

**Synopsis of
Westfield Board of Education Meeting on January 3, 2019
By Superintendent Margaret Dolan**

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Business Administrator Dana Sullivan acknowledged Gretchan Ohlig, Tara Oporto and Charles Ostroff, who were elected to 3-year terms on the Westfield Board of Education on November 6, 2018. Peggy Oster was nominated as President of the Westfield Board of Education. Amy Root was nominated to the role of Vice President. The Board was unanimous in electing Mrs. Oster and Mrs. Root to their positions. The Board agreed to abide by the School Board Association Code of Ethics, which they read aloud, and approved reorganization resolutions in order to continue conducting official business.

UPDATE ON 2018-2019 DISTRICT GOALS

I presented an [Update on the 2018-2019 District Goals](#), which were developed in line with our Strategic Plan. We are progressing on this year's three major goals which include:

1. Assess current practices promoting Social and Emotional Learning and expand for consistency districtwide.
 - The importance of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) cannot be understated. It involves the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Our administrators and teaching staff have attended professional development sessions on SEL and are providing input regarding its implementation in the classroom.
 - To help families and other members of the community better understand SEL, we created [an SEL section](#) containing helpful information on the district website under the "Family Resources" tab. At the suggestion of our engaged parent community, we also are in the process of creating short TED-style Talk recordings on each of New Jersey's five SEL competencies.
2. Establish system to ensure the new website is routinely updated and maintains consistent look and ease of navigation.
 - Administrators and key contact persons have been trained and instructed regarding expectations for website pages. Three district employees are assigned to maintain the consistent look of the website for ease of navigation. We regularly monitor compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We continue to receive and seek feedback about the website. And we encourage visitors to the site to utilize the search box in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to easily locate the many resources contained on the new website.
3. Build an alumni database for alumni engagement and outreach.
 - We've created an [Alumni Outreach](#) section on the district website under the "District Information" tab and have widely publicized the outreach effort in social and local media, encouraging alumni to enter contact information. We plan to publish the first issue of an alumni newsletter at the end of this month and will review community response to determine if the benefits warrant quarterly newsletters.

PERSONNEL

The Board accepted the retirement of elementary special education teacher Susan Kaplan who has supported young learners at Franklin and Wilson with kindness and patience for the past 22 years. Ms. Kaplan's last day was December 1, 2018. We wish her well in her retirement as she spends more time with her family.

FACILITIES

Mrs. Sullivan noted that the district will appear before the Westfield Planning Board on Monday, January 7 for a courtesy review of the district's emergency generator project.

POLICIES

The Board approved for first reading the following policies:

- 8221 - Emergency Closings (Operations)
- 8310 - Public Records (Operations)
- 8320 - Personnel Records (Operations)
- 8441 - Care of Injured and Ill Persons (Operations)
- 8442 - Reporting Accidents (Operations)
- 8451 - Control of Communicable Disease (Operations)
- 8453 - HIV/AIDS (Operations)
- 8670 - Transportation of Disabled Pupils (Operations)
- 8760 - Pupil Accident Insurance (Operations)

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

- 8450 - Use of Defibrillator(s) (Operations)

Policies Committee Chairman Brendan Galligan noted that the use of defibrillators is covered in other Board policies.

The Board approved for second reading the [2020-2021 School Calendar](#).

The Board approved for second reading the following policies:

- 5440 - Honoring Pupil Achievement (Pupils)
- 5751 - Sexual Harassment of Pupils (Pupils)
- 7420 - Hygienic Management (Property)
- Reg.7420.1(M) - Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan (Property)
- Reg.7420.2(M) - Chemical Hygiene (Property)
- 7513 - Recreational Use of Playgrounds (Property)
- 7650 - School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance and Accounting (Property)

The Board affirmed my decision on two HIB incidents.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS

The Board approved district field trips as correlated with curriculum.

The Board approved for first reading the following curricula:

World Languages
Mandarin - Chinese I

Mandarin - Chinese II
Mandarin - Chinese III
World Languages, Grade 3
World Languages, Grade 4
World Languages, Grade 5
World Languages I
World Languages II & II Honors

The Board approved for second reading the following curricula:

Mathematics

Algebra II/Algebra II Advanced/Algebra II Honors
Pre-Calculus
Pre-Calculus Advanced
Pre-Calculus Honors

FINANCE

The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:

