

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING UPDATE
February 2022

The Chesterfield Township Board of Education met on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM for the February monthly meeting. The topics below reflect the highlights of that meeting.

Library Book Dedication

The Chesterfield Township Board of Education has established a tradition where outgoing board members dedicate a book to the school library. Mrs. Jaclyn Halaw completed her three-year term as a board member in December 2021. During her tenure on the board, Mrs. Halaw is recognized for providing oversight in navigating the pandemic as well as her contributions to the district in the areas of curriculum and instruction and special services. For example, Mrs. Halaw served as the chairperson of the Board's Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee and was actively engaged in her role as a board member in the development of the new English Language Arts Curriculum. Mrs. Halaw's interest in the school district began well before her time as a board member; however, her positive impact on the district from her time as a board member will be remembered. At the February meeting Mrs. Halaw dedicated the book *Dinosaur Lady: The Daring Discoveries of Mary Anning, the First Paleontologist* by Linda Skeers. Mrs. Halaw summarized the book and the significance Mary Anning had on our world in the field of paleontology. Thank you Mrs. Halaw for your dedication to the school district and all your hard work as member of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education.

Student Government

Did you hear the news? Chesterfield Elementary School has a student government! Mr. Mazzone presented the Board of Education and the public with an update on the Culture and Climate District Goal. He was joined by teachers Ms. Holloway and Mrs. Boyle who spoke specifically about our new student government. Over the last month students in grades 5-6 have been involved in the democratic process to elect a student government. We are excited for this new group within our school and the power this group has to provide student voice in decision making.

Student Teachers

The Chesterfield Township School District has been working with local universities to expand opportunities for student teachers. At the February board of education meeting the Board approved the following student teachers for the spring:

- Molly Elslager assigned to Mr. Forsyth and Ms. Schauer's classroom
- Lauran Measley assigned to Ms. Casey's classroom
- Patrick Wenz assigned to Mrs. DiEleuterio's classroom
- Taylor Varone assigned to Mrs. Wolochow's classroom
- Cristina Dicarlo assigned to Ms. Midora's classroom
- Emily Suto assigned to Mrs. Lawrence's classroom
- Alexis Davidson assigned to Mrs. Schaffer's classroom

Retirement

After 29 years as a member of the faculty of the Chesterfield Elementary School, Mrs. McCreary will be retiring as of April 1, 2022. Mrs. McCreary has been the cornerstone of our music programs during her tenure in Chesterfield, but has also served this district faithfully in many capacities. For example, did you know that Mrs. McCreary played a major role in the planning of our 6th grade graduation? Mrs. McCreary can be proud of many accomplishments over the years as a member of the Chesterfield Elementary School Team, but it will probably be the instrumental program that she has built that brings the most pride. Mrs. McCreary has developed an exceptional instrumental music program over the years providing hundreds and hundreds of students with a start to a successful musical future. Mrs. McCreary will certainly be missed, but the instrumental program she has built will undoubtedly be her legacy here in Chesterfield. Best wishes to Mrs. McCreary in her retirement!

Masks Optional

Although notification of this change has already been sent out to the school community, this is a reminder that the Board voted to approve the revised Health and Safety Plan at the February Board of Education Meeting which includes a change in masking. As of Monday, March 7th, the wearing of masks in the school building will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors.

Grant Award

The Board approved the acceptance of The First Day of School Foundation's grant award in the amount of \$1,000 to teacher Mrs. Bloom. Mrs. Bloom was nominated by a colleague for being a

generous and caring person who goes above and beyond to make her students' educational experiences successful, creative, and epic! This grant can be used for educational toys, sensory toys, classroom furniture, or classroom materials or resources. Congratulations to Mrs. Bloom!

New Community Outreach Committee

The Board of Education is seeking community members who are interested in serving on a new committee. The Board is creating a group of community stakeholders to serve on a community outreach committee dedicated to improving communication between the Board of Education and the public. This committee will not only focus on improving communication with the school community, but the entire community of Chesterfield. If you are interested in participating on the Board's new Community Outreach Committee, please email our business administrator Andrew Polo at apolo@chesterfieldschool.com.

New Hire

In the fall, Mrs. Wisniewski retired after 25 years in the district and serving as the administrative assistant in the special services department. After a lengthy hiring process, the Board of Education approved Ms. Candice Quillen as the new administrative assistant to the Supervisor of Special Services. Welcome aboard Ms. Quillen!

**The next meeting of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education is scheduled for
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM.**