

A woman with curly hair, wearing a black hat and a dark jacket over a red top, is pointing her right hand forward. The background is a bright, out-of-focus interior space.

# THE FIRST 100 DAYS: RISING TOGETHER TO CHANGE LIVES IN ONE GENERATION



**“I am filled with **gratitude** and **pride** as I reflect on my first 100-days as the Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools. Together with our community, we are supporting a new generation of learners so that each student can reach their full potential.”**

I am most proud of my efforts to listen to and collaborate with our community and district partners, including parents, staff members and students, to ensure Bridgeport Public Schools is a destination district where students grow and thrive.

Dr. Carmela M. Levy-David

# RIISING **TOGETHER**

With 37 schools and 19,500 students, Bridgeport Public Schools is the second-largest district in the state of Connecticut. While we are culturally and ethnically diverse, we are united in support of our students.

I look forward to our continued work together, focusing on the following priorities:

## **DISTRICT PRIORITIES**

1. Building Teacher Capacity
2. Culturally Responsive Instruction
3. Guaranteeing Tier 1 instruction while closing the gaps in every classroom

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY**

1. Special Education
2. Early Childhood
3. Sheltered Instruction

## **THE FIRST 100 DAYS - ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



### **INSTRUCTION**

- Defined instructional priorities that will be focus of first 24 months
- Introduced Literacy and Math Directors to improve essential academic programs, ensuring a strong focus on tier-one instruction
- Initiated a process to revitalize magnet programs throughout the district, while moving our students closer to becoming competitive in a 21st century global economy



### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Redesigned how we share district information, messages, and priorities
- Embraced social media platforms and introduced weekly summaries of activities and accomplishments
- Initiated a learning and listening tour to gain greater understanding of community and stakeholder needs





## PARTNERSHIPS

- Reestablished strong partnerships with City of Bridgeport officials, other locally-elected officials, and legislators committed to supporting effective leadership and strong schools
- Built partnerships with corporations and organizations that will yield apprenticeships, scholarships and future employment for Bridgeport graduates
- Secured STEM labs for all schools in partnership with the Cal Ripken Foundation and the Allan Wallack Foundation
- Built bridges with all local colleges and universities to increase access for students and public school personnel
- Partnered with local officials to launch Bridgeport Promise, a program that will secure college pathways and readiness for Bridgeport students and the opportunity to transform their family trajectories within one generation
- Established partnerships with outstanding superintendents within the state of Connecticut and beyond



## STAFFING AND ORGANIZATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Successfully negotiated a four-year teaching contract that will retain talented educators while ensuring compensation remains in step with the cost of living increases
- Introduced Interim Deputy Superintendent Dr. Royce Avery, who brings valuable experience to our leadership team and has a proven track record in transforming struggling school districts
- Expanded leadership team to include Dr. Albert Sackey as Assistant Superintendent for Social Emotional Learning, Comprehensive Health, and Student Affairs, emphasizing commitment to the holistic well-being of our students
- Reestablished the Athletic Director position, recognizing the pivotal role athletics plays in fostering student health, teamwork, and school spirit

**RIISING TOGETHER  
TO CHANGE LIVES  
IN ONE GENERATION**

# AT A GLANCE - HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH\*

*This list is not comprehensive and includes a sampling of activities and meetings by month.*

## AUGUST 2023

### School Visited

- Interdistrict Discovery Magnet
- John Winthrop School
- JFK Campus
- Edison School
- Luis Munoz Marin School
- Harding High School
- Bassick High School
- Tisdale School
- Cesar A. Batalla School
- Geraldine Johnson School
- Classical Studies Magnet Academy
- Barnum School
- Waltersville School
- Blackham School
- Edison School
- Hall School

### Meetings

- Individual Board members
- Unions
- Mayor Joseph P. Ganim
- Filling in the Blanks
- Dr. Charles Dumais, CES
- Wakeman North End Boys & Girls Club Director Carlos Collazo
- Executive Cabinet
- School Health Nurses
- New Principals and Assistant Principals
- Bridgeport Delegation of Elected Officials
- City Communications Director Tia Josef
- Chief of Police Roderick Porter