- A gift of \$10,130 from an anonymous donor to purchase 30 Hewlett Packard Chromebooks and a charging cart for Franklin School.
- A gift of \$10,130 from the Franklin School PTO to purchase 30 Hewlett Packard Chromebooks and a charging cart.
- A gift of \$1,255.80 from the Franklin School PTO to be used to partially fund new xylophones for Mr. Geyer's music classes.
- Gifts from the Westfield Coalition for the Arts to be used as follows:
 - \$1,112.99 to purchase choral folders for the Edison Intermediate School Music Department
 - \$1,665.10 to purchase a Studio 49 Series 2000 xylophone for the Franklin School Music Department

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Committee Chair Peggy Oster reported on a recent committee meeting at which Chief Technology Officer Brian Aufer provided an overview of measures in place to protect district technology against security breaches and to monitor district technology accounts. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Paul Pineiro gave a brief summary of Newsela, an online instructional content platform which is being piloted in the district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to 6 Westfield High School students who recently achieved the highest score possible on portions of the SAT and ACT standardized tests. Top scorers on the December ACT are 11th graders James Encinas (Science and STEM), Spencer Rothfleisch (Science), and Julia Tompkins (English and Reading). Other top scorers include juniors John Czarnecki for Math on the December SAT; Max Tennant for Math, Science, STEM and English on the October ACT and 12th grader Matthew Siroty in Math for the August SAT. Congratulations to all.

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC

Every year, hundreds of students prepare and audition for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association regional orchestra and band. Our congratulations to the following students who have been selected to perform this month in either the Region II orchestra or band.

- CJMEA Region II Orchestra:
 - Senior Kevin Li - Violin
 - Sophomore Kelly Eagan - Bass
 - Freshman Amy Xiao - Violin
- CJMEA Region II Band:
 - Seniors Austin Chen (Trumpet), Duncan Cook (Trumpet), Karl Peter (Trumpet)
 - Juniors Valerie Chang (Oboe), Tia Lemberg (Oboe), Ian Gurland (Percussion), Max Tennant (Trumpet)
 - Sophomores Kailey Zhao (Bassoon), Aprina Wang (French Horn), Robert Strauss (Piccolo)
 - Freshman Conor Daly (Trombone)

Congratulations also to WHS instrumental instructors Christopher Vitale, Trevor Sindorf, and Craig Stanton.

Congratulations to the following student vocalists who will perform this month with the CJMEA Region II Chorus, following rigorous auditions in December that included the top musical talent from high schools in Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties.

- Seniors Charlotte Geary, Joseph Maldonado, and Matthew Siroty
- Juniors Daniel Andrade, Roselyne Garabete, Vincent Mora, and Rachel Seiden
- Sophomores Russell Cohen, Sam Horvath, Zaria Katz, Matthew Meixner, and Aishik Palit.
- Freshmen Anna D'Angelo, Kayla Louison, and Joshua Madera.

We applaud these accomplished students and their vocal instructors John Brzozowski and Maureen Francis.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The public is welcome to attend the 72nd Annual Washington School Show -- Happily Ever After -- with performances on Friday, January 25 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 26 at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark Street in Westfield. Tickets are \$14.50 and can be purchased from <https://wes.booktix.com>. This family-friendly production is the Washington PTO's largest fundraiser each year, with funds raised going toward classroom resources, teacher grants, school enhancements, and additional programs to enrich the educational environment for the school's more than 300 students. The show is written, directed, choreographed, produced and performed solely by parents, with the exception of the ever-popular teachers' dance number.

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION

This is a reminder that this month, the district is conducting kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year for all children who are residents of Westfield and will reach the age of 5 on or before October 1, 2019. First grade registration also is being held for children who are residents of Westfield and will reach the age of 6 on or before October 1, 2019, and who have not yet attended the Westfield Public Schools. The registration schedule and forms can be found on the district's website on the Family Resources tab under "Student Registration." There also is a "Student Registration" quick link in the top right corner of the district homepage.

PTC SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Please join the PTC Special Education Committee for an overview of special education law and changes that impact children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or those seeking an IEP. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School.

SCHOOLS CLOSED

All Westfield Public Schools and offices will be closed Monday, January 21 in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On that date, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield will observe its 32nd annual Interfaith Commemorative Service at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. The speaker will be author Stanley Talbert who will speak on the topic of "Striving for the Highest Good: Responding to Acts of Hatred." The student winners of the annual essay, poetry, and art contest will be announced at the ceremony. Prior to the service, the public is invited to join the annual processional walk at 12:30 p.m. from the MLK memorial on the South Avenue Circle to the church. Donations of non-perishable foods for the Westfield Food Pantry will be collected at the church and are appreciated.

NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. at 302 Elm Street. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, January 18 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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