

From Dr. Jonathan Brice, Chairman of the Task Force

Task Force on Reducing Violence in the Lives of Children and Youth in New Rochelle Issues Final Report

22 recommendations include updates to school district policies and school code of conduct

Task Force provides more student-focused programming, and improved guidance on how to support at risk students' emotional and behavioral needs

May 25, 2018

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. – The Task Force on Reducing Violence in the Lives of Children and Youth in New Rochelle has completed its work with the release of a report detailing 22 recommendations for creating a stronger sense of well-being among children and youth in the New Rochelle community.

Please visit the City School District of New Rochelle website (www.nred.org) to view or download a copy of the recommendations report.

There will be media availability at 12:30 today for Dr. Jonathan Brice, Chairman of the Task Force. Please call 845-576-2245 to interview Dr. Brice.

The report will be formally presented to the School District Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. on May 30 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 515 North Ave. The recommendations cover four areas: the City School District of New Rochelle; New Rochelle High School; the City of New Rochelle; and Community Resources.

The recommendations include creating a modified open campus for New Rochelle High School, an update of School District policies, outline in the Student Code of Conduct showing when police involvement is required and an investment in more student-focused programming that includes diversion programs and peer mediation. The recommendations also cover diverse topics such as socio-emotional learning, training on health and wellness strategies such as mindfulness, restorative justice, implicit bias, and cultural competence, access for more students to higher-level courses, community-based mental health services and youth engagement opportunities created by the city in conjunction with developers.

The members of the Task Force worked intently to develop the recommendations but found one recommendation difficult to reach accord, the assigning of an armed School Resource Officer to

New Rochelle High School. Ultimately, the recommendation is being made to hire an armed, trained SRO for the high school with a memorandum of understanding that clarifies which types of actions are matters for administrators to handle and which will require police involvement.

“The real power in the recommendations lies in a collaborative approach to implementing the strategies across organizations throughout the community,” said Dr. Jonathan Brice, Chairman of the Task Force. “The presentation of the formal recommendations report will begin the broader discussion about how to support children and youth and prevent and address issues of violence they may experience in the New Rochelle community.”