

**Synopsis of
Westfield Board of Education Meeting on May 7, 2019
By Superintendent Margaret Dolan**



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board of Education meeting was held at Jefferson Elementary School, where we honored fourth grade teacher Anna Carissimo as the 2019 recipient of the Rotary Club of Westfield's Philhower Fellowship Award, which recognizes outstanding teaching at the elementary level. Congratulatory remarks were made by Jefferson Principal Dr. Susie Hung, parents, and colleagues who provided many reasons why Mrs. Carissimo is so deserving of the award. Her students sang a special song, with some relaying the many ways she has encouraged and supported them. Mrs. Carissimo, who began her career in Westfield Public Schools in 2000, thanked her family, colleagues and her students for their continued support, saying that she is honored to be among the "inspirational educators" who were named Philhower Fellows in years past. Board member Gretchan Ohlig, whose two sons are former students of Mrs. Carissimo, presented a resolution on behalf of the Board, commending the educator for her enthusiasm for teaching, excellent instructional practices and use of technology to enhance learning, for setting clear and realistic academic and social/emotional expectations, and for her commitment and dedication to the children and families of Westfield, particularly by instilling a love of learning in her students and recognizing each child as an individual. Ms. Ohlig said, when she asked one of her sons, now in college, about Mrs. Carissimo, he recalled her as "incredibly nice," very supportive, and an avid Mets fan. The well-attended ceremony concluded with refreshments provided by the Jefferson PTO and more congratulatory hugs for Mrs. Carissimo.

PERSONNEL

The Board accepted with regret the retirement of Edison Computer Education Teacher Eugene Ehrlich, effective June 30, 2019. For 50 years, Dr. Ehrlich has provided technology education to thousands of Westfield students, beginning in 1969 with a data processing course. He has made meaningful connections with his students and his inclusion in his teaching of the social and ethical aspects of technology has provided lifelong lessons. We wish him well in this next phase of his life after serving Westfield Public Schools for 50 years.

POLICIES

The Board affirmed my decision on three HIB incidents.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS

The Board approved district field trips as correlated with curriculum.

The Board approved for second reading the following curricula:

Mathematics

Computer Science I

Computer Science II AP

Computer Science III Honors

World Languages

World Languages, Level IV, IV Honors & IV AP

World Languages, Level V, V Honors & V AP

English Language Arts

Intermediate Language Arts, Grades 6-8

LIAISON REPORTS

Board president Peggy Oster reported attending a recent meeting of the Westfield Recreation Commission at which the future of the Gumbert Ice Rink was discussed. Mrs. Oster stated that the commission tabled any decision until June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL

Members of the Westfield High School Youth and Government Club recently participated in the 81st Annual New Jersey Youth and Government Conference, receiving an experiential lesson on civic engagement and responsibility and earning top honors including "Outstanding Delegation." The three-day, YMCA-sponsored program provides a legislative simulation that has students acting as state senators, assemblymen, justices, lobbyists, members of the media and other political powerhouses. Other honors awarded members of the WHS team included Outstanding Legislation, Outstanding First Year Delegate, and Outstanding Judicial Brief. Congratulations to the Youth and Government Club and advisors David Della Fera and Daniel Farabaugh.

The Community Food Bank of New Jersey recently honored Westfield High School students who collected more than 5,800 pounds of food items for local families in need. Of the 62 schools in 16 counties who participated in the "Students Change Hunger" campaign last fall, Westfield High School collected the most food which, according to the Community Food Bank, fed more than 1,000 families in the community.

The Westfield High School Bands, in collaboration with Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools, will present their [8th Annual Jazz Under the Stars](#) this Saturday, May 11, beginning at 6 p.m. in the WHS courtyard. This event is open to the entire community and will feature performances by the WHS Choraleers as well as six jazz bands. Tickets are \$5 in advance before Wednesday, May 8 and \$8 at the door. In the event of rain, the program will be held indoors in the WHS Cafeteria B. For ticket reservations and more information, please contact Director of Bands Christopher Vitale at cvitale@westfieldnj12.org.

The Westfield Debate Team will have a [recruitment and information session](#) for rising 7-12th grade students in Westfield Public Schools on Tuesday, May 14 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Westfield High School Student Center. Award-winning public forum debaters will square off in a demonstration debate to show potential recruits what competitive academic debate looks like. Please contact westfielddebateteam@gmail.com with any questions. Additional

information can be found at www.westfieldnj12.org in the “Community Flyers” folder under the “Family Resources” tab.

Event Rescheduled: Please Note New Date – May 21 at 6:30 PM

The Westfield High School PTSO invites parents and students ages 10 and up to a special screening of the documentary “[Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety](#)” on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at WHS. The event will feature a viewing of the 56-minute film, followed by an informative panel discussion moderated by Westfield Public Schools Director of Counseling Services, Maureen Mazzaresse, and featuring mental health professionals specializing in anxiety in teens. Attendees are invited to arrive at 6:20 to participate in a meditative deep breathing to de-stress exercise. Admission is free and space is limited! Click here to reserve tickets: www.showclix.com/event/angst-westfield

INTERMEDIATE

A reminder: The deadline for nominations for the Optimist Club’s Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award is this Friday, May 10. Two intermediate school teachers – one from Edison and one from Roosevelt Intermediate Schools – will be chosen to receive the award at an Optimist Club dinner and will be honored at a Board of Education meeting in June. Nominations should specify ways in which the teacher has demonstrated outstanding teaching, interest in children and continued pursuit of professional growth. The nominee must be a full-time teacher in the Westfield Public Schools in grades 6-8 for a minimum of five years. Students, parents and staff are encouraged to submit nomination letters to: Outstanding Teacher Award Committee of the Optimist Club of Westfield, c/o Office of the Superintendent, Westfield Public Schools, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. Letters can also be e-mailed to: optiaward@westfieldnj12.org.

ELEMENTARY

A charity volleyball game that pitted Washington School staff against members of the Westfield Police Department netted \$2,261 for the Westfield Food Pantry. The April 30 event was well-attended and a lot of fun. A special thanks to all participants and spectators who turned out to support this charitable effort.

COMMUNITY

The Rotary Club of Westfield presents its [2nd Annual Gala Art Exhibition and Auction](#) on Saturday, May 18 at the First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. Preview 7:00 p.m.; Auction 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person; wine, beer, hors d’oeuvres included. For more information, call (201) 410-8282 or email Joe Mindak at joe@theconnective.me.

NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. We will honor state and regional performing arts students at that time. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, May 17 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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