

West Essex Regional School District Board of Education Meeting

March 1, 2021



Reports

- Board President
- Superintendent
- Superintendent & Director of Curriculum
- Principals
- Supervisor of Math & Business - Greg Aschoff

Superintendent's Report

Damion Macioci

- New Cohorts for High School and Middle School - February 1
- Reopening Committees - Week of March 8
- Spring Recess - Friday, April 2 - Sunday, April 11
- Board Meeting Date Change:
 - ***Monday, April 12 to Wednesday, April 14***
- Marking Period 4 - Monday, April 19

Superintendent's Report

Damion Macioci

- COVID-19 Activity Level Report - Northeast Region (Bergen, Essex, Hudson) “Orange-High Risk” 4/6 NJ Regions “Yellow-Moderate Risk”
- **Latest** guidance from our local health officials regarding **travel**:
 - Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 3 months and recovered do not need to quarantine.
 - Individuals who travel beyond our [immediate region](#) are required to quarantine for **14** days (this includes vaccinated individuals).
- Social/Physical Distancing - remains 6 feet ([NJDOH](#) and [CDC](#))

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #1: Increase Student Growth and Achievement **Improve School Climate and Culture**

- HS will continue progressing through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.
- MS initiated a new Multicultural Club for students and a Social Justice Committee for teachers.
- Cheryl Rosario (CGR Consulting) provided Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training to the entire faculty on day 3 of staff development.
- Case Managers connected with all students and parents within the first two weeks of school to build rapport and relationships.
- SEL Committee (Reopening Task Force) Meetings: 8/12/20, 11/10/20, & 1/5/21
- Jenny Mills (Roots and Wings LLC) will be training all staff on effective strategies to promote health and wellness in themselves and their students.

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #1: Increase Student Growth and Achievement
Improve classroom instruction (in-person and virtual)

- Revised School Calendar to provide 4 days of staff development prior to the first day of school
- Mandatory training for staff on Screencastify, GoGuardian, Zoom in preparation for synchronous online instruction; tech training on other apps/programs also provided
- Additional out-of-district PD opportunities related to effective teaching in a hybrid model
- Joint faculty meeting, department meetings, PLC time to discuss and develop effective assessments in a hybrid model
- Use of future faculty and department meetings for more PD opportunities
- Joanna Buset (Care Plus NJ) - workshops on SEL, Self-Care, Trauma, and Coping
- Upcoming mindfulness training: Tools to handle stress and anxiety

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #1: Increase Student Growth and Achievement

Increase student learning

- Increased accountability and support for students to promote learning and growth
 - Use of synchronous instruction during distance learning and hybrid model
 - All Classes Meet Wednesdays dedicated to providing support and enrichment for our students
- Enrichment tutorials at the MS
- Pre-assessed all students and developed Student Growth Objectives
- MS MAP testing to identify learning gaps and measure student growth
- HS Math and ELA diagnostic assessments through LinkIt; analyze the data to identify the strengths and weaknesses of students
- Addressing students' SEL
 - Presentations and support for students through PE/Health classes, guidance office, and special services
 - SEL activities being infused in classrooms

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #2: Promote the Health and Safety of Students and Staff

Upgrade the facilities to provide a safe, healthy environment (in line with CDC and NJDOE Guidelines)

- Facilities were equipped with plastic barriers in the following areas: building offices, teacher desks, case managers, guidance counselors, instructional and non-instructional areas, and common areas (indoors and outdoors).
- Signage was installed throughout the district to promote safe practices related to COVID-19: hallways, instructional and non-instructional areas, entry to buildings, and common areas.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers were installed throughout the district.
- Placement of temperature screening kiosks at entry points.