### Events Attended

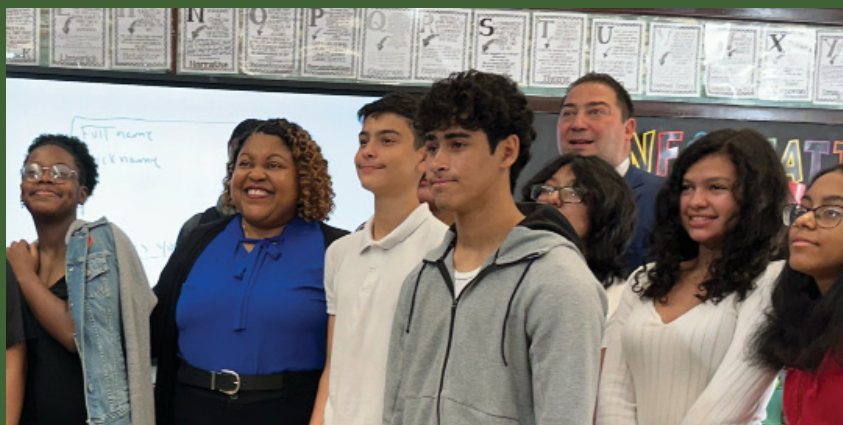
- Mayor Ganim's Employee Appreciation Day
- New Teacher Orientation Breakfast
- School Administrators Professional Development
- Convocation – "Rising Together"
- Meet and Greet with Elected Officials
- Meet and Greet with Religious Leaders
- Meet and Greet with Community Leaders and Stakeholders
- Press Conference for New Bassick High School
- Parent Leaders
- Back to School Block Party at Johnson School
- Meet and Greet/Q&A hosted by Democratic Town Committee and NRZ
- Right to Read Professional Learning Event
- Barnum Festival: New Ring Master Announcement

### Media Interviews

- WICC 600 Melissa in the Morning
- Video Conference with News 12 Richard Chumney
- News 12 Interview with Tom Krosnowski







## SEPTEMBER 2023

### Schools Visited

- Central High School
- Aquaculture School
- Bassick High School
- New Bassick High School Site

### Meetings

- NAACP President Dr. Valbrun and Executive members
- Hall Neighborhood and Cal Ripken Foundation regarding STEM Centers
- University of Bridgeport President Dr. Danielle Wilken
- Mayoral Staff Regarding Bridgeport Promise
- Yolande Ford from United Way
- Cardinal Shehan Center Executive Director Lorraine Gibbons
- City of Bridgeport's Chief Administrative Officer

### Events Attended

- Board Workshop with McPherson and Jacobson, LLC
- 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony
- Bridgeport Lighthouse Department's Healthy Kids Day
- Dominican American Coalition and the Hispanic Heritage Committee Meet and Greet and Q&A
- Bassick High School Soccer Opening Game
- Commissioner Network Meeting at Bassick
- Alan Wallack STEM Center Ribbon Cutting
- Southern Fairfield County Superintendent Association Meeting
- 2023 Fall Alliance District Symposium

### Media Interviews

- News 12 Interview at Aquaculture School with Frank Recchia



# AT A GLANCE - HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH\*

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## OCTOBER 2023

### Schools Visited

- Harding High School
- Fairchild Wheeler Campus
- Skane School
- Interdistrict Discovery Magnet
- Blackham School
- Beardsley School
- Central High School
- Aquaculture School

### Meetings

- Goodwin College
- State Rep. Jeff Currey
- Dr. McCready & Dr. Rohn: UCONN Teacher Focus Group
- Karen A. Daly, CEO Optimus Health Care
- Field of Dreams Foundation
- Pierre D'Haiti regarding Haitian representation in Bridgeport Public Schools
- Senator Dr. Gaston
- Dr. Dolores Garcia-Blocker, TFA Teacher for America
- Herman Olivera, Grand Canyon University
- Megan McMahon, K12 Facilities Forum
- Don Wilson, Bridgeport Sports Academy
- John Curtis
- Dr. Lynda Perez-Venero Naimoli
- Faith Villegas, Bridgeport Public Education Fund
- Eric Torres, Elevate Bridgeport
- Sacred Heart University Residency Program

