An Interview with New Superintendent Dr. Laura Feijoo

By Daviel Shulman

1. Had you always wanted to work in the field of education? Did you start off as a classroom teacher?

I have wanted to be a teacher since childhood. Children pretend to be many things when they are younger, and this one just naturally stuck! When I first went to college I was told to explore more than one possible major, so I began a concentration in business. When my counselor asked me what kind of business I wanted to go into, I just couldn’t answer. It was then that I realized that I would never stray from a career in education, which had excited me for so many years, so I switched colleges and have been in education ever since. From my years teaching middle school, to my first position as principal, to my years in administration, it has been a wonderful journey!

2. What inspired you to become an administrator?

When you are in the classroom, you do not only teach, you learn. I saw what could be better and knew that administration was the path to making the changes I envisioned. I joined the School Leadership Team, went to curriculum conferences, and helped with new initiatives, like creating the student handbook. This inspired me to go back to school and get my certification to be a school leader. From there, I worked in a series of roles with schools - Assistant principal, principal, superintendent, all of which led me to my exciting new position at New Rochelle.

3. What challenges do you anticipate as superintendent of the New Rochelle schools?

Although I have had a long and successful path in education, that is no substitute for the trust that is established by sitting down with the individuals who comprise the community to share concerns and ideas for a better tomorrow. I am looking forward to spending quality time with students, teachers and parents to learn more about all of the things that make our schools great, and about those things that can be better. Ultimately, it comes down to facilitating an environment where students’ hopes for the future can become a reality.

“There are so many great things about New Rochelle Schools…”

- Dr. Laura Feijoo
4. What do you most look forward to doing as superintendent of the New Rochelle schools?

I am excited for the people of New Rochelle to get to know me. There are so many great things about New Rochelle Schools, such as the robust academic program, interesting opportunities in the arts, and a strong sports program. There are also concerns that have been raised including safety, suspensions and opportunities for all students. I want to take my first few months to really get to know every aspect of the New Rochelle School District, the community and the great educators in the district so that I can create a plan of action that meets the high standards this community deserves.

5. What were your favorite subjects when you were in school? Can you share a fun fact most people do not know about you?

My favorite subject in school was definitely social studies. I love the idea of hearing true stories about other times, places and people. I think it was also because I had a few great teachers! This brings me to my fun fact: I love to travel! I have been on 6 of the 7 continents and have visited approximately 25 countries. I travel as a historian and a school enthusiast. I am always looking for opportunities to connect with local people to understand their world view. My family rolls their eyes when they travel with me because it is exhausting. I want to see every corner of every place, so I have them up from dusk to dawn exploring.
Summer 2019 Highlights
By Daviel Schulman

Q: What was the highlight of your summer?

A: Vacationing on the Cayman Island beaches with my family and relaxing
-Isabel Camara, Junior

A: Going on vacation with family and friends, and becoming an adjunct instructor for Syracuse University
-Ms. Alvarez, Math teacher

A: Working in a lab, because it prepared me for my future and was based on my interests
-Akshara Koottala, Junior

A: Reading really great literature and having adventures traveling with my family
-Ms. Kopstein, English teacher

A: Going to Spain to see other parts of the world
-Nora Shefferman, Junior

A: Seeing family I haven’t seen in a long time
-Anthony Baker, Junior
Boys Soccer Team Kicks Off New School Year
By Alex Streinger

After a tough end to a mostly good season in 2018, the New Rochelle High School Varsity Boys Soccer team has adjusted well without key players who moved on to college soccer. The team has had a good start to the new season with a roster full of first-year players. They began this season with a record of three wins, one loss, and two ties while scoring five goals and conceding only two goals, in big part because of Jake Sadow, one of the team’s captains and part of Lohud’s Elite 11. The goalkeeper has played in four of the five games so far, and has not conceded a goal yet. He even saved a penalty against Ossining as part of a one to zero victory. Connor Burke, a big part of the team’s strong start, has been senior midfielder and part of the varsity team for two years now.

Another one of the team’s captains said this about the start: “We have had a strong start but definitely not the best. The one game we lost, three captains did not play, including our star goalkeeper. The draws are frustrating because we went to double overtime in both of those games, and during that period we were the better team and had chances to win, but we were just unlucky. As for our other games, they all have been very competitive. We have been confident through the first six games, and our confidence will only grow as the season continues.”

The support of the fans has impacted the players a lot, especially their performance on the field. One of the new players to the team, junior forward Manuel Sosa, said this about the impact of students showing up to support the team: “Their presence makes it feel like we have twelve players on the field.” Another newcomer, junior midfielder Santiago Diaz, added: “I love our fan section because when I hear how excited and loud they are, it motivates me to try harder and play better.” They have a tough road ahead, but our boys soccer team is ready for the challenges that await them and are favorites to win their division this year.
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