



West Deptford School District Board Highlights - January 2022



The following information is intended to inform staff and community members of recent action taken by the Board. The information included in this brief is not intended to be complete and does not replace official Board minutes. Please see the Board agenda on the District Website for the complete action of the Board.

ENROLLMENT: 2,857 as of January, 2022

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Cappello updated the Board on a variety of topics related to the District, which included the following discussion item(s):

- Winter Athletics have started - 2 spectators per athlete at HS games/matches.
- January 26, 2022 – WDMS 5th Grade Winter Concert @7pm WDHS Auditorium.
- There have been many events going on - our priority is to preserve the school day - teachers/staff have gone above and beyond, and Mr. Cappello wants to publicly recognize their efforts.
- LTS Testing for staff and students - Thank you to all the people who work hard to make it happen each week. The testing company has been changing a lot of procedures at the last minute and we have been trying to keep the community abreast of the changes. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work out the details so that we are able to provide this service to our school community.
- Testing for staff and students at Riverwinds Wednesday, January 19. Testing will resume on Mondays the following week.

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION:

Thank you to Mrs. Ashley Morrell for her service to the WDBOE this past year. Mrs. Morrell resigned from the Board in January to begin her position on the West Deptford Town Council - we wish her the best!

Congratulations to Mrs. Kimberly Schultz, Esq. who was sworn in as a new Board Member at our January Reorganization Meeting. We are looking forward to working alongside Mrs. Schultz!

STAFF RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to our HS Math teacher, Ms. Lindsay Freedman, who co-authored the attached article about using Strings in the Mathematics Classroom, which was published in the December issue of Mathematics Teacher: Learning and Teaching PK-12. Way to go, Lindsay! Click here, [Strings in the Mathematics Classroom](#), to read the article.

On behalf of the West Deptford School District, we would like to take this opportunity to send out a special THANK YOU to our School Nurses and District Contact Tracers. Over the past two years, the pandemic has added an enormous amount of work onto these individuals' plates. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of our students. They have gone over and above, providing accurate COVID information to our parents and staff, and keeping up with the ever-changing guidelines. You are appreciated!!!

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

WDHS DECA NEWS

We have six members of our WDHS DECA chapter advancing to the State competition this year! Dom Tate, Liz Raggio, Jake Hartman, Yusuf Abouelsaadata, Anthony Gasparovic, and Aidan Fronza will all be heading to Atlantic City in February to compete. Congratulations to all who qualified, and a big thank you to all who participated in district testing!

WDMS ALL SOUTH JERSEY JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS

Congratulations to the below-pictured students who were accepted into the 60th Annual All South Jersey Junior High Chorus. These students auditioned with close to 200 students from all over South Jersey in grades 7-9!



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - Substitute Administrator
 - 3 Substitute Teachers
 - 2 Substitute Instructional Aides
 - WDHS Non-Instructional Hall Aide
 - WDHS Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach
 - WDHS School Musical Costume Designer
 - WDMS Cafeteria Worker
 - WDMS Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach
 - WDMS Co-Advisor Leading Ladies Club
 - OVES LTR Kindergarten Teacher
 - OVES Everyday Substitute Teacher
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Retirement GFES 3rd Grade Teacher
 - Resignation WDMS Assistant Principal
 - Resignation WDMS Cafeteria Worker
 - Resignation GFES Special Education Instructional Aide
 - Resignation OVES Instructional Aide
- Change of Status:
 - Voluntary Transfer of GFES Instructional Aide to WDMS Instructional Aide

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Governor's Recognition Program 2021-2022 SY
- [Revised District Calendar](#)
- [Revised BOE Meeting Schedule](#)
- Handle With Care Program
- WDHS Field Trip - DECA
- Bilingual-ESL 3-Year Plan 2021-2024
- Agreement with Camden County College - HS Plus/Career Technical Education Program
- Technology Equipment Sale
- Professional Services Contract with Capehart and Scatchard

BUSINESS, FACILITIES, & FINANCE:

- The Board approved the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, Transfers, Payroll, and Bills Lists.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Numerous other requests for approval for workshop attendance, student activities, and education items were approved by the Board of Education. These approvals will be reflected in the formal minutes of the meeting, which are available in the office of the Board of Education Secretary, as well as posted online after Board approval. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is an Action Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7pm. This date and time is subject to change.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY:

Schools were closed on Monday, January 17th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired us to dream. The timeless wisdom of his words are just as relevant today and allow us to imagine a better, more inclusive world. Reflect on King's message of peace and equality while envisioning your own dreams for a brighter future.



