



# MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



Superintendent of Schools Woodbridge School District

**MISSION**  
Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.  
woodbridge.k12.ct.us September 24, 2019

Dear Beecher Road School Families

**W**ELCOME BACK AGAIN. It was terrific to see so many parents at our Open House events as well as at the PTO Welcome Back Ice Cream Social. The School Administration sends special thanks to all our families for their strong participation in these opening events. The school year is now in full swing as the memories of summer are fading.

Each year, this late September edition of **Parent Update** highlights our Board of Education members. These nine dedicated and talented people are elected or appointed to these volunteer positions. They devote a significant amount of time in both regular and subcommittee (policy, curriculum, facilities, finance) meetings in support of the best educational opportunities for our students. Learn about them on page 2.

I look forward to seeing you in school during the year!  
Robert "Bob" Gilbert

### Your opportunity to help task force

**T**HE WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION has formed a short-term budget task force that will meet several times this fall. The task force will be made up of representatives from parents, BOE, certified and non-certified staff and administration. It's an opportunity to share budget information as well as exchange ideas. While the meeting schedule has not yet been established, it is anticipated that meetings will take place in the very late afternoon or early evening.

The Board is looking for two parent representatives with flexible schedules to serve on this task force. Interested parents should email Marsha DeGennaro at [mdgennaro@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:mdgennaro@woodbridgeps.org) no later than Thursday, October 3, at 9 AM. If more than two parents express interest, a lottery will take place.

## WORK HARD – DREAM BIG SETS TONE FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

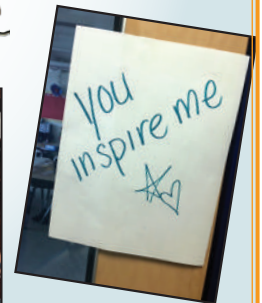


and appreciation have been sent among the staff. Also, positive and encouraging messages for students were painted on walls. These and surprise culinary treats are just a few of the ways we are experiencing positive climate and energy in the school. And as always, the *PTO Ice Cream Social* brought our entire school community together – students, parents and staff – to celebrate the start of another school year.

**W**ITH THE SCHOOL YEAR fully underway, the collaborative efforts of the faculty, staff and administration are up and running. The first day of school started with students walking into the new year greeted by the sound of music and celebratory bubbles. As the