

**Synopsis of  
Westfield Board of Education Meeting on February 26, 2019  
By Superintendent Margaret Dolan**



The Board approved the appointment of Robert Garrison to replace Charles Ostroff and Brian Morrissey to replace Lynn Benner to the Board of Education from February 26 to December 31, 2019. Mrs. Benner and Mr. Ostroff resigned last month. Board President Peggy Oster thanked the 16 applicants whose many talents and skills made the decision challenging. Board Attorney Richard Kaplow swore in Mr. Garrison, who previously served on the Board from 2015 to 2018. Mrs. Oster noted that Mr. Morrissey would join the Board once required paperwork has cleared. We look forward to working with both of them.

During the summer of 2017, the district began installing solar panels at Westfield High School, Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools and Tamaques and Wilson Elementary Schools. We now have a way to illustrate the positive impact this renewable energy source has on our environment and our district, which I demonstrated at the Board meeting. On the district website at [www.westfieldnj12.org](http://www.westfieldnj12.org), choose the “Departments” tab, click on “Business Office” and then the “Facilities” page. There you will find individual links for each of our solar-capable schools providing a real-time overview of the environmental impact. Using solar power translates into an annual energy savings of approximately \$100,000 to our district. I encourage you to visit the Business Facilities page on our website to explore this glimpse into our solar panel initiative.

On behalf of the entire Board, Mrs. Oster congratulated Business Administrator Dana Sullivan as one of only four BAs statewide to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO). Mrs. Sullivan has served as BA/Board Secretary for Westfield Public Schools since 2012. Before coming here, she served in the same role for Montclair Public Schools from 1997 to 2012. She currently serves as the Chairman of the Education Committee for NJASBO and as a trustee for the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG), a joint insurance fund provided to member school districts. In commending Mrs. Sullivan for this prestigious recognition, Mrs. Oster praised her as “a consummate professional” and thanked her for her sound and seasoned guidance.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### 2019-2020 Budget

Mrs. Sullivan presented [a report](#) on the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year. She noted that a workshop was held in December 2018 to develop a Guiding Change Document to set parameters for the budget, resulting in these priorities:

- Maintain class sizes within policy guidelines
- Maintain funding for:
  - Recently approved courses
  - School Resource Officers
- Provide funding for:
  - Health and Wellness Coordinator
  - Recess requirements
- Maintain fund balance at 2%
- Stay within 2% CAP plus eligible waivers

The increase to the operating budget is estimated at \$3,182,464.

• Increase in salaries	\$1,403,193
• Increase in health insurance	\$1,676,270
• Increase of 1.0 health and wellness coordinator	\$ 67,000
• Increase of 2.1 teachers at elementary level for enrollment	\$ 141,726
• Decrease in other areas of budget	<u>\$ (105,725)</u>
Total Increase	\$3,182,464

Mrs. Sullivan outlined areas of cost containment including:

- Self insured medical and RX plans
- Coordinated transportation to out-of-district placements
- Cooperative purchasing
- Solar panels on five schools
- Shared services with Town of Westfield
- In-district Special Education programs
- Reduction in Workers Compensation claims and costs

In a chart comparing similar school districts, it was again pointed out that Westfield's cost per pupil is on the lower range and less than the state average as well.

Mrs. Sullivan noted that once state aid information is received from the State, the Board will adjust the 2019-2020 budget, if necessary, before tentative approval on March 12 and submission to the County Superintendent before the March 20 deadline. She stated that the County has a month to review the tentative budget before the district holds a public hearing at the April 30 Board meeting. Mrs. Sullivan also noted that the original date of April 23 for the Board meeting was moved to April 30 to meet state timelines.

Mrs. Oster thanked us for putting together a fiscally responsible budget while maintaining an excellent school district.

## **PERSONNEL**

The Board accepted with regret the retirement of Jefferson music teacher Wendy Woodfield whose last day will be June 30, 2019. For over 31 years, Ms. Woodfield has been a music teacher who challenges our students to do their best. We certainly wish her well in her retirement.

## **FACILITIES**

Facilities Committee Chair Gretchan Ohlig reported that preliminary work on the Kehler Stadium renovation continues with the dismantling of the blacktop surface and some masonry work. Ms. Ohlig noted the Finance agenda items to award a contract for the toilet room and lobby renovations at Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools and Westfield High School and to approve rebidding the interior door replacement project at each of those schools. The Board approved both agenda items.

In answer to a question by Board Member Kent Diamond, Mrs. Sullivan said the rebidding of the interior door replacements is not expected to affect its completion timeline.

## **POLICIES**

The Board approved for second reading the following policies:

- 8420 Emergency and Crisis Situations (Operations)
- 9160 Public Attendance at School Events (Community)

The Board approved for second reading to abolish the following policy:

- 9110 Quality Assurance Annual Report (Community)

The Board affirmed my decision on four HIB incidents.

## **CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS**

The Board approved district field trips as correlated with curriculum. Curriculum Committee Chair Amy Root noted the wide variety of interesting field trips for each of our schools.

