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BOE, Residents Discuss Reimagining Survey Results

By **ROBYN ORR-GIOFFRE**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD — During the Cranford Board of Education (BOE) meeting Monday night, Superintendent of Schools Scott Rubin, Ed.D., provided the community with preliminary results of the survey recently sent out on the "Reimagining" of the Cranford school district.

There were 1,937 residents who completed the survey, with "no more than 92 duplicate surveys," Mr. Rubin told the board. Duplicate surveys refer to more than one survey completed in a single household.

Preliminary results indicate the most popular plans, of the 10 that were put forward for the "Reimagining" of Cranford, are plans 8 and 10.

Both plans maintain the community school environment, with no bussing; offer full-day kindergarten, and do not involve one comprehensive middle school.

Plan no. 8 would allow for re-districting and plan no. 10 would not.

Several residents stood to comment on the survey and expressed displeasure, referring to the survey as "flawed," and also offered criticism of the use of Qualtrics, a program that collects data for research purposes, for the survey.

Board member William Hulse reminded residents that the survey was created not by the board nor the superintendent exclusively, but by Qualtrics, and that the questions were "guided" by

the 10 plans.

Mr. Rubin made evident that the larger point to the survey was for the community to have a "voice" in what will happen in the district.

Resident Doug Hutton encouraged the board to go back to Qualtrics and inquire about whether or not they worked with a research company and an independent group of peers to determine if the language used in the survey was appropriate and unbiased.

The superintendent described the creation of the survey as a "collaboration" between the district and Qualtrics and made clear there was a focus group and a peer review used.

In other business, Susan Ritter, supervisor of language arts and media, gave the board a presentation showcasing Primary Reading Intervention Strategies

Garwood Rocks to Be Back For Sixth Year

GARWOOD — The sixth annual Garwood Rocks street fair, hosted by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, will take place on Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in downtown Garwood.

The street fair will be held rain or shine. This year the event has been extended to 6 p.m. Center Street will be closed to traffic from South Avenue to Unami Park beginning at 7 a.m.

Spagnuolo Named Educator of Year; Lewis, Person Making a Difference

GARWOOD — On April 25, the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 15th Annual Appreciation Dinner at The Westwood. Crystal Spagnuolo was honored as Lincoln School's Educator of the Year and Adele Lewis was honored as Garwood's Person Making a Difference.

Mrs. Spagnuolo is currently in her 20th year in the district teaching seventh and eighth grade

Mathematics, as well as seventh grade English Language Arts. She grew up in Garwood and has shared that she, "always felt a special connection with the school and the students in it."

Mrs. Lewis is the founder of the EFG and continues to serve as a member, which she has done each year in its 15-year existence. Additionally, she spent 12 years serving on Garwood's Board

of Education, eight of those years as president. Currently, she is on the Westfield YMCA Board of Trustees, the Garwood Historical Committee, and is a shelter volunteer at the Jersey Animal Coalition (JAC) in South Orange.

With over 140 in attendance to enjoy the awards ceremony, dinner, tricky tray, and 50/50 raffles, this signature event raised more than \$4,700 for the EFG. The generosity of local business contributes greatly to the ability of this event to be a very successful fundraiser. The EFG raises funds in order to provide scholarships for graduating Garwood eighth-grade students and high school seniors. In addition, the EFG awards grants to Garwood educators to enhance the curriculum. To date, the EFG has distributed over \$56,000 in scholarships and grants.

Candace Kilmer, president of the EFG, expressed, "Thank you to all those who attended the dinner, sponsored a table, or donated an item for the tricky tray. With your help, we were able to make this year's Appreciation Dinner one of the most successful in recent history and a memorable celebration for the honorees."

The EFG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. It was founded in 2004 to work with the Garwood School District "in pursuit of educational excellence." Follow on Facebook at "Education Foundation of Garwood."



EDUCATION MATTERS... On April 25, the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its 15th Annual Appreciation Dinner at The Westwood. Pictured, left to right, are: Garwood Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., Person Making a Difference Adele Lewis, Educator of the Year Crystal Spagnuolo, and Principal Mary Emmons.