



West Deptford School District Board Highlights - June 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: 2,873 as of June, 2022

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Cappello updated the Board on a variety of topics related to the District. We have a lot of exciting events planned over the upcoming months in our District. Please see the upcoming events section at the bottom of this communication for more information.

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Girls' Career Institute

We are proud of the five WDHS students who attended the Girls' Career Institute (a mini college experience for young women) at Rutgers University/New Brunswick from June 6-9, 2022. Delegates experienced a sample of college life by living in a dorm, eating in a cafeteria, and attending lectures and workshops. They learned about career choices from volunteer professional speakers and how to network with other delegates from all over the state of New Jersey. It was only through the generosity of our West Deptford Women's Club that our students were able to attend this very beneficial program. Great job, ladies!

- Gracie Broglin
- Madison Colihan
- Julia Goldberg
- Brianna Green
- Paige McCullen



2022 Greater Philadelphia SeaGlide Challenge

Congratulations to Jacob Cobb for earning 2nd Place Overall SeaGlide Champion at the 2022 Greater Philadelphia SeaGlide Challenge (GPSGC) held at Temple University. This event is sponsored by US Navy NAVSEA WARFARE CENTER, TEMPLE University, and ROBONATION. West Deptford earned first place in both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Performance Events. Second place was earned in each of the following competitions: Presentation, White Paper, Circuitry and Coding, and the Bug Hunt Event.

The WD STEM club is to participate in next year's SeaGlide competition. All experience levels are welcome. Please reach out to Mr. Pustie for more information.



May Soaring Eagle Awards

The West Deptford Board of Education recognized the following individuals at their June Meeting. These students have been selected by their teachers for demonstrating outstanding character and for their commitment to their schools.

Red Bank Elementary School Recipients

- *Isabella Phelps*
- *Maddox Smith*

Oakview Elementary School Recipients

- *Nico Scirrotto*
- *Ava Grazioli*

Green-Fields Elementary School Recipients

- *Colin Woods*
- *Hideo Woods*

West Deptford Middle School Recipients

- *Skylar Duncan*
- *Michael Joseph*

West Deptford High School Recipients

- *Anna Rossi*
- *Krista Yarusso*
- *Gabrielle Battle*
- *Olivia Magee*



WDHS May Students of the Month



APPLIED TECHNOLOGY – *Grace Simpkins*
ENGLISH – *Jesse Grady*
HEALTH/PE – *Gavin Zuzulock*
MATHEMATICS – *Makayla Laxton*
SCIENCE – *Gabriella Pirri*
SOCIAL STUDIES – *Ben Oehler*
BUSINESS /Marketing E.D. – *Julia Chiomento*
WORLD LANGUAGES - *Dominique Musto*
GUIDANCE – *Collin Reeves*
FINE ARTS - *Leah Nolan*



WDMS April Students of the Month



WDMS May Students of the Month



OVES June Hard Hat Workers of the Month



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - 14 School Bus Drivers
 - 7 School Bus Aides
 - 4 Full Time Custodians
 - Maintenance (General) and Maintenance (Skilled)
 - Substitute Custodian
 - Substitute Teacher
 - ESY Teacher
 - ESY Special Education Aides
 - SOARing through Summer Program Staff
 - 6 One-Year Long-Term Tier II Elementary Teachers
 - District Media Specialist
 - 2 WDHS English Teachers
 - WDHS Special Education Teacher
 - WDHS Vocal Music Teacher
 - WDHS Assistant Boys Track & Field Coach
 - WDHS Assistant Football Coach
 - WDHS Credit Completion Program Staff
 - WDHS Credit Recovery Program Staff
 - WDHS Club & Activity Advisors
 - WDMS 7th Grade LAL Teacher
 - WDMS 5th Grade LAL Teacher
 - WDMS Team Leaders
 - WDMS Area Coordinators
 - WDMS Activity Coordinators
 - WDMS Athletic Coaches
 - 3 GFES 3rd Grade Teachers
 - GFES Preschool Teacher
 - GFES LPC Non-Instructional Aide
 - OVES School Counselor
 - OVES Health Office Assistant
 - OVES Students First Coordinator
 - RBES 2nd Grade Teacher
 - RBES Preschool Teacher
 - RBES Preschool Disabled Teacher
 - RBES LTR 2nd Grade Teacher

- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Retirement WDMS Custodian
 - Resignation WDHS Cafeteria Worker
 - Resignation WDMS Science Teacher
 - Resignation GFES 3rd Grade Teacher
- Change of Status
 - Numerous Voluntary Transfers to Accommodate the K-2 Restructure
 - OVES Part Time Special Education ICR Teacher to OVES Full Time Kindergarten MD Teacher
 - OVES LTR Kindergarten Teacher to OVES Everyday Substitute Teacher
 - 3 Cafeteria Workers to School Bus Aides

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Ratification of WDAA Contract
- 2022-2023 Transportation Contract - Holcomb
- Hire 2 Additional SLEO Class III Officers for 22-23 School Year
- 2022-2023 YEP Rates
- Closeout of 2021-2022 School Year
- Transfer Current Year Unreserved Surplus Funds
- Closeout 21-22 and Re-establish 22-23 District Petty Cash Funds
- Bind Insurance Policies
- Student Accident Policy Renewal
- Report of Contracts Awarded
- Non-Resident Tuition Rates 2022-2023
- ESEA State Plan Application
- Student Activity Procedure Manual
- District Purchasing Procedure Manual
- Systems 3000 License Renewal
- Medical Services Contracts
- Parent Transportation Contracts
- GRHSD Summer Joint Transportation Agreement
- Local Wellness Committee Report 2021-2022 School Year
- Chartwells K-12 Contract
- Cafeteria Donations
- Nursing Student Placement
- Student Placements - Rowan University
- WDMS Fall Athletic Schedules
- Various Policies and Regulations
- WDMS Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and Staff Handbook

- YEP Parent and YEP Employee Handbook
- ESY Manual
- SOARing through Summer Staff Handbook
- Lead Nurse Job Description
- Various Field Trips
- 2022-2023 Staff and Substitute Rehire Lists
- Professional Development for Preschool, 3rd, and 4th Grade
- Elementary Summer Curriculum Projects

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 which will be held on July 18, 2022 in the West Deptford Middle School at 7pm. The date and time is subject to change.

RIVERWINDS STREET FEST OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Join us every other Friday for a FREE concert series at the RiverWinds Amphitheater. Bring your own lawn chairs. Click [here](#) to view the summer lineup.

INTERNET SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Please click [here](#) to view an excellent video presentation on Internet Safety and Awareness created by Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office High Tech Crimes Unit Detective Brian Peticari. It was made in response to the interests expressed in a survey sent out to Gloucester County School Districts several months ago. Awareness in this area is so important, and we are hoping that you will glean some useful information from watching this, as well as from some of the other resources found on this website!

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST LADY OF NJ

Dear Nurture NJ Partners,

I am thrilled to announce the launch of Connecting NJ – New Jersey’s first-of-its-kind network of partners and agencies dedicated to helping New Jersey families thrive!

Formerly known as Central Intake, Connecting NJ is a centralized system through which families can receive information and referrals to community resources and services such as NJ FamilyCare, housing assistance, WIC, community doulas, home visiting programs and more. Families can visit

nj.gov/connectingnj to learn more about the services available and contact their local Connecting NJ hub. The press release on the launch can be found [here](#), and I've linked my posts on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

I want to thank all the stakeholders, including parents, guardians, and local Connecting NJ hubs, for their assistance as we worked to make Connecting NJ understandable, accessible, and approachable. Ensuring New Jersey families have access to supportive services is a crucial step to becoming the safest and most equitable state in the nation to deliver and raise a baby. Thank you for your unwavering partnership as we move one step closer to our goal.

