On behalf of the entire Board, Board President Peggy Oster recognized Westfield High School senior Jakob Tannenbaum who was awarded first place for his public service announcement on substance abuse in the 7th Annual Westfield Municipal Alliance Palooza Contest. The Westfield Municipal Alliance provides substance abuse prevention education in the Westfield community and sponsors the Westfield High School Dream Team, which promotes positive decision-making and healthy choices, while creating programs that provide alternatives to underage drinking and drug use.

PERSONNEL
The Board accepted with regret the retirement of:
- Eileen Cambria, Franklin School Principal, effective June 30, 2020
- Joseph Harris, Substitute Teacher, effective February 1, 2020
- Robin Ince, Franklin School Nurse, effective June 30, 2020
- Donna Streaman, Substitute Paraprofessional, effective February 1, 2020

Dr. Harris’ doctorate in microbiology has made him a valued substitute in our secondary schools. Mrs. Streaman previously worked in our district for more than a decade as a paraprofessional who was patient and responsive to the needs of her students. Mrs. Ince has been an integral member of the Franklin School staff, addressing each child’s needs with calm, personalized care to make the child feel comfortable and safe.

I thank Dr. Cambria for both of her careers in Westfield, first as a wonderful teacher at Franklin School, where she was a leader among her peers in promoting strong instruction in literacy, and later, as the building principal where her commitment to learning has been contagious. Dr. Cambria has been in the forefront of incorporating character education into the elementary curriculum and has led the Franklin staff in meaningful work on social and emotional learning. She is a gracious and comprehensive resource for parents and an enthusiastic supporter of every one of her students. Her strength and leadership will be missed, not only at Franklin but throughout the district.

I wish all four staff members a happy and productive retirement.
FACILITIES
Business Administrator Dana Sullivan reported that upcoming projects for Summer 2020, including new interior doors for the elementary schools, will be discussed at a meeting of the Facilities Committee on Friday, February 7. Mrs. Sullivan noted that slow but steady progress is being made to complete renovations on the Westfield High School television studio and to finish connecting select replacement doors at the high school and intermediate schools to the district's communications system.

POLICIES
The Board approved for first reading the following policies:
   5330.4 Administering an Opioid Antidote (Pupils)
   5756 Transgender Pupils (Pupils)
   7441 Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds (Property)

Policies Committee Chair Brendan Galligan noted that these three policies are mandated by the State.

The Board approved for second reading the following policies:
   0169 Board Member Use of Electronic Communication and Social Networks (Bylaws)
   1110 Organizational Chart (Administration)
   1320 Duties of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary (Administration)
   1400 Job Descriptions (Administration)

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS
The Board approved district field trips and overnight field trips as correlated with curricula.

The Board approved for first reading the following curricula:
   Visual & Performing Arts
   6th & 7th Grade Band
   8th Grade Band

   Practical Arts
   Sustainable Design (New Course)

The Board approved a voluntary Intern candidate for the 2019-2020 school year.

Curriculum Chair Amy Root reported that Westfield High School engineering teacher Laura Doyle developed the proposed Sustainable Design course to give her students further opportunities and to spark additional interest in architecture and engineering.

FINANCE
The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:
   • Gifts from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts to be used as follows:
     o $ 962.50 - Purchase stage drapery/curtain for Roosevelt Intermediate School auditorium
     o $4,100.00 - WHS clinician fees, EIS clinician fees
     o $5,944.00 - Participation fee for WHS Concert Choir’s rehearsals and performance at Alice Tully Hall, NYC
• A gift of $962.50 from the Roosevelt Intermediate School Fund for the purchase of a stage drapery/curtain for the Roosevelt Intermediate School auditorium.
• A gift of $5,000.00 raised by the parents and student athletes of the Boys Volleyball program to help fund a new athletic program.
• A gift of $9,830.00 from an anonymous donor to purchase 30 HP Chromebooks and a charging cart for Franklin School.

LIAISON REPORTS
Board member Tara Oporto encouraged Westfield residents to complete and to help spread the word about a survey by the Westfield Memorial Library as part of the library’s three-year strategic plan. Mrs. Oporto also noted that the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will hold its Spring Book Sale, with Donation Days on April 22 and 23 and Sale Days from April 28-May 2. Additionally, she suggested that residents visit the library’s website to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Mrs. Oster reported on a recent meeting of the Westfield Recreation Commission at which a continuing discussion of the town’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan took place. She noted that the master plan includes fields owned by the Board of Education and that the Board looks forward to continued discussions and to working cooperatively on this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT
The Board heard from a resident with questions about state-mandated Policy 5756 regarding transgender students. I noted that, while this is a newly mandated policy outlining school district requirements, it is not a new concept. The Westfield Public School District has worked over the years with a small number of transgender students and their families to determine the best course of action. As to the resident’s query about the effect on students who are not transgender, it is our experience that no other student has been negatively impacted.