### Events Attended

- Make the Road Community Forum
- School Clerical Back to School Gathering
- Miyawaki Forrest at Blackham
- Beardsley School Back to School Picnic
- BPS Debate League Welcome/Orientation
- Marine Band
- Bridgeport's Principals Appreciation Day
- Yanelly Espinal's Book Tour at Harding High School
- Bridgeport Sports Academy - Sports and Educational Summit
- Southern Fairfield County Superintendent Association Meeting
- Arthur Miller Foundation Event at Martel Restaurant
- BEA & CEA Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month
- Doll House Play at the Regina Quick Center for the Arts
- Elevate's Annual Fundraiser

### Media Interviews

- News 12 Interview regarding New Teachers Contract
- CT Post Interview with Richard Chumney







## NOVEMBER 2023

### Schools Visited

- Fairchild Wheeler Campus

### Meetings

- Bob Berchem, Berchem and Moses
- CSDE BOY Monitoring Meeting
- Dr. Manuel Gomez, CEO of CT State Community College, Housatonic Campus
- Lisa Hammersley
- UB Partnership Meeting
- Pre-K Partnership Meeting
- Dr. Monette Ferguson, Alliance For Community Empowerment, Inc.
- Professor Rene Roselle from Sacred Heart
- Teressa Wilson, VIP

### Events Attended

- Wakeman Boys & Girls Club Community Distribution Event
- RELAY - Professional Education partnership with Bridgeport
- K12 Facilities Forum – Conference
- Executive Cabinet & Directors Retreat
- Superintendent's Thanksgiving Dinner with Custodians, Paraprofessionals, Security, IT, Nutrition, Nurses and SRO's
- CABA/CAPPS Convention
- Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents
- Tour of Facilities Department Headquarters

## DECEMBER 2023

### Schools Visited

- Black Rock School
- Bridgeport Military Academy
- Central High School
- Fairchild Wheeler Campus

### Meetings

- Commissioners Network Meeting
- New Board Members
- Executive Leadership Advisory Council for K12
- Captain Grech and Sergeant Parks regarding Security
- Leonard Lockhart
- Christine Seigel, Fairchild University Provost
- Southern Fairfield County Superintendents Association

### Events Attended

- Elected Officials Swearing in Ceremony
- Legislative Breakfast
- Adult Education Multicultural Fest
- VIP Annual Kwanzaa Celebration
- Leadership Greater Bridgeport Education Day
- Data Management/IT Department Holiday Party
- Adopt a Senior Citizen

### Media Interview

- Interview with Black Rock Student Reports

# AT A GLANCE - HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH\*

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## JANUARY 2024

### Schools Visited

- Blackham School
- Roosevelt School
- Dunbar School
- Park City Magnet
- Wilbur Cross School
- Hallen School

### Meetings

- Dr. Geff Lablanc, Arthur Miller Foundation

### Events Attended

- Teachers Q&A with Superintendent
- Student Board Representative Retreat
- Superintendent & Mayor Rides School Bus
- 3 Kings Day Celebration
- Facebook Live with the Mayor
- Adult Education Q&A
- Spring Virtual Convocation
- Central Magnet Q&A with the Superintendent

### Media Interview

- Frank Recchia - News 12: Interview on Mental Health Awareness

## 2024 IS OFF TO A POSITIVE START!

In January, Bridgeport Public Schools launched a new mental health initiative to support students and staff. Dr. Levy-David participated in an interview with News 12 to share more about the important work underway.



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In Bridgeport Public Schools, ALL district employees are critical to student success. I am especially proud of district-wide events held this fall to build unity among all staff and create a positive culture where employees feel valued and appreciated.

- Kicked off the 2023-24 school year with positive energy and enthusiasm during convocation event at Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater
- Held Superintendent's Thanksgiving Dinner, in recognition and appreciation of staff and their contributions to support student success

As I look beyond my first 100 days, I look forward to visiting every campus within Bridgeport Public Schools and partnering with our community to help our students reach their full potential!



# THE FIRST 100 DAYS