REVISED DISTRICT CALENDAR:

The District Calendar for the 2021-22 school year has been updated to reflect the tornado/snow made-up days and can be accessed [here](#). The changes that have been made are as follows:

Date	Original Calendar	Revised Calendar
<u>Friday, January 14, 2022</u>	Staff In-Service	Regular school day for students and staff
<u>Friday, February 18, 2022</u>	Staff In-Service	Regular school day for students and staff
<u>Friday, March 11, 2022</u>	Staff In-Service	Regular school day for students and staff
<u>Monday, January 17, 2022</u>	School Closed	Virtual In-service day for certificated faculty; no school for students <i>*Buildings closed</i>
<u>Monday, February 21, 2022</u>	School Closed	Virtual In-service day for certificated faculty; no school for students <i>*Buildings closed</i>
<u>Monday, June 20, 2022</u>	Schools Closed	Virtual In-service day for staff; no school for students

REVISED BOE MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Board approved Action Meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). When the third Monday coincides with a school holiday, the Action Meeting will be held at the normally scheduled time on the following school day.

2022 BOE Meeting Schedule

ACTION MEETINGS <i>(*Action may be taken at Special Meetings)</i>
February 7, 2022 <i>Special Meeting 6:00pm - BOE Vacancy Interviews</i>
February 22, 2022 (Tuesday)
March 21, 2022 <i>Special Meeting 6:00pm - Adopt Tentative Budget 7:00pm Action Meeting</i>
April 25, 2022 (4th Monday) <i>Rehire Meeting</i>
May 2, 2022 <i>Special Meeting - Final Budget Hearing & Adoption</i>
May 16, 2022
June 20, 2022
July 18, 2022
August 29, 2022 (5th Monday)
September 19, 2022
October 17, 2022
November 21, 2022
December 19, 2022
January 3, 2023 (Tuesday) Reorganization Meeting

WDHS CBI SOUPER BOWL COMPETITION:



WDHS CBI is sponsoring their annual "Souper Bowl" Competition during the month of January

The high school homeroom that collects the most cans of soup will earn a *Super Bowl* breakfast tailgating party.

Soup donations will be collected from each homeroom on February 1st

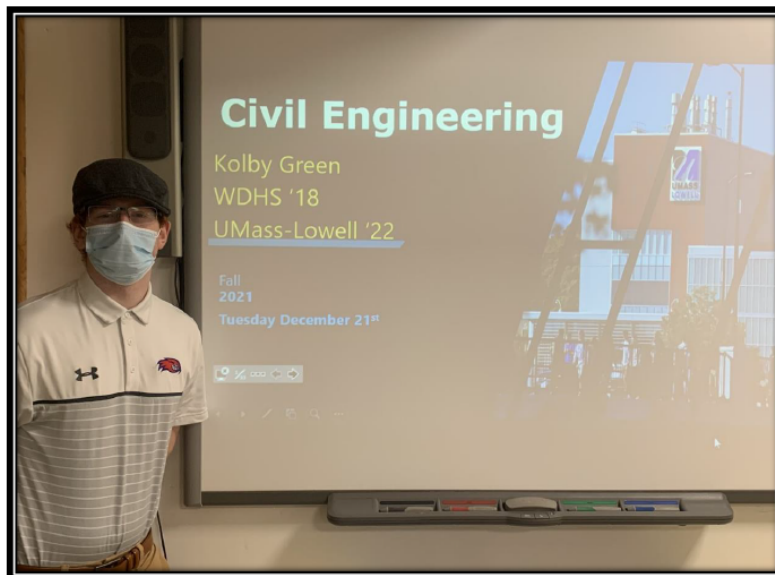
The *Super Bowl* Party will be thrown to the lucky winning high school homeroom on Friday February 4th.

Please support the needy.

Let's "Score A Touch Down" in the New Year!
Thank you for your support!
WDHS CBI- Yes We Can (HS Rm. 8)

WDHS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

On Tuesday, December 21, Kolby Green, WDHS Class of 2018, and Senior Civil Engineering Major at the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) at Lowell spoke to the WD engineering classes about why he enjoys civil engineering, his 9-month co-op assignment during COVID with a Boston engineering firm, and his career ambitions after graduation. Kolby is the President of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honors Society and spearheaded the creation of a leadership council with four other engineering honor societies. Kolby tailored his presentation to questions submitted by the classes in advance. Mr. Green also is the Assistant Video Coach/Operations manager of the UMASS Lowell Division 1 Hockey Team, which includes creating data analytics and participating in player recruitment. His work has resulted in direct connections to the National Hockey League. It was fascinating hearing Kolby Green talk about his two passions: civil engineering and hockey.