The Board also heard from another resident who expressed support for the town’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan and who encouraged the Board to work with the community to address the need for improved field space in Westfield.

A recording of the entire Board of Education meeting can be viewed on the district website at www.westfieldnjk12.org.

WORKSHOP
The Board received training from Gwen Thornton, a field service representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association, about the roles and responsibilities of Board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL
Five Westfield High School student musicians have been accepted to the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) All-State Band. Senior Max Tennant (trumpet), juniors Alex Cha (clarinet) and Aprina Wang (French horn), and sophomores Conor Daly (trombone) and Patrick Gallagher (tuba) will travel to Atlantic City to rehearse with the All-State Band before performing on February 22 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. Congratulations to all!
Congratulations to Glen Kurz who, as head varsity wrestling coach, recently broke the record for most wins in the wrestling program’s history, passing the previous record of 239 wins held by the legendary coach Gary Kehler.

The Lady Blue Devil basketball team recently recorded the 600th win in the history of Westfield High School women’s basketball. Congratulations to all of the players and to Coach Liz McKeon.

INTERMEDIATE
Fourteen student musicians from Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools will perform with the Central Jersey Music Educators Association’s Intermediate Region Band and Orchestra in March, following rigorous auditions involving more than 750 students from central New Jersey.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region II Band</th>
<th>Region II Orchestra</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nolan Daly</td>
<td>Yenjay Hu</td>
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<td>Andrew Gold</td>
<td>Eddie Mendel</td>
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<td>Charlie Hu</td>
<td>Claire Qin</td>
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<td>Liliana Lincoln</td>
<td>Rishi Shroff</td>
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<td>Sarah Lincoln</td>
<td>Victor Tang</td>
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<td>Oliver Schifando</td>
<td>Stephanie Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Yu</td>
<td>Madeline Yong</td>
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DISTRICT
The Westfield Public School District was well represented at TECHSPO, an educational technology training conference in its 25th year, which is sponsored by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA). Several members of our staff were invited to share their knowledge and expertise. Congratulations to our IT team of Brian Auker, Arvin Vidal and Joseph Marateo and to master technology teacher Jeanine Gottko for their well-attended and informative presentations.

COMMUNITY
This is a reminder that the Westfield High School Choir Department will perform A Night of Love Songs this Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in the WHS Cafeteria B. Tickets will be sold at the door at $5.00 per student and $10.00 per adult. The event is sponsored by the Westfield Choral Parents Association with proceeds going toward choral performance opportunities for the students.

Next up in the Edison Intermediate School Speakers Series: “Help! There’s a Teen in the House!: Navigating and Understanding the Stressful World of Teenagers.” This panel discussion and Q&A session with mental health clinicians will be held on February 11 at 7 p.m. in the Edison auditorium. Admission is free. Space is limited. Registration information can be found under “Recent News” on the district website at www.westfieldnjk12.org.

Don’t miss the Rotary Club of Westfield’s 54th Annual Breakfast with the Bands on Saturday, February 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Westfield High School. This popular event features performances by top bands from Westfield High School and Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools, along with lots of great food. Tickets are $10 and available from Rotarians or at the door. All proceeds benefit the Rotary Club’s scholarship, community grants programs, and Project Hunger.

As part of a three-year strategic plan, the Westfield Memorial Library has begun to survey library users to help chart the library’s future. Residents are invited to take the survey at
www.surveymonkey.com/r/wml2020 and be entered to win an iPad mini. The survey also is available at the Circulation, Children’s or Reference Desks at the library.

All parents are invited to attend “Making the Most of Your Summers” on Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in Cafeteria B at Westfield High School. Lisa Bleich from College Bound Mentor will discuss various summer options and present case studies to demonstrate different ways that students have productively used their summers. This event is free; no pre-registration is required. Sponsored by the PTC-Gifted Education Committee. Contact: gandtwestfield@gmail.com and/or visit the Gifted Ed Committee Website.

Save the Date for the Westfield Education Fund’s Trivia Night on April 17 from 8-11 p.m. at the Italian American Club in Scotch Plains. There will be friendly competition, fun-filled trivia and lots of laughs. Tickets will be available in March; there is limited capacity. Stay tuned for more information.

SCHOOLS CLOSED
Westfield Public Schools will be closed on Friday, February 14 for a staff in-service day and on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents’ Day.

NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, February 21 on the Board section of the district website at www.westfieldnjk12.org.

Margaret Dolan, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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