

Dr. Walter F. Robinson Community School Student Council

Mr. Jim Coe - Advisor

“Meet the Leaders” Series

At Dr. Walter F. Robinson Community School, the Student Council has recently started an initiative wherein we reached out to government leaders and invite them to our Student Council meetings for lunch. We started with a direct mail campaign and followed up with subsequent phone calls. The response has been overwhelmingly positive - it does not hurt that this is the middle of two bitter election seasons.

Attached are the list of leaders we decided to invite to our school, the letter we sent to them, and the itinerary that we have used for the hour-long lunch meeting. The first page listed our local leaders - leaders who will obviously change for each school. The formal invite as blank space left at the top for our school's letterhead. And our final page is the itinerary that seems to have worked best for our meetings.

We encourage others to reach out to your leaders and help foster creative discussion with them. At Robinson Community School, we are trying to build a bridge between our students, leaders, and the larger community. We hope that the effects are as positive for you as they have been for us.

Regards,

Jim Coe

Student Council Advisor

Possible Politicians to Invite:

- Mayor - Jimmy Davis
- Council President & Council Member At-Large - Sharon Ashe-Nadrowski
- 1st Ward Council Member - Thomas Cotter
- 2nd Ward Council Member - Salvatore Gullace
- 3rd Ward Council Member - Gary LaPelusa, Sr.
- Council Member At-Large - Juan M. Perez
- New Jersey State Senator - Sandra B. Cunningham
- Assemblyman - Nicholas Chiaravalloti
- Assemblywoman - Angela V. McKnight
- Hudson County Executive - Thomas DeGise
- Freeholder - Kenneth Kopacz
- Bayonne Board of Education President, Joseph Broderick
- Bayonne Board of Education Vice President, Denis F. Wilbeck
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Carol Cruden, R.N.
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Mary Jane Desmond
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Ava J. Finnerty
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Theodore Garelick
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Mikel Lawandy
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Christopher Munoz
- Bayonne Board of Education Member, Charles Ryan
- Bayonne Board of Education Secretary, Dr. Gary Maita
- Mitchell L. Pascual, Esq., Board Counsel, Bayonne Board of Education
- U.S. Representative - Albio Sires
- U.S. Representative - Donald Payne, Jr.
- U.S. Senator - Cory Booker
- U.S. Senator - Robert Menendez

Potential Questions:

- What does your job entail?
- What is your favorite part of your job?
- When did you realize you wanted to enter politics?
- Did you run for/were you elected to your school's student council?
- How can we use Student Council to prepare for a potential life in politics?
- What can students at Robinson School do to make your job easier?
- Are there any initiatives that you can suggest we try to start here at Robinson School?

Mayor James Davis
630 Avenue C
Bayonne, NJ 07002

January 31, 2017

Dear Mayor Davis,

On behalf of the Dr. Walter F. Robinson Community School Student Council, we would like to formally invite you to attend and speak at one of our meetings. Among the many initiatives being pushed forward by the Common Core State Standards are the always-important Career Ready Practices. We feel that the Student Council is uniquely designed to be able to offer students an advantage with a number of these Career Ready Practices, specifically:

- CRP1 - Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee
- CRP5 - Consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions
- CRP8 - Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- CRP9 - Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management
- CRP12 - Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence

In a concerted effort to help develop college- and career-ready students, we are reaching out to government officials to speak with our Student Council members and help them discover ways to augment these CRPs even at this age.

Our Student Council meetings are generally held on alternating Tuesdays at lunch from 12:15-12:55. If possible, could we schedule a date for you to come, speak with our students, and join us all for lunch? We and the students would greatly appreciate the opportunity to hear from you on any number of issues, as well as to ask you questions about your life and interest in government. Sample questions we would ask of you are as follows:

- What does your job entail? What is your favorite part of your job?
- What significant issue(s) are you currently working to resolve?
- When did you realize you wanted to enter politics/government? Did you run for student council?
- How can we use Student Council to prepare for a potential life in politics/government?
- How can Robinson students make your job easier? What initiatives can we start at Robinson School?

Additionally, we welcome any topics that you might care to propose and discuss with the students.

We thank you, in advance, for your kind consideration of this matter. Education is the best foundation of a dedicated, knowledgeable citizenry. With your help, we look forward to helping the students of Bayonne become a more informed and well-rounded group of citizens. We will follow-up with your office in the coming days and weeks to see if a lunch appointment is possible. If, however, you prefer to reach out to us beforehand, our email addresses are jcoe@bboed.org and snajmi@bboed.org. Additionally, our school's telephone number is 201-858-5964. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Coe and Sheila Najmi
Student Council Advisors

Meet the Leaders Itinerary

2016-2017

Location: Dr. Walter F. Robinson Community School Library

Estimated Timeline of Events:

- **12:00 - 12:10** - Students file in, take their seats.
- **12:10 - 12:15** - Mr. Coe briefly introduces the Leader with a short biographical blurb from their website.
- **12:15 - 12:20** - Leader makes brief introductory remarks. Elaborating on anything Mr. Coe did not mention that they would like to relate to the Student Council.
- **12:20 - 12:45** - Student Council members ask the Leader their questions and engage with a conversation with her or him.
- **12:45 - 12:50** - Student Council members take photos with the Leader.
- **12:50 - 1:00** - Student Council members and Leader enjoy pizza and drinks and have casual, informal conversations.

Needs:

- Pizza for 21 Student Council Members, 2 Advisors, 1 Leader, and any additional attendees.
- Drinks for 21 Student Council Members, 2 Advisors, 1 Leader, and any additional attendees.
- Library set up in a U, or horseshoe shape.