

**Synopsis of
Westfield Board of Education Meeting on July 18, 2019
By Superintendent Margaret Dolan**

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Brian Gechtman as principal of Roosevelt Intermediate School, effective August 1, 2019. Mr. Gechtman, who currently is assistant principal at Roosevelt, is a collaborative educational leader with an impressive depth of knowledge of middle school students, social and emotional learning, and instructional practice. His passion for character education in every facet of a middle school student's education and his strong support of students with special needs also set him apart from other qualified candidates. Mr. Gechtman is well-respected by the school community and is profoundly invested in Roosevelt and all of its students and staff.



In remarks at the special Board meeting, Mr. Gechtman said: “Reflecting on my seven years in what I truly believe is the greatest school in the greatest school system, I am so proud to represent this district. Every opportunity I get, you will hear me say, ‘There is no place I’d rather be.’” Mr. Gechtman thanked the Board and others for their support and said he looks forward to continuing “rich conversations and amazing collaboration” with his colleagues at Edison Intermediate School while furthering the district’s goal of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

Board president Peggy Oster congratulated Mr. Gechtman, noting his extensive experience and the support of the Roosevelt community.

FACILITIES

Business Administrator Dana Sullivan gave a brief update on the status of summer facilities projects. She stated that many aspects of the Kehler Stadium renovation are on schedule, including the newly installed turf field, but that recent rain caused a delay in the asphalt that precedes the installation of the new track. Renovations on the TV studio, certain bathrooms and new interior doors at Westfield High School are in progress, as are renovations to interior doors, certain bathrooms and auditorium lobbies at the intermediate schools. Mrs. Sullivan noted that installation of new emergency generators at each school is well underway. She also reported that moisture and mold were discovered under the McKinley gymnasium floor as contractors prepared to replace the flooring after the school year ended. Because the mold was contained under the thick flooring, Mrs. Sullivan stated that it was not an issue for students and staff during the school year.

FINANCE

The Board accepted with gratitude the following donations:

- A gift of \$1,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton to purchase new equipment and provide extra support for the orchestra program at Roosevelt Intermediate School.
- A gift of \$500 from Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton to purchase new amps or any necessary equipment to support Ramble and Jazz Band at Roosevelt Intermediate School.
- A gift of two fans for the Wilson School gymnasium from the Wilson School PTO valued at \$1,220.
- A gift of \$9,847.19 from the Jefferson School PTO for the purpose of purchasing a set of six swings for the school playground on Boulevard.

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 and in the Business Office at 302 Elm Street.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Margaret Dolan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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