

Concepts & Thought

Mayor McDermott Judges Kean Students' Redesign of Historical Westfield Building

WESTFIELD — Pupils enrolled in the Interior Design program at Kean University recently participated in a scholarship competition to redesign a historical building, The Reeve House in Westfield.

Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott served as juror for this competition.

Office furniture dealership, The Behrle Group, and office furniture manufacturer, The Kimball Office Group, have awarded \$3,000 in interior design scholarships to nine students at Kean, who participated in the contest.

The purpose of the project was to design office space using the historic Reeve House in Westfield as a prototype.

The structure, which was recently donated to the Town of Westfield, is under consideration to become a town museum and permanent home for the Westfield Historical Society's archives. The society has an extensive collection of thousands of artifacts and memorabilia.

In addition to museum display space, the design issues the students addressed included archive storage, offices for staff, and such issues as becoming handicapped accessible. The students visited the site and

attended interior design training sessions provided by the competition's sponsors.

"The scholarship competition provided a wonderful opportunity for students to apply what they learn in theory to a situation that is modeled after what they might encounter on the job," stated Kean University Professor of Interior Design Linda Fisher, who hosted the event.

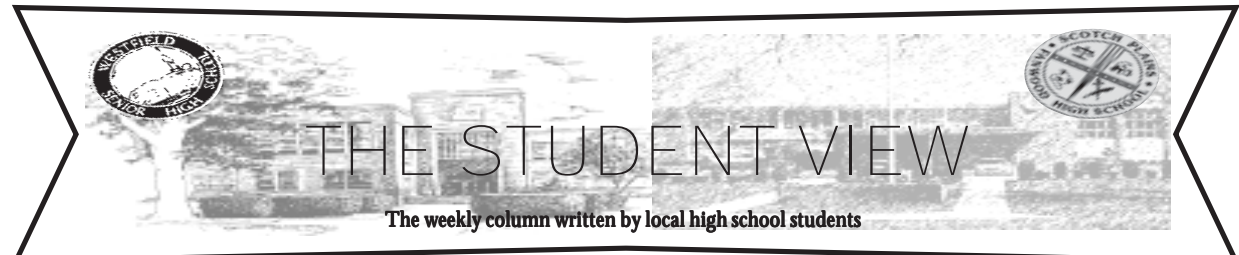
The jury for the design also in-

cluded Stanley Lipson, Curator of the Westfield Historical Society, David McManus, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Bill Behrle Associates, and John Hindman, A&D Marketing Manager for Kimball Office Group.

Students were judged on the creativity, execution and presentation of their projects. The monies were divided among three teams of three students each.



WINNING ENTRY...Kean University student Christina Cortes, Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott, Kean pupils Megan McCormack and Jackie Hartley display their winning entry in the Kean Behrle-Kimball Interior Design Competition.



Supporting Budgets in Our School Districts Ensures Our Children's Future, Success

By JEREMY LIPSTEIN
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Fortunately, the recent budget vote for 2002-2003 Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system passed. Unfortunately, it was only by a narrow margin of 255 votes (1,680 voted yes, 1,425 voted no).

As a well-funded public education system is one of the great benefits of our democracy, voting for a school budget is the only way this can be continued.

Voting against it can only bring about adversity for the entire community, and not voting at all shows one's apathy.

Considering there are over 18,000 registered voters in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, this voter turnout clearly

shows the indifference of the town's voters for their public education system. Many of these voters are parents of students in the school system.

Had half the parents of the 4,700 students in the district voted "yes" for the budget, it would have passed by a landslide. But many parents consider themselves too busy with their daily lives to spend five minutes to cast a vote in their child's future.

Do these parents, and non-voting residents have any idea of what will happen to the towns if the budget fails to pass, which may be the case in future years, judging by this year's narrow majority?

A failed budget could mean cutbacks

that eliminate many extra-curricular activities within the schools, including those involving the arts, sports, and career-related organizations. These groups are able to enhance student life by supplementing classroom education with enjoyable and educational experiences.

Hypothetically, by eliminating many extra-curricular activities, students will not appear to have a well-rounded high school experience when it comes time for college applications. Well-respected colleges will reject students for their lack of a versatile background, though it really would be the district's fault.

As the more selective colleges could veer away from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood students, the district's reputation would falter.

Now, is the part where the 77-year-old retired man may say, "How does this affect me, my children are all grown? They just want to raise my taxes!"

But while this man, along with many others of his genre, worry about taxes going up a half-cent on the dollar, his property value is decreasing because the school system no longer has an edge on those of nearby towns. Thus, the town could become a less desirable place to live.

This "hypothetical" situation weighs itself only on the scale of reality, for neighboring towns, like Clark and Mountainside, where the school systems are trying to maintain a reputable school district after a budget has failed.

Though one could say this will never be the case in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that with only a 255-vote edge, a failing budget could be a pitfall the towns will have to deal with next year.

Annual Schedule of BOE Meetings Set in Borough

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education has announced its annual slate of regularly scheduled meetings, all of which will be held on Tuesdays and will commence at 8 p.m. in the Media Center at Deerfield School, 302 Central Avenue in Mountainside.