The Board approved for second reading the following curricula:

### Mathematics

Calculus

Calculus AB

Calculus BC

AP Statistics

### World Languages

Spanish Conversation

Spanish Exploratory I & II

Spanish Travel

World Languages III

World Languages III Honors

## **FINANCE**

The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:

- A gift of \$359.99 from the Westfield Booster Association to purchase a Custom Ball Rack for Westfield High School.
- A gift of \$10,000 from the Westfield Theatre Guild to help fund the purchase of LED lighting for the Westfield High School auditorium.
- A gift of a Baldwin upright piano, valued at \$500-\$700, from Mr. and Mrs. Cestero to Westfield High School.
- A gift of \$4,247.43 from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts to be used for partial funding for the purchase of LED lighting for the Westfield High School Auditorium.
- A gift of \$665.00 from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts to purchase a Shimpo pottery wheel for the Edison Intermediate School Art Department.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Technology Committee Chair Michael Bielen reported that, at the committee's next meeting, members will examine Google analytics on the district website to measure how the website is used and whether any changes are needed.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Board member Kent Diamond reported that he attended a recent Tamaques PTO meeting and will meet with the Westfield Memorial Library Board as well.

Board member Tara Oporto noted that Behaviorist Ann-Marie Kuba presented at a recent Lincoln School PTO meeting, providing 6 research-based strategies for parents.

Mrs. Oster stated that she attended the Westfield High School PTSO meeting where she said a great group of women are engaged in many great activities, including a districtwide community service initiative. Mrs. Oster noted that the WHS PTSO will be hosting a showing of the documentary "Angst," which explores anxiety, its causes and effects and what can be done about it. The WHS PTSO also is planning a career day.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to Westfield High School seniors Austin Chen, Madeline Reynders, Edward Xing and Zachary Youssef who have advanced as finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program, having met academic and other standards to become eligible for scholarships. The program honors students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

The Westfield High School Theatre Department is proud to present *Sweet Charity* -- book by Neil Simon, score by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Dorothy Fields, and original choreography by Bob Fosse. Performances on Thursday, March 14, Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 with all beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for *Sweet Charity* are \$14 and are on sale at [whstd.booktix.com](http://whstd.booktix.com). Advance purchases are recommended. Any tickets not sold in advance will be available at the door. Tickets are reserved seating.

Congratulations to the following student-athletes and their coaches:

- Boys Bowling -- Sectional Champions
- Boys Ice Hockey - McInnis Cup Champions
- Boys Track and Field 4 X 400 Relay Team -- First place finish at the Meet of Champions and Group IV State Champions. The four team members are Ajay Olson, Steven Zucker, Matt McIntyre, and Jake Saltzer.
- Wrestlers Luke Hoerle and CJ Composto -- Sectional Champions while each celebrated his 100th win.
- Wrestling Coach Glen Kurz was named District Coach of the Year

### INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The following Edison and Roosevelt student-musicians have been selected to perform with the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Region II Orchestra and Wind Ensemble:

- Edison 8th graders Kevin Chen (Viola), Steve Wang (Violin), Felix Yu (Violin) and 6th grader Claire Qin (Violin) along with Roosevelt 8th graders Julian Hamilton (Viola) and Tristan Wroe (Cello). Roosevelt 8th grader Liam Maurillo was accepted to the CJMEA Wind Ensemble on Percussion. Congratulations to these talented musicians and their instructors Amanda Gant and James Doyle.

SAVE the DATE to see Beauty and the Beast at Edison Intermediate School at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 7 and at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. Tickets are \$8 pre-sale and \$10 at the door. For more information on ticket sales, visit [sites.google.com/westfieldnj12.org/smarkowski](https://sites.google.com/westfieldnj12.org/smarkowski).

Tickets also are on sale for the Roosevelt Theatre production of "Bye Bye Birdie" with performances on Thursday, March 21 at 4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [ris.booktix.com](https://ris.booktix.com) or at the door. There will be a special Q&A session with the cast immediately following Thursday's performance. This is a great opportunity for students to learn what goes on behind the scenes.

### COMMUNITY

The Westfield Parent Teacher Council Special Education Committee will hold its 26th Annual Awareness Expo on Wednesday, March 13 at Edison Intermediate School. The Expo begins at 7:15 p.m. with introductory remarks and presentation of the "Make A Difference" Award, followed by four sessions that will be presented twice, once from 7:40-8:40 p.m. and again from 8:45-9:45 p.m. The Expo is open to the public and free of charge. Those planning to attend are encouraged to pre-register by visiting the district website at [www.westfieldnj12.org](http://www.westfieldnj12.org), clicking on "Parent Teacher Council" under the "Family Resources" tab and choosing "Special Education" on the right hand side. From there, click on "Awareness Expo" to pull up information on the sessions and the link to pre-register.

The Westfield Green Team is calling on Westfield intermediate and high school students to create Earth Day 2019 posters to be displayed in downtown store windows. This is not a contest. The Green Team hopes to use all of the posters. Please visit the Community Flyers section of the district website to read important poster guidelines. Entries must be submitted to the student's school office by Friday, April 5, 2019.

NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, March 8 on the Board section of the district website and in the Business Office at 302 Elm Street.

**Margaret Dolan, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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