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #2: Promote the Health and Safety of Students and Staff

Provide students and staff with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Staff members are provided with face, eye, and hand protection**
 - Two face coverings per staff member (required)
 - One face shield per staff member (optional)
 - Plexiglass barriers are installed in classrooms and offices
 - Hand protection will be available for students and staff
 - Gloves will be available in both instructional and non-instructional spaces
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided to staff and dispensers will be in classrooms and common areas

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #2: Promote the Health and Safety of Students and Staff
Develop, implement, and practice increased safety precautions and procedures among students and staff

- Each staff member, student, and visitor to the building must receive a temperature screening and complete a health screening questionnaire (monthly questionnaire).
- School safety specialists will complete training on updated guidance for drilling in schools (modifications from NJDOE).
- Staff members to complete COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course (Nurses, Assistant Principals, and School Safety Specialists).
- CPR-AED-First Aid Training Courses - began in January of 2021 - enhanced safety precautions/limited attendance
- Meetings and consistent consultation with the local health officials

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #3: Strengthen Communication Among Stakeholders

Improve communication between district/schools and the community

- Created a Reopening Task Force that included board members, teachers, support staff, and administrators (multiple committees).
- Consistently present information at public board meetings (reports, presentations)
- Section on the District's website dedicated to Reopening Plans.
- Email blasts to remind stakeholders of upcoming board meetings (Zoom webinar for meetings)
- Weekly newsletters from principals to families
- Superintendent email blasts - Weekly NJ COVID-19 Activity Level Reports to the community and enhanced weather communication - text, email, social media, phone, and website.

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #3: Strengthen Communication Among Stakeholders
School-parent, teacher-parent, teacher-student, admin-staff, etc.

- Survey students, staff, and parents to attain feedback and inform decision making (school climate/culture, distance learning, Genesis gradebook, bell schedules, etc.)
- MS implemented wellness calls to all families from April-May and again this year from Sept-Oct.
- Case Managers connected with all students and parents within the first two weeks of school to build rapport and relationships.
- Administration uses Google Meet, Zoom, and email to communicate with staff, committee members, and union members
- Teachers use Google Classroom, Zoom, GoGuardian, emails to communicate with students
- Staff uses Genesis portal, email, video conferences, phone calls to communicate with parents

District Goals Update

2020-2021

Goal #3: Strengthen Communication Among Stakeholders
Increase technology access and usage among stakeholders
to facilitate communication

- Provided staff and administrators training on technology applications
- “Staff Self-Service” portal was created to house all information pertaining to educational applications including how-to guides with video tutorials, quick-fixes, FAQs, a PD library, and a Software Center.
- Zoom Pro licenses granted to all users to facilitate safe, secure remote learning
- Google Forms used to survey/obtain feedback from stakeholders regarding access to the internet
- Continue to fix/replace student Chromebooks and provide loaners as needed
- tech@westex.org for all tech assistance and support

Principal's Report

Gina Donlevie

- Counseling Update
- Multicultural News
- Barbara Bruchac Hero Assembly

Principal Report

Caesar Diliberto

Congratulations!

Valedictorian - **Jonah Finkelstein**

Salutatorian - **Morgan Sindle**

- ShopRite STARS for 3rd marking period:
 - Academics - Morgan Sindle (12th)
 - Athletics - Alexandra Shizas (11th)
 - The Arts - George Ashji (12th)
 - Leadership - Brianna Puorro (12th)
 - Service to the Community - Sam Prince (11th)
- Student Athletes - Chris Bell, Jake Cusano, Abby Lonergan

Principal Report

Caesar Diliberto

- One cohort and satellite rooms
 - The hallways are lively again!
 - Satellite room visitors range from 15 to 40 combined in both rooms per day.
 - Satellite room occupancy in each room ranges from 3 - 6 students.
- Junior Prom & Senior Ball
 - Senior Ball rescheduled from Wednesday, June 16 to Tuesday, June 1.
 - Junior Prom is rescheduled from Thursday, April 22 to Wednesday, June 16.