GFES GRATITUDE PROJECT:

Recently, students at Green-Fields participated in the **Gratitude Project** as part of our Social/Emotional Learning focus. Students were asked to write a letter of gratitude to someone, and teachers chose five in each classroom to use for a special video presentation to be released in early January. With the help of a couple of wonderfully kind and professional high school students, the video recordings were a surprise to many of our staff and students. Recipients of the letters didn't know anything about it until they were sitting in the seat in front of the camera. The authors of the touching letters were then allowed to enter the room to read their special letter to the person they were thanking. It made for some very happy and emotional moments that were all captured on camera. Click [here](#) to view the final production. A special thanks to Mrs. Hansbury for arranging all of this and spending a lot of time behind the scenes organizing the event!

OVES JANUARY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT:

Oakview Elementary School's service-learning project for the month of January is to provide the Ronald McDonald House of Camden with birthdays-in-a-box. Each preschool through first-grade class picked a birthday theme, designed a box around that theme, and filled it with birthday party items so the children at the Ronald McDonald House can enjoy their very special birthday. We connect this service-learning project to the Choose Love activities so students learn about the families at the RMDH and that through our actions we can show how we are grateful for everything we have, especially our ability to help others. Here is a sneak peek of one of the boxes that Mrs. Back's class made.



RBES HOLIDAY BOOK BINGO:

Prior to our break, Red Bank was able to hold another successful "Holiday Book Bingo" activity. Students were invited to a school-wide bingo game by choosing to participate in a reading challenge. Using a choice board of activities and short summary pages, they made bingo. When bingo was completed, students received special invitations to the Red Bank Bingo Party. This activity was also opened to our preschool students with modified reading/ELA tasks to complete. The best part was how many students asked if we could hold another "Book Bingo" again this year. Building a community of readers and a love of books is always a priority in our school.



BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY:

Board of Education Vacancy

Posted on 1/6/22



WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION is seeking interested applicants to fill a vacancy on the **Board of Education**. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest, and may also include a resume. Letters of interest and resumes must be received on or before 4:00pm on Friday, January 28, 2022 by:

Mr. Gene Mercoli
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
West Deptford Board of Education
675 Grove Road
West Deptford, NJ 08066-1999
gmercoli@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

QUALIFICATIONS - Candidates filing a nominating petition for Board membership must meet the following qualifications:

- He/She is a citizen of the United States of America.
- He/She must be at least 18 (eighteen) years of age to qualify for office.
- He/She must be able to read and write.
- He/She has been a resident of the municipality from which he/she is to be elected for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the election.
- He/She is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.
- He/She is not disqualified from membership for the conviction of crimes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1.*
- He/She is a registered voter in the district.
- No Board of Education member shall be directly or indirectly involved in any contract with, or claim against, the Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Middle School Events

- January 11: Session II Clubs began at WDMS
- January 21: Bandana Day to benefit the Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation.
- January 26: 5th Grade Winter Concert 7pm WDHS Auditorium

High School Events

- "SOUP-ER" Bowl Collection - Students bring in cans of soup to their homeroom for the SJ FOOD BANK. Winning Homeroom receives a SUPER BOWL Breakfast in February
- [WDHS Mid-Terms](#) (end of the month)
- January Theme - Random Acts of Kindness Month

January Random Acts of Kindness				Improve a Skill for the new year
--- acts completed				
2 help a friend	3 DONATE GLOVES/SCARVES	4 Use blankets instead of the heat	5 Smile	6 Write thank you notes for Christmas presents
7 GIVE A CARE PACKAGE	8 LET SOMEONE GO AHEAD OF YOU	9 Buy a drink for a homeless person	10 SHOVEL SOMEONE'S DRIVEAWAY	11 Say "good morning"
12 Leave a happy note	13 Do a sibling's chores	14 Make someone coffee/tea	15 HELP AN ELDERLY PERSON	16 Buy coffee for someone
17 CHEER UP SOMEONE	18 HELP SOMEONE WITH GROCERIES	19 Read a book about kindness	20 Take cookies to librarians	21 Leave money on a vending machine
22 Volunteer	23 Bake someone a pie	24 Celebrate Give a Compliment Day	25 Say thank you to someone	26 List what you're thankful for
27 Dust off someone's car in the morning	28 Walk a neighbor's dog	29 MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH	30 Help someone in need	31 Draw someone a picture