During these meetings, which are listed below, the board may go into private session whenever necessary: May 14, 28; June 11, 25; July 9, 23; August 13, 27; September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 12, 26; December 10; January 14, 28; February 11, 25; March 11, 25, and April 8, 22.



A VARIETY OF FUN...Tamaques Elementary School pupils in Westfield presented their annual variety show on March 15 and 16 at Westfield High School. Students of all grades began practicing in January, and performed to song that saluted this year's theme, "Top 40 Hits." Pictured, above, are second graders, awaiting their performance.

Westfield BOE Appoints Claudia Andreski As New Principal at McKinley Elementary

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Claudia Andreski as the new principal of McKinley School, a K-8 school with 287 students. Her appointment becomes effective July 1.

Mrs. Andreski has 20 years experience in education, most recently as assistant principal of Franklin Elementary School in Westfield. She has been with the Westfield school district for 16 years.

In 1986, she began teaching fourth grade at Jefferson Elementary School, where she remained until this year.

The 1997 recipient of the Philhower Fellowship, which is awarded by the Westfield Rotary for the elementary teacher of the year, Mrs. Andreski is also a former winner of the Governor's teacher Recognition Award and a grant recipient of the "A+ For Kids Teacher Network."

She has served on several curriculum committees within Westfield and most recently initiated a book donation program intended to create goodwill and communication between Franklin School and urban school districts in New Jersey.

Mrs. Andreski received her Masters Degree in Education Administration from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Newark State College (Kean University).

Mrs. Andreski was introduced to McKinley parents at their April 24



NEW PRINCIPAL...Claudia Andreski will begin her new post as Principal of McKinley Elementary School in Westfield in July.

"Claudia is an outstanding teacher and a fine administrator who works hard to bring out the best in children. I am confident she will be a great success as principal of McKinley."

Joining Dr. Foley in recommending Mrs. Andreski for the principal position at McKinley School were Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Janie Edmonds; Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Margaret Dolan; Washington Elementary School Principal Joseph Malanga; McKinley School teachers Holly Baly, Mary Dailey and Laurie Scaturro; and McKinley parents Renata Bieber, Susan Bigelow and Adrienne Bishop, all members of the McKinley School Principal Search Committee.

In commenting on her acceptance of the position, Mrs. Andreski said, "What a wonderful opportunity it will be for me to be part of the McKinley School community! I look forward to working with the teachers and parents as we help our children reach their finest potential."

Earl Tankard will remain as Acting Principal of McKinley School through the end of June. Mr. Tankard assumed leadership responsibilities at McKinley following the resignation of former Principal Chic Hansen in January.

At the April 24 meeting, Dr. Foley thanked Mr. Tankard for the "great job he has done at McKinley."

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting. A resident of the McKinley neighborhood, she returns to the school where she first walked her own kindergartner and served as its PTO president more than 23 years ago.

Westfield Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley stated,

Justine McGowan, grade 10; Katherine Bash, grade 12; and Megan McGowan, grade 12.

Receiving Honor Roll status, with an overall "B+" average, were: Westfielders Mary Bash, grade 9; Lauren Cordes, grade 9; Kelly O'Neill, grade 9; Colette Moryan, grade 10; Michele Greco, grade 11; Lauren Mullman, grade 11; Kathleen Dura, grade 12; and Margaret Smith, grade 12.

Westfield Honor Roll Pupils Posted at Mount St. Mary

WESTFIELD — Directress Sister Lisa Gambacorto, Principal of Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung announced the names of area students achieving honor roll status for the second trimester of the 2001-2002 academic year.

Qualifying for the Principal's Honor Roll, with straight "A's" were: Westfielders Emily Dura, grade 9; Jeana Greco, grade 9;

Justine McGowan, grade 10; Katherine Bash, grade 12; and Megan McGowan, grade 12.

Receiving Honor Roll status, with an overall "B+" average, were: Westfielders Mary Bash, grade 9; Lauren Cordes, grade 9; Kelly O'Neill, grade 9; Colette Moryan, grade 10; Michele Greco, grade 11; Lauren Mullman, grade 11; Kathleen Dura, grade 12; and Margaret Smith, grade 12.

Lund and Solon Earn Dean's List Recognition
WESTFIELD — Westfield residents Erik H. Lund and Kathryn Solon have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2001 term at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.
Erik, a junior, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lund of Westfield. He is majoring in political science with a minor in business management.
Kathryn, a sophomore, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Solon of Westfield. She is majoring in psychology.



WELCOME ABOARD...Last Tuesday, Westfield Board of Education Attorney Richard Kaplow swore in new members Alice Hunnicutt and William Ziff, re-electing Board President Arlene Gardner to the board. Pictured, left to right, are: Business Administrator and Board Secretary Robert Berman, Mrs. Hunnicutt, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Ziff, and Mr. Kaplow.

Aliche, McGee Receive Degrees at Montclair
WESTFIELD — Montclair State University in Upper Montclair has reported that, as of January, Westfield residents Tiffany Odochi Aliche and Megan Colleen McGee have both graduated.
Tiffany received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Megan earned a Master of Arts Degree in Communication Science and Disorder with a concentration in Speech Language Pathology.

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