PERSONNEL
The Board accepted with regret the retirements of Franklin School first grade teachers Karen Kavalin and Laurie Levinson, both effective on June 30, 2020, and of Westfield High School Resource Center teacher Carole Harazim with an anticipated last date of employment of February 1, 2020. Each is a dedicated and valued teacher who will be missed. We wish all three well in their retirements.

POLICIES
The Board affirmed my decision on six HIB incidents.

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

TECHNOLOGY
At the request of the new Technology Committee Chair Robert Garrison, outgoing chair Michael Bielen reported on the January 10 meeting at which Chief Technology Officer Brian Auker highlighted some of the cyber security initiatives in place to protect the district’s network, devices, programs, and data from unauthorized access. Mr. Auker also reviewed Google analytics of the district website with committee members. Mr. Bielen clarified the difference between the number of website users versus page views/sessions and suggested that student and staff visits to the website be excluded from future analytics in order to achieve a more accurate picture as to resident usage of the website. Mr. Garrison noted that the committee has been reconstituted as the Technology and Communication Committee.

Board President Peggy Oster praised Mr. Auker and his team for their skilled efforts in keeping the district’s network safe.

LIAISON REPORTS
Mr. Garrison stated that he attended a New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) seminar on school security and suggested that board members share future educational opportunities with each other to encourage attendance.

Board member Kent Diamond reported that he attended a recent meeting of the Tamaques PTO where a couple of members expressed appreciation for the increased police presence in the immediate days after a teacher tenure ruling.

Board member Brendan Galligan noted that among the topics discussed at the NJSBA Board of Directors meeting was the rollout of a new website.

Mr. Bielen attended a recent meeting of the Westfield Green Team that included discussion of Earth Day activities and other possible green initiatives in our schools. Mrs. Oster referenced an anti-idling video produced by the Green Team and the Media Council that includes a reminder of the strict no idling zones around each school.
Board vice president Amy Root reported that she sat in on a focus group as the Westfield Memorial Library works on its strategic plan.

Mrs. Oster applauded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield for the well-attended march and interfaith service on January 20, as well as the student essayists, poets, and artists from Westfield Public Schools who received awards in the annual contest for elementary and intermediate schools. She also reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Westfield Recreation Commission at which a master plan for the town’s parks and recreational facilities was made public. Mrs. Oster noted that the plan proposes the use of some of the Board of Education’s fields; she asked that each board member review the proposed plan at the committee level and discuss how it might affect future district proposals. She suggested that, should the town adopt the master plan, the board might invite the town’s planner to a board meeting to present their proposal regarding the fields. Mr. Garrison stated that he is excited by the idea of the town and the board working together to provide recreational resources to the community as a whole.

A recording of the entire Board of Education meeting can be viewed on the district website at www.westfieldnjk12.org, along with a listing of new board committee/liaison assignments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
The Westfield High School Model United Nations Club won the Outstanding Delegation Award at the annual conference of the YMCA Model UN Program, held in Hershey, Pennsylvania earlier this month. Westfield’s delegation of 175 students were among approximately 2,000 students from the mid-Atlantic region who attended the conference. They participated in wide-ranging debates that were the culmination of months of research and preparation. A number of our WHS students received individual recognitions as well. Congratulations to all of the delegates and to their advisors Daniel Farabaugh and David Della Fera.

Congratulations to Westfield High School senior Luke Hoerle who won his fourth consecutive Union County Tournament wrestling title on January 11. Luke currently is ranked fourth in the state by nj.com in the 126 pound weight class.

ELEMENTARY
Jefferson School’s Team Legorio received a 2nd place award in the “Strategy and Innovation” category at last month’s state championship of the First Lego League Robotics Competition. Team members Luke Jenner, Neev Nedungadi, Mahie Panjwani, Aaron Rudnick, Evan Tukaczynski and Wilson Wright competed against 80 teams in the North New Jersey region. The Strategy and Innovation Award was based on the team’s unique attachments to achieve various missions, including a spring-loaded attachment and a forklift feature. The First Lego League is a robotics competition that has students, ages 9-14, designing, building, programming, and testing an autonomous robot while applying real-world math and science concepts. Congratulations to the team and to their volunteer parent advisors.

COMMUNITY
The Parent Teacher Council (PTC) held its monthly General Meeting on Wednesday, January 22 at 10:15 a.m. in the board meeting room at 302 Elm Street. These meetings of the PTC -- the umbrella organization for all ten of the Westfield School PTOs -- provide a good opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan and a Board representative.
The Westfield High School Choir Department will perform *A Night of Love Songs* on Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. under the direction of choir directors John Brzozowski and Maureen Francis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in the WHS Cafeteria B. While having coffee and desserts, enjoy an evening of solo, duet, and group performances. 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.

The Westfield Municipal Alliance and the Westfield High School Dream Team recognized student finalists in the 7th Annual Westfield Municipal Alliance Palooza Contest on Tuesday, January 21 for their submissions of posters, poetry and public service announcements depicting the theme, “Westfield, We Have Better Things to Do; Healthy Choices, Everyday Choices.” The Alliance sponsors the Dream Team, a student club that encourages healthy choices and provides drug- and alcohol-free social events to the school community.

Don't miss the Edison Speaker Series presentation of "Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress and Resilience" this Thursday, January 23 from 7-9 p.m. in the EIS auditorium. Discussion and Q&A will follow the screening. Register to attend at eisscreenagersnextchapter.eventbrite.com.

The Westfield Public School District conducted kindergarten and first grade registration this month. The registration schedule and forms are posted on the district website at www.westfieldnjk12.org under “Student Registration.” Parents should contact the school their child will attend to make registration arrangements.

**NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 302 Elm Street. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. with private session; the public portion of the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, January 31 on the Board section of the district website.

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

*Westfield Public Schools – A Tradition of Excellence*

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