



Synopsis

Highlights from the Westfield
Board of Education Meeting

October 5, 2021

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Raymond González highlighted district accomplishments for the month of September including baseline assessments for all students, well-attended back-to-school nights, PTO “welcome back” events, continued efforts to improve communication, and student achievement and engagement. He reiterated that the focus in September was “on returning to full time, full capacity, in-person learning while managing COVID-related mitigation measures.”

Dr. González also read the statement of a Westfield High School teacher who corrected comments made about him by a member of the public at a previous Board meeting.

POLICIES

The Board approved for first reading the following policies:

- 0164 Conduct of Board Meetings (Bylaws)
- 0167 Public Participation in Board Meetings (Bylaws)

The Board approved the District Public Health-Related School Closure Preparedness Plan for 2021-2022. As per P.L..2020, c.27, school districts are required to annually submit to the New Jersey Department of Education a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & PROGRAMS

The Board accepted the recommendation of a review committee to limit the use of the book “Our Skin: A First Conversation about Race,” following a public complaint of the book. The review committee recommended that “the book is best used as an interactive read aloud where educated professionals can skillfully present this information and help facilitate these important conversations.” The committee recommended that the book not be placed in the general classroom library. Board member Tara Oporto abstained from the vote.

The Board approved an overnight District field trip for the 2021-2022 school year, as related to curricula.

FINANCE

The Board accepted with gratitude a mini grant awarded to Westfield High School World Languages teacher Marisa Milas by the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE), in the amount of \$265.16. The funds will be used to purchase instructional materials for Westfield High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board heard from members of the public regarding the “Our Skin” book, diversity, equity and inclusion, and the Edison field project.

[A recording](#) of the meeting is posted at www.westfieldnj12.org under the Board tab.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD CANDIDATES NIGHT

Meet the candidates running for the Westfield Board of Education as the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) holds a virtual Candidates Night on Wednesday, October 13 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Candidate bios and more information can be found under the Board tab at www.westfieldnj12.org. To virtually attend the Candidates Night, please [register](#) at the link provided under “Board Election” on the Board tab. A link to the virtual forum will be provided to everyone registered the day of the event. The evening will be moderated, with candidates asked a variety of questions to be gathered from the public prior to the forum. Questions may be submitted to ptc@westfieldnj12.org by October 11th.

NO SCHOOL

Westfield Public Schools will be closed for students on Monday, October 11, in observance of Columbus Day. Professional development sessions will be held for staff as part of the District In-Service Day.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 19 in Cafeteria B at Westfield High School at 7 p.m. Please enter at the door nearest the back parking lot off Rahway Avenue. All attendees are required to wear a mask. The complete agenda will be available on Friday, October 15 under the Board tab at www.westfieldnj12.org.