

### Superintendent's Week In Review

Vol. 1 Issue 25: March 7, 2025



Superintendent, Aníbal Soler, Jr.

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## Message from Superintendent Soler

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Community,

This past week was filled with moments that remind us why we do this work – coming together to celebrate our students, advocate for our schools, and push for the resources we need to give every child the best education possible.



YPS Students Stand Alongside Mayor Mike Spano to Rally for Funding for Our Schools in Albany

One of the biggest highlights was heading up to Albany with our students, Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Council of PTAs (YCPTA) to fight for fair funding for our schools. Seeing our students stand up and make their voices heard was powerful. We are facing a \$68 million budget deficit, and we need our state leaders to step up and protect the progress we've made. I want to personally thank everyone who joined us in sounding the alarm for Yonkers Public Schools – this funding is critical to the future of our district.

Back home, we also had the chance to celebrate excellence in our schools. School 30 was recognized with Mayor Spano's School Spotlight Award for its outstanding achievements in academics, and community engagement led by Principal Michael Shapiro. Their 20% increase in Math and 18% increase in ELA scores, along with their 100% Algebra Regents pass rate, is a testament to the hard work of students, teachers, and staff. Congratulations to the School 30 community – you are setting the bar high!

I also want to take a moment to recognize Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) Communications Intern Cameron Williams, who was selected as one of the first-ever MBK Ambassadors nationwide. Cameron, a proud graduate from YPS, is part of an elite group of young leaders continuing the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) mission to uplift boys and young men of color. We are incredibly proud of him and can't wait to see the impact he makes.



### Superintendent's Week In Review

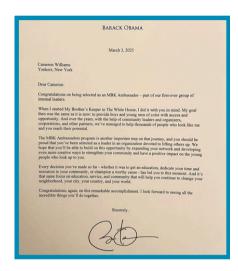
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## Message from Superintendent Soler (Continued)

Another great moment this week was meeting former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who took the time to record a special message for boys and young men of color in MBK across New York State – you can watch the full clip <a href="here">here</a>.

This week we also hosted our Principals Meeting, where our school leaders came together to focus on student success and building stronger support systems for our students.

And as we celebrate Women's History Month, I want to personally thank the incredible women who make Yonkers Public Schools the special place that it is – our teachers, principals, and larger staff who go above and beyond every day for our students. Your work does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate everything you do!



A Personally Addressed Letter From Former President Obama to Our Yonkers MBK Ambassador, Cameron Williams

A few important reminders, Interim Reports for middle and high school students (Grades 7-12) will be released next week beginning March 10th – families, please be on the lookout. Also, elementary school report cards (Grades 1-6) will be distributed beginning March 31.

Finally, a final reminder that the first-ever Wrestling Event will be happening Friday, March 14th at 5 PM at Yonkers Middle High School! Tickets are selling out so I encourage you to purchase while they are still available. Purchase your tickets <u>here</u>.

Thank you for your continued support, advocacy, and dedication to our students. We're just past the midway point of the school year, let's keep pushing forward!

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!

#### **Principals Meeting**



## Focused Leadership & Student Success

YPS Principals and Associate Superintendents came together for a highly focused discussion on student success at their Principals Meeting held at Yonkers Middle High School.

Collaboration is key to ensuring every student has the resources and support they need. Thank you to our school leaders for their hard work, shared vision, and commitment to making our schools stronger!

## Rallying NYS Legislature in Albany: Protect Yonkers Public Schools



#### **Advocating for Fair Funding**

Yonkers Public Schools students, Superintendent Soler, Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Council of PTAs (YCPTA) traveled to Albany to demand fair funding for our schools. With a \$68 million budget deficit, we need our state leaders to protect the progress we've made and ensure our schools get the support they deserve.

A huge thank you to all the students, parents, and advocates who joined us to sound the alarm for Yonkers

– this fight is far from over!

## Celebrating Yonkers Public Schools' Very Own: Cameron Williams Named First-Ever MBK Ambassador



#### A Young Leader Stepping Up to Create Real Change

We're proud to celebrate Cameron Williams, one of the first-ever MBK Ambassadors nationwide! Cameron, a YPS graduate, joins an elite group of young leaders working to close opportunity gaps for boys and young men of color.

Join us in congratulating Cameron and supporting his journey!

Learn more here: <u>Obama Foundation MBK</u>
Ambassadors

### A Message from Colin Kaepernick to MBK Students



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders

Superintendent Soler had the opportunity to meet former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who recorded a special message for boys and young men of color in MBK across New York State.

## School 30 Receives Mayor Mike Spano's School Spotlight Award



## Academic Excellence, Leadership & Community Engagement

School 30 was honored with Mayor Mike Spano's School Spotlight Award for its outstanding achievements in:

#### Academic Growth:

- 20% increase in Math and 18% increase in ELA scores
- 100% Algebra Regents pass rate for 8th-grade students

#### Student Leadership:

- Strong student-elected government
- Active MBK & MSK chapters with 60+ students

#### Community Engagement:

- Newcomers Program supporting Spanish and Arabic-speaking families
- Partnership with Sarah Lawrence College to support academics

Congratulations to School 30 for setting a high standard for excellence!

#### **Honoring Women in YPS**



#### **Celebrating Women's History Month**

March is Women's History Month, and we want to take a moment to honor and celebrate the incredible women who work across Yonkers Public Schools. From teachers and principals to administrators, and all other support staff, the impact of women in our schools is immeasurable. We also celebrate Yonkers My Sister's Keeper, whose recent event brought together inspiring women in our community to empower and uplift one another.

Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to our students – you help shape the future every single day!

## Superintendent Soler Attends National Superintendent's Conference



#### Collaborative Conversations on Innovation and Student Success

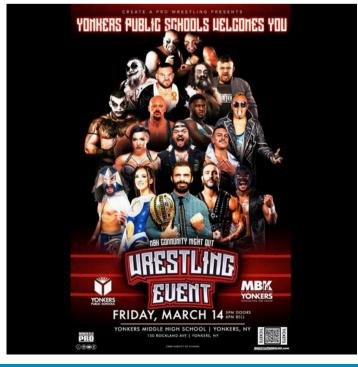
Superintendent Soler attended the National Superintendents Conference, engaging with educational leaders from across the country to discuss the future of education. The conference highlighted innovative strategies and the importance of equity in shaping the next generation of learners.

He is pictured with Dr. Alex Marrero, Denver Public Schools Superintendent (center), and Dr. Ray Sanchez, Superintendent of Tarrytown School District (right)

### **Upcoming YPS Events**







## Upcoming Events Hosted by the Yonkers Public Library







**Saturday, March 8** 10 am-1 pm, Community Room



Get information about the different types of summer camps for your children!
These are some of the summer camps that will be here:

- Yonkers Department of Recreation
- YWCA of Yonkers
- Acres of Adventure Summer Camp
- Thespian Arts Program ...and many more!

For more information, visit ypl.org/campfair, call the library at 914-375-7966 or e-mail ehowell@ypl.org"



# District

## Photos From Across The District





## Photos From Across The District



## YPS STUDENT ARTWORK