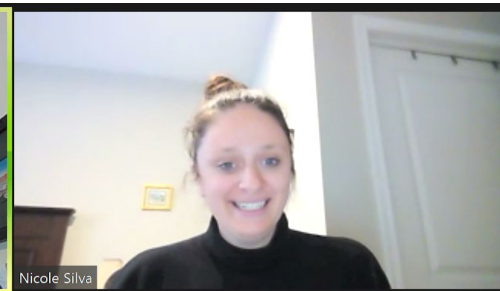
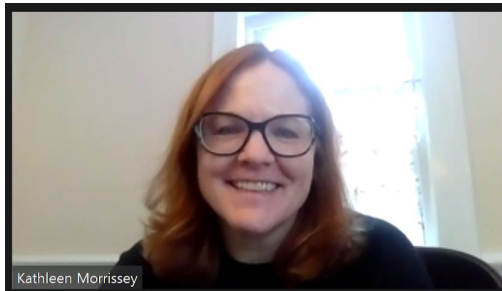
Math and Business Department Presentation

Presented by Greg Aschoff, Supervisor

Meet the Team: HS



Meet the Team: MS



New Faces/Changes:

- Welcome to Ms. Karen Hudson, MS Computer Science
- Welcome to the HS Business Department, Mr. David Semaya! (he joins the HS team from the MS)



District and Department Goals

Increase student growth and achievement

Use data to drive instruction

Increase use of authentic assessments and real-world applications



Increasing Student Growth and Achievement

- Continued evolution of 7th grade curriculum
- Academic Foundations for students who require additional support
- Professional Development for teachers in hybrid and online learning
- Enrichment Tutorial for MS Students
- Hosted Middle School Roundtable in SY19-20 attended by several neighboring districts
- Third Math National Honor Society inauguration this school year



Using Data to Drive Instruction

- LinkIt Assessments at HS
- MAP Testing at MS
- Year by Year Comparisons
- Frequent intrastate supervisor meetings
 - Host of SY19-20 Northern New Jersey Supervisor Group Meeting attended by over 30 districts
- Planned EOY assessments to assess student growth