My very best,

Tammy Synder Murphy

First Lady of New Jersey

RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO THE ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

In response to the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde Texas, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network has developed resources to help children, families, educators, and communities navigate what they are seeing and hearing, acknowledge their feelings, and find ways to cope together. These resources include:

- [Talking to Children about the Shooting](#)
- [Helping Youth After a Community Trauma: Tips for Educators \(En Español\)](#)
- [Talking to Children: When Scary Things Happen \(En Español\)](#)
- [Talking to Teens about Violence \(En Español\)](#)
- [Tips for Talking to Students about Violence](#)
 - [Coping After Mass Violence: For Adults](#)
 - [For Teens: Coping After Mass Violence\(En Español\)](#)
- [Helping School-Age Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers \(En Español\)](#)
- [Helping Teens with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers\(En Español\)](#)
- [Helping Young Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Caregivers \(En Español\)](#)
- [Guiding Adults in Talking to Children about Death and Attending Services](#)
- [After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal](#)
- [Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#)
- [Once I Was Very Very Scared](#) – children's book for young children
- [After the Injury](#)—website for families with injured children
- [Health Care Toolbox](#)—website for pediatric health providers working with injured children
- [Pause-Reset-Nourish \(PRN\) to Promote Wellbeing \(En Español\) \(for responders\)](#)

Psychological First Aid

The NCTSN also has resources for responders on [Psychological First Aid](#) (PFA; [En Español](#)). PFA is an early intervention to support children, adolescents, adults, and families impacted by these types of events. [PFA Mobile](#) and the [PFA Wallet Card](#) ([En Español](#)) provide a quick reminder of the core actions. The [PFA online training](#) course is also available on the NCTSN Learning Center.

Additional PFA resources for schools include:

- [Psychological First Aid for Schools](#) (PFA-S) – Field operations guide
- [Providing PFA-S: For Health-Related Professionals](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For Principals and Administrators](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For School Support Staff](#) – handout
- [Providing PFA-S: For Teachers](#) - handout

From the National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center

- [Transcend](#) (mobile app to assist with recovery after mass violence)
- [Rebuild your Community: Resources for Community Leaders](#)
- [Media Guidelines for Homicide Family Survivors](#)
- [Timeline of Activities to Promote Mental Health Recovery](#)
- [Self-Help: Resources for Survivors](#)
- [E-learning Courses: Trainings for Clinicians](#)
- [Resources for Victim Assistance Professionals](#)

From the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University

- [Grief Leadership: Leadership in the Wake of Tragedy](#)
- [Leadership Communication: Anticipating and Responding to Stressful Events](#)
- [Coping with Stress Following a Mass Shooting](#)

Disaster Helpline

SAMHSA has a [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) – call or text 1-800-985-5990 (for Spanish, press “2”) to be connected to a trained counselor 24/7/365.

Additional Resources

For those that are needing technical assistance or additional resources, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Melissa Brymer at mbrymer@mednet.ucla.edu.

ATTENTION WEST DEPTFORD FAMILIES!

Once again, West Deptford High School has been offered the opportunity to host an international high school student studying abroad for the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking for one or more potential host families for this student. For details, please contact Jason Morrell (jmorrell@wdeptford.k12.nj.us) or John McKeown (jmckeown@wdeptford.k12.nj.us).

WDHS DRINKING & DRIVING EXERCISES

Special thanks to the West Deptford Police Department and our school community for assisting us in running a series of "Drinking and Driving" exercises. As we approach these celebratory months with proms, holidays, and graduation parties, WDHS continues to remind students of the importance of not drinking and driving. Students were presented with access to a virtual simulator on how drugs/alcohol impairs driving and a chance to wear alcohol goggles as they drove a golf cart through a course. This hands-on experience will hopefully assist our students in not getting behind the wheel if they are under the influence.



FRIENDS OF RACHEL CLUB LENDS A HAND

Members of the WDHS Friends of Rachel Club showed up to help at the Elementary School Field Days!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

On Friday, June 17, the Class of 2022 turned their tassels and made it official. The weather was beautiful (though a bit windy), the ceremony was entertaining and included the “wave,” and the graduates were wished success by numerous speakers who imparted their well wishes and wisdom to the 210 members of the graduating class. We are so proud of this class, and we can’t wait to hear great things as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Congratulations...and GO EAGLES!!



