Learning, the board ensures that they make appropriate decisions that benefit the students, staff, and parents they serve. The Summer Learning Program operating from July 1 through July 25, 2024, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 am to 12 pm for an estimated cost of \$25,000 was approved. Additionally, a cost of \$7,000 was approved for the Extended

School Year Program.

The Board also addressed essential administrative tasks including resignations, job assignments, sick leave, and other personnel-related issues during the meeting. It approved the resignations of Darcie Bernard, an instructional aide, and Emily Bailey, a school nurse, effective June 30, 2024. Additionally, Emily Bailey will receive sick leave of absence for disability associated with childbirth from June 3 through June 30, 2024. The board approved the posting of the following positions for the 2024-2025: School Nurse, Special Education Teacher, and Instructional Aide. Furthermore, the board approved the adoption of Charlotte Danielson’s Framework for Teaching-2011 edition as an evaluation tool for teachers and certified staff in first through eighth grade. Also, the same framework for the 2013 instrument edition will be used as an evaluation for teachers and certified staff members in PreK and Kindergarten.

The board has approved the following contracts; a joint transportation agreement with the Greater Egg Harbor

Regional School district to provide services for one special education student to Archway Schools from March 7 through June 30, 2024, for \$5,960.92. A special tuition contract with the Burma Regional Board of Education to provide special education services for one student for the 2023-2024 school year for a total of \$17,693.

Earlier that day, Folsom Elementary experienced an unexpected lockdown. Superintendent Kevin Fricke commended the school’s staff for their exceptional efforts in ensuring the safety of the students and collaborating effectively with the state police. He emphasized that he is the designated point of contact for parents with any questions or concerns regarding their child or the school.

“If they have any questions about what went down today or any questions at any time about what’s going on at our school, I’m the only source of contact and I expect that to be honored,” Fricke said.

This article was produced in collaboration with New Jersey Civic Information Consortium and Rowan University.

EHC police report crimes

CRAIG RICHARDS
 GAZETTE PUBLISHER

EGG HARBOR CITY, N.J.—EHC Police Chief Marcella Aylwin reported the following in her April 25th City Council meeting. The EHC police responded to and/or investigated one fraud case, one stolen motor vehicle, three thefts, nine motor vehicle accidents, three pedestrians stops, 27 traffic stops, and nine summons were issued in total. EHCPD conducted 3 arrests, including one DUI. EHCPD responded to 12 business alarms, 5 residential alarms, 129 crime prevention activities, five domestic family disputes, 14 EMS incidents, 11 follow-ups, 374 property checks, and five public service calls. And that’s what we have for that.

EHCPD provided a report covering April 17 through April 24 including a total number of 756 calls for service. That report detailed the following three arrests:

On April 17, a 31-year-old male from Egg Harbor City was arrested by PO Fonville for Simple Assault-purposely caused, criminal mischief greater than \$500 and less than \$2,000, and harassment.

On April 23, a 35-year-old male from Egg Harbor City was arrested by SG Landicini and PO Fonville for Simple assault-purposely caused.

On April 24, Kurt Ohlson, 62 of Mays Landing was arrested by PO DeFee for Driving under the influence.

ACIT to hold Spring Dance on May 10

STAFF REPORT
 THE HAMMONTON GAZETTE

MAYS LANDING, N.J.—On May 10, The Atlantic County Institute of Technology Performing Arts Academy Dance and Ensemble students will take the stage to present their annual Spring Dance Concert. The students are looking forward to presenting new dance works, showcasing their creative growth and collaborative skills. Under the direction of Dance Arts educator and Hammonton resident, Lisa Zeuner, the students will present original dances that have been conceived, developed and performed by the ACIT Performing Arts Dance Academy students, alumni and Ms. Zeuner. The Spring Dance Concert will highlight the students’ artistic development, demonstrating the art of choreography in a wide range of

dance styles and forms. The ACIT Performing Arts Career Program provides the students with a foundation to discover their individuality while fostering creativity, technical growth and collaboration skills necessary to be successful in the industry.

Senior Ilana Miller will be celebrating her achievements as she performs her award-winning solo titles “For You” in the concert. “This Spring Dance Concert is our last performance as seniors. We are taking the stage for the last time and looking back into our last three years working together. We have been dedicated to this academy, collaborated hard work and all committed to performing on this stage. We have grown together as a family and now it’s time for our final concert before we

move on and say our goodbyes to ACIT. We are so proud of each other everyday. We hope our community will come out and support us. Your love and gratitude does not go unnoticed to the Dance Academy,” Miller said.

Senior Janay Smith will be performing a self-choreographed solo in the concert. “I have been part of the ACIT Dance Academy for four years and each year was an amazing experience. The concert features so many beautiful dance forms such as contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, tap, ballet, modern and more. All of the dancers are very diverse with all different shapes, sizes and ethnicities. Being a part of this concert has been a true blessing in my life. I’m surrounded by all of my wonderful friends, amazing

teacher, Ms. Zeuner and, of course, the stage crew who does an outstanding job with the lighting. We have been working hard towards creating a show that will touch the hearts of our audience and hopefully inspire some future dancers. With that being said, please come show your support at our upcoming concert on May 10 at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there,” Smith said.

The event will be held May 10 at 7 p.m. in the ACIT Performing Arts Center at 5080 Atlantic Ave., Mays Landing. Tickets are \$10 for general admission. All proceeds raised will help support the ACIT Dance Program.

For more information contact Lisa Zeuner at Lzeuner@acitech.org or (609) 625-2249.



215-244-3993

Brightening Homes Since 1985

Please
 recycle this
 paper.