

**Synopsis of
Westfield Board of Education Meeting on August 15, 2019
By Superintendent Margaret Dolan**



The Board unanimously approved the [appointment of Keith Brunson](#) as assistant principal of Roosevelt Intermediate School, effective October 15 or earlier if released by the Piscataway Township School District where he currently serves as Dean of Students. Mr. Brunson brings to the position twenty years of educational experience as an administrator and a longtime social studies teacher. He understands that part of his role is being a role model as well as an educational leader.

Board President Peggy Oster welcomed Mr. Brunson to Westfield, noting that he was selected from a large pool of candidates and predicting “an exciting new chapter at Roosevelt Intermediate School.”

FACILITIES

Business Administrator Dana Sullivan provided a brief update on the status of summer projects, stating that the renovation of Kehler Stadium is nearing completion, with the laying of the track expected to begin next week after the asphalt has finished curing. Sullivan reported that the full renovation should be complete by the start of the Blue Devil season. The renovation of bathrooms at Westfield High School and the two intermediate schools, along with remodeled auditorium lobbies at Edison and Roosevelt, also should be completed by the start of the school year, Mrs. Sullivan stated. Other facilities projects not slated for completion by the start of the school year but well underway are the remodeled television studio at WHS and new interior doors and security gates at WHS and the intermediate schools. New generators are installed and running at each school; volt servers to provide digital electricity to the district will be delivered and connected to the generators this fall. Mrs. Sullivan reported that materials to replace the McKinley School gymnasium floor and subfloor will be ordered and the district architect has checked the area to ensure that it is structurally sound. Mrs. Sullivan noted that because this was an unexpected project, it will not be completed by the start of school and that McKinley principal Dr. Marc Biunno is working on options for relocating events and classes that use the gymnasium.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked our custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work this summer. Mrs. Oster also thanked Mrs. Sullivan for her diligence, stating that Kehler Stadium “looks great.”

In response to a question by Board member Robert Garrison about the new company hired by the town to manage the crossing guards, Mrs. Sullivan and I noted that Town Administrator Jim

Gildea has indicated that all existing crossing guards were offered positions this year and that those positions were not scheduled to change. Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro also has noted that police officers will no longer need to be pulled to fill crossing guard positions and can now help to reinforce safety near our schools.

FINANCE

The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:

- Gifts from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts to be used as follows:
 - \$1,763.49 to purchase instrumental folders for Edison Intermediate School band and orchestra students.
 - \$ 405.00 towards a professional development course at the Madison Mud Ceramic Studio for Mrs. Frees, Edison Intermediate School Art teacher.
 - \$ 285.00 towards a professional development course at the Montclair Museum for Ms. Suchy, Roosevelt Intermediate School art teacher.
 - \$ 798.00 to purchase a new Wenger strings bass rack for Jefferson School.
 - \$ 288.95 to purchase tackles art display boards.

- A gift in the amount of \$1,767.50 from the Tamaques School PTO to purchase chairs for the first grade.

Mrs. Oster thanked the Westfield Coalition for the Arts and our PTOs for their generosity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:30 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. The complete agenda of the meeting will be available on Friday, August 23 under the Board tab on the district website.

Enjoy these last two weeks of the summer break. I look forward to welcoming our students on Thursday, September 5.

Margaret Dolan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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