

**Westfield Board of Education**  
**Westfield, New Jersey**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**MINUTES – Board Meeting**  
**May 5, 2020**

Mrs. Oster opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and read the following statement:

April 30, 2019

Notice is hereby given of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Town of Westfield, in the County of Union, New Jersey, at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The board meeting will be held via an online platform which can be accessed at:

<https://westfieldnj12.webex.com/westfieldnj12/onstage/g.php?MTID=e18dc38864ede6de8592e4983c640ed04>. The purpose of the meeting is to transact the regular business of the Board and to transact any other business to come properly before the Board.

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the Minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," the Westfield School Board on Thursday, April 30, 2020, caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and delivered to The Westfield Leader, The Star-Ledger, the Westfield Library, Town Clerk of Westfield, TAP into Westfield and Patch.com, a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

Mrs. Sullivan called the roll with the following members present:

Mr. Bielen, Mr. Diamond, Mr. Galligan,  
Mr. Garrison, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Ohlig,  
Mrs. Oporto, Mrs. Oster, Mrs. Root

Also Present: Dr. Margaret Dolan, Superintendent  
Mrs. Dana Sullivan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Mrs. Barbara B. Ball, Human Resources Specialist  
Dr. Michael Weissman, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Paul Pineiro, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

- **FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Morrissey.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## MINUTES – Board Meeting - 2

May 5, 2020

- **RECOGNIZE PUBLIC** for agenda items only

Mrs. Oster recognized the public on agenda items only. There were none.

- **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **CHARLES PHILHOWER FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

The Board of Education held a virtual celebration for Jeanine Gottko, the 2020 recipient of the Rotary Club of Westfield’s Charles Philhower Fellowship Award. A Westfield native, Ms. Gottko began her career in Westfield in 1997 as a first grade teacher at Franklin School, moving down the hall and up the stairs two years later to teach fifth grade for 13 years. For the past 7 years, Ms. Gottko has been a master technology teacher for grades K-8, serving as an instructional coach for teachers and administrators, planning and conducting professional development sessions, and visiting classrooms to help incorporate technology into student lessons. Her years as a classroom teacher, combined with her impressive knowledge of digital learning tools and technology, has been invaluable to our school community, especially during the educational upheaval caused by COVID-19. She has been teacher, counselor, friend, and mentor to so many during our abrupt transition to remote learning. Because we were not able to meet in person to honor Ms. Gottko, a video tribute containing congratulatory remarks and well wishes from some of her colleagues was played at the virtual Board meeting.

Board President Peggy Oster read a resolution on behalf of the Board, commending Ms. Gottko for her calm professionalism and expertise in instructional technology, for providing digital learning tools through the school year and especially during this time of distance learning, and for her commitment and dedication to the students, staff, and families of the Westfield Public Schools. As a former Franklin parent, Mrs. Oster also read accolades written to Ms. Gottko in Franklin yearbooks of the past and thanked her for her professional growth and patience over the years in this ever-changing environment of instructional technology.

Board member Gretchan Ohlig echoed Mrs. Oster’s sentiments, thanking Ms. Gottko for providing not only instructional technology know-how but instilling confidence in our teachers. “Quite simply, you make us a better school district,” said Ms. Ohlig. Ms. Gottko thanked the Rotary Club of Westfield, the Board, district administration, and the many educators -- with whom she said she shares this award -- for recognizing her for “a job I so greatly love.” She praised our dedicated Board members and had special words of appreciation for her many friends and colleagues across the district. She stated that, as master technology teacher, her job “is to enhance what is already being done wonderfully in the classroom” and that like all of us, she was thrown into the whirlwind that is distance learning. “I am truly in awe of our teachers and administrators,” she said. “You are all deserving of this award.”

- **MINUTES**

Upon motion of Mrs. Oster, seconded by Mr. Bielen, it was moved to approve Minutes of the Board Meeting held on April 28, 2020. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0.

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• PERSONNEL

The following items relative to personnel are recommended to the Board of Education by the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with Policy 3125 and state guidelines, pending school employee criminal history review.

Upon motion of Mrs. Oster, seconded by Mr. Diamond, it was moved to approve the following Personnel motions:

Accept with regret, the retirement of staff with her last day of employment being, as follows:

Joy Nuzzo	Franklin School – Resource Center	6/30/2020
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Approve the change in retirement date for Audrey Zavetz from June 30, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Approve appointment and salaries of the following Tenured and Non-Tenured Administrators for the 2020-2021 school year, as attached. (Salaries to be adjusted in accordance with the agreement between the WAAS and the Westfield Board of Education.) ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #1

Approve appointment and salaries of the following Tenured and Non-Tenured Teaching Staff for the 2020-2021 school year, as attached. (Salaries to be adjusted in accordance with the agreement between the WEA and the Westfield Board of Education.) (Reduction in force list can be obtained in the Office of Human Resources.) ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #2

Approve appointments and salaries of the following Paraprofessionals for the 2020-2021 school year, as attached. (Reduction in force list can be obtained in the Office of Human Resources.) ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #3

Approve the following Winter Coaching assignments for the 2020-2021 school year, as attached. (Salaries to be adjusted in accordance with the agreement between the WEA and the Westfield Board of Education.) ATTACHMENT #1

Approve increment changes in Paraprofessional longevity awards for the 2020-2021 school year, effective 9/1/2020, as attached. ATTACHMENT #2

Approve the following change of assignments for the 2020-2021 school year. \*Salary to be adjusted in accordance with the agreement between the WEA and the Westfield Board of Education.

