

# A day on the dais for Little Ferry students

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BY MARK KRULISH

STAFF WRITER

LITTLE FERRY LOCAL

**LITTLE FERRY** - A group of eight [Little Ferry](#) eighth graders stepped out of their role as students and citizens and into the shoes of their elected officials at the annual "Mayor for a Day" council meeting. This opportunity gave them a chance to experience what it is like to run a Mayor and Council meeting and help make decisions that will shape the future of their community.

The meeting was led by Alex Severino, serving as the substitute mayor for Mauro Raguseo. Stepping in for the councilmen and councilwomen were Allison Pasechnick, Ariana Zeppetelli, Daniela Moreano, Kayla Paragian, Lacey Schuck and Alyssa Flowers. Dante Capurso served as the counterpart to the Borough Administrator.

"It's not as easy as they make it seem after seeing what they go through every day," said Severino. "But, I got to learn the workings of democracy in a small community, and how all citizens can shape our country."

After taking the Oath of Office from Borough Attorney Joseph Monaghan, the students passed several resolutions and heard a presentation on the proposed ordinance to ban smoking in [Little Ferry](#) public parks as well as public commentary on the borough's \$15 million budget.

"The dedication and the hard work that they put in is amazing," said Moreano, who took councilman George Muller's place. "You really need to consider how much work these people put in to our community. It helped me realize how much they help the community and I would love to be a part of it, too."

Each student also presented a report prepared by their counterpart to be read at the meeting.

"I realized tonight how much work they put into their reports for these meetings and how much they affect our community," said Pasechnick, who served as Council President for the meeting.

It was also a family affair for one member of the council with eighth grader Lacey Schuck taking the place of her mother, Councilwoman Sue Schuck.

"She talks about the meetings with my dad all the time," said the younger

Schuck. "I got to see her side of things and it was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed being a part of a meeting and learning about how they run."

All of the students involved certainly seemed to take something away from the experience of making decisions that will affect all citizens and ensuring that every department runs properly.

"There is so much hard work put in by them," said Flowers. "I guess you could say they have a lot of courage for doing all of the work that they do and I thank them for all of the hard work that they do for [Little Ferry](#). It was amazing just seeing what they do in their meetings and getting to act as one of them. It was phenomenal."

Once all business was taken care of, Raguseo brought the meeting to a close and the Town Council declared it official.

"I thought that this was a great event," said Raguseo. "This was a great group of students, I have no doubt in my mind that they will be successful in anything they choose to do in the future. I think they learned something at this meeting, and hopefully they took away that we should all do our part to serve the community, whether its as an elected official or a volunteer. I have no doubt in my mind that these students will continue to give back to their community as they move on to high school, college and beyond. It's a great group of kids."

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