Students from West Deptford High School's Class of 2022 celebrate graduation day, Friday, June 17, 2022. Joe Warner | For NJ Advance Media



WDMS AWARDS CEREMONIES

We were excited to host our annual end of the year awards ceremonies in-person with family and guests in attendance. It was great to recognize so many of our students through the culmination of these four individual events.



GFES BUDDY BENCH DEDICATION

On June 13th at 2pm Green-Fields had a ribbon cutting ceremony for 2 buddy benches that will be dedicated to Alivia and Elsie Ritter. Alivia and Elsie were students at Green-Fields Elementary at the time of their tragic accident that deeply affected our community last summer. The dedication focused on friendship and a

celebration of life. The buddy benches will honor their memory and our commitment to being an inclusive and family-oriented school community.



GREEN-FIELDS 4th GRADE SPRING CONCERT

For the first time in two years, we were finally able to have our fourth-grade concert with a "live" audience. On a hot, steamy, rainy evening, parents poured into the Green-Fields All Purpose Room for a fun night of music, stories, and audience participation. Although our choir is small (61 students), they are mighty. The theme for the evening was "Americana," and the song selection was perfect. There was even a time at the end when the crowd had a chance to sing along (first time we've done this), and it was awesome!

I will add that managing the choir throughout the year was a challenge with three different directors, but the end result was fantastic, nonetheless. A special thanks to Mrs. Coccia who began the year as director before her maternity leave, and Mr. Avis who came in at the last minute and did an outstanding job. We're fortunate to have such talented teachers in our building and we're proud of our students for representing GF's in such a positive way.



OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED A PROMISING PRACTICE SCHOOL!

We take great pride in announcing Oakview Elementary School as being recognized as a 2022 Promising Practice recipient by Character.org! This is quite an honorable accomplishment, and it is very inspiring to see Oakview teaching “goodness in action” every day as they seek to teach our children good character. Thank you to the SEL Committee for taking the time to organize and submit the application that outlined all the contributions to service-learning opportunities for the Oakview school community. Click [here](#) to see the other schools in New Jersey that also received this award...Oakview was one of thirty schools. Awesome job and keep up the great work!



SENIORS PARADE THROUGH OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY

On June 15th at 1:15 pm, the WDHS Seniors paraded through Oakview Elementary School as our students and staff sent them well wishes with a clap-off, high fives, and cheers. This is a wonderful way for our students to see how dedication and hard work yields outcomes. We are so proud of all of our WD students!



BUTTERFLIES!!!

Have you ever seen butterflies hatching? Well, the lucky 3-year-olds in Mrs. Walsh's class at Red Bank Elementary School did! They were able to view the amazingness as the butterflies moved through their life cycles, completing metamorphosis via four stages: egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa), and adult. Check out the excitement and wonder on our students' faces!



RED BANK ULTIMATE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK DANCE PARTY

This week of June 6th we dedicated every day to celebrate our Red Bank students. We follow a similar framework of Teacher Appreciation Week; after all, the students are the reason why we are all here. Each day brought a new surprise and our Red Bank families helped us keep this week a secret. The grand finale of Red Bank's student appreciation week was the Ultimate Glow-in-the-Dark Dance party. This particular group of students is happiest when dancing, so it was the perfect way to end an awesome week!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

District-Wide Events

- July 5-August 4 - Extended School Year (ESY)
- July 5-July 28 - SOARing Through Summer Enrichment Program
- July 5-July 28 - 21st Century Scholars G&T Camp

Oakview Elementary

- August 31 - Preschool Orientation
- August 31 - Kindergarten Orientation

Red Bank Elementary

- August 30 - Preschool Orientation

Green-Fields Elementary

- August 30 - Preschool Orientation

Middle School

- August 24 - Welcome to Middle School 5th Grade Orientation

High School

- June 27-August 4 - WDHS Summer Credit Recovery Program