Tracey Carlesimo	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
	Special Education Teacher-BD Wilson School \$80,467	Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Lincoln School \$80,467*

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Rebecca Corregan	<u>From</u> Special Education 4/5 Franklin & 1/5 Edison Int. \$72,435	<u>To</u> Special Education 4/5 Franklin School \$57,948*
Sandra Gessner	<u>From</u> Science 2/5 Edison Intermediate School 3/5 Roosevelt Intermediate School \$74,544	<u>To</u> Science 1/5 Edison Intermediate School 3/5 Roosevelt Intermediate School \$59,635*
Christine Pitaressi	<u>From</u> Elementary Librarian 3/5 Washington School 1/5 Tamaques School \$65,882	<u>To</u> Elementary Librarian 3/5 Washington School 1/5 Tamaques & 1/5 Lincoln School \$82,353*
Janice Sousa	<u>From</u> Special Education .5 Tamaques & .5 Jefferson School \$77,344	<u>To</u> Special Education .5 Tamaques School \$38,672*

Approve change in assignments for the 2020-21 school year for the following paraprofessionals.

Christina Dengler	<u>From</u> Lincoln School Half-time, student assigned \$ 9,535 (incl. education stipend)	<u>To</u> Lincoln School Full-time, student assigned \$17,912 (incl. education stipend)
Kerry Young	<u>From</u> Tamaques School Full-time, classroom assigned \$16,919 (incl. education stipend)	<u>To</u> Tamaques School Half-time, student assigned \$ 8,906 (incl. education stipend)

Approve compensation to Sean Bonasera, Edison Intermediate School, STEM Summer Camp Coordinator for preparation from 1/12/2020 through 3/15/2020. He will be paid at the rate of \$40 per hour. Funds are provided through STEM Camp budget.

Approve compensation to Laura Paiva, Edison Intermediate School, Assistant STEM Summer Camp Coordinator for preparation from 1/11/2020 through 2/15/2020. She will be paid at the rate of \$40 per hour. Funds are provided through STEM Camp budget.

ROLL CALL:                    Yes: Mr. Bielen, Mr. Diamond, Mr. Galligan,  
Mr. Garrison, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Ohlig,  
Mrs. Oporto, Mrs. Oster, Mrs. Root

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- FACILITIES
- LONG RANGE PLANNING
- POLICIES

Upon motion of Mr. Galligan, seconded by Mr. Diamond, it was moved to approve the following Policy motion:

Approve 2020-2021 Student Activity Fee Guidelines and Procedures, as attached.  
ATTACHMENT #1

ROLL CALL:           Yes: Mr. Bielen, Mr. Diamond, Mr. Galligan,  
Mr. Garrison, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Ohlig,  
Mrs. Oporto, Mrs. Oster, Mrs. Root

- CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & PROGRAMS

Upon motion of Mrs. Root, seconded by Mr. Diamond, it was moved to approve the following Curriculum motion:

Approve for second reading the following curricula, as attached. ATTACHMENT #1

Science  
AP Environmental Science

Visual & Performing Arts  
Concert Band  
Marching Band  
Symphonic Band  
Wind Ensemble

ROLL CALL:           Yes: Mr. Bielen, Mr. Diamond, Mr. Galligan,  
Mr. Garrison, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Ohlig,  
Mrs. Oporto, Mrs. Oster, Mrs. Root

- FINANCE

Upon motion of Mr. Diamond, seconded by Mr. Galligan, it was moved to approve the following Finance motions:

Approve Corrections/Changes to Out-of-District Placement for the 2019-2020 School.

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
2316013	Livingston High School Livingston, NJ	\$ 31,573 <u>+23,496 (aide)</u>



MINUTES – Board Meeting - 7  
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- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- LIAISON REPORTS

Board member Brendan Galligan reported that the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) will hold a Virtual Technology Conference on Wednesday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board member Michael Bielen stated that, at a recent virtual meeting of the Edison PTSO, parents praised the teachers and reported progress in distance learning while discussing ways to honor the 8th graders. Mr. Bielen also mentioned that the Westfield Green Team has posted videos on recycling, planting a spring garden, and other topics on [youtube.com/townofwestfield](https://www.youtube.com/townofwestfield).

On behalf of the entire Board, Mrs. Oster took a moment to acknowledge National Teacher Appreciation Day and to thank our teachers for their devotion to their students, especially during this unprecedented time as they work hard to make virtual education successful.

Mr. Galligan, who attended the Westfield Public Schools, credited his teachers for sparking an intellectual curiosity that led to an early interest in public service and to his decision to serve on the Board.

Ms. Ohlig commented on a recent NJSBA podcast entitled “Conversations with Educators on the COVID-19 Front Line” on which I was interviewed. Ms. Ohlig praised our district’s leadership and response to this public health crisis. I thanked her and noted that the district’s success is the result of our entire team of educators and staff.

A recording of the entire Board of Education virtual meeting will be posted on the district website at [www.westfieldnj12.org](http://www.westfieldnj12.org) under the Board tab.

- RECOGNIZE PUBLIC

Mrs. Oster recognized the public for questions and/or comments. There was none.

- ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Oster moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Garrison. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mrs. Dana Sullivan  
Board Secretary