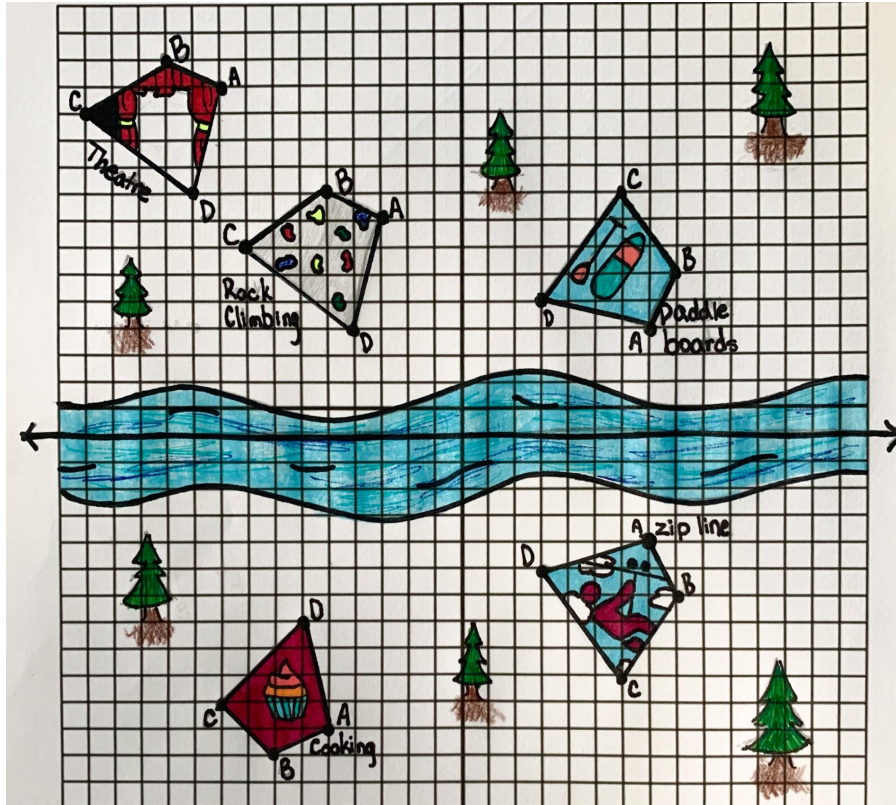


Authentic Assessment and Application

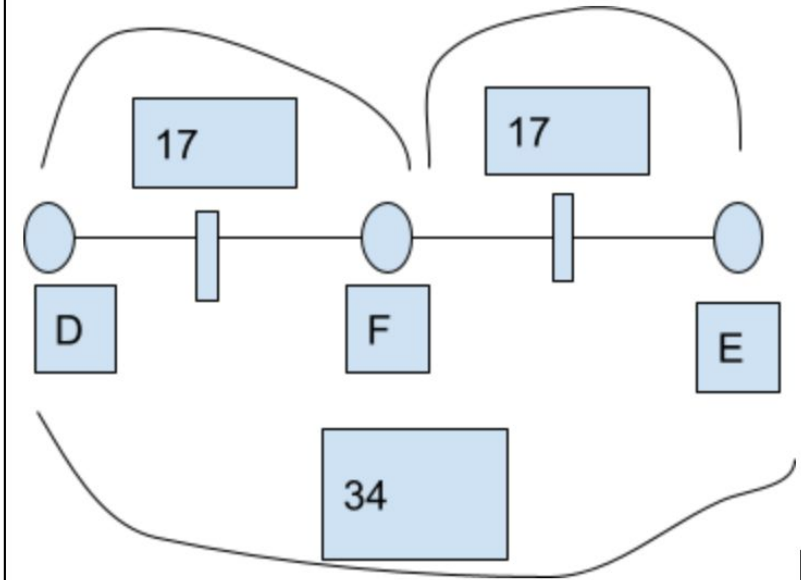
- New courses in Computer Science:
 - Animation and Game Design
 - Cybersecurity
- PBAs, Open-ended projects and questions, creative assessments
- Business course overhaul:
 - Virtual Enterprise
 - Digital Marketing and Social Media
 - Introduction to Business and Business Applications
- Success in extra-curriculars:
 - MathCounts: One of our students qualified to advance to Chapter Invitational
 - Math League: Competitions ongoing
 - FBLA: 12 students advanced to the State Competition
 - DECA: Region competition results forthcoming



Some Student Work:



GF bisects DE which means DF and FE are equal parts
So if $DF = 17$ cm FE also equals 17 cm which makes
Segment DE is 34 cm



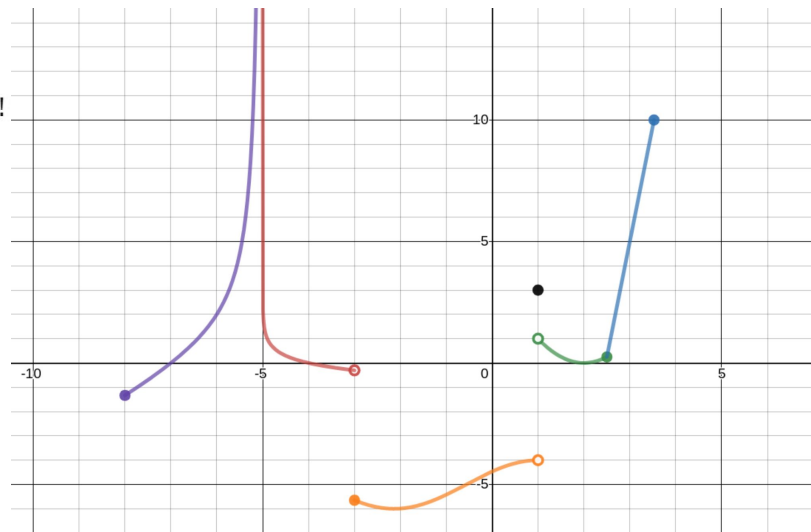
Some Student Work (cont.):

For this assignment, you will draw a **unique** function containing all of the following features. Complete this assignment on graph paper.

What do I mean by a unique function? Your graph should not look like anyone else's!

Include each of the following features:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = 1$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} f(x) = -4$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5^+} f(x) = \infty$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -5^-} f(x) = \infty$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} f(x) = 5$
- $f(1) = 3$



Snapshot of Success

- Miles Feldstein (Class of 2019):

OTHERSIDE AI



Snapshot of Success

Amanda Garofalo (Class of 2017):

MIT 2s009 Final Project:

Product Design and Launch



Fond Farewells: Janice Emering's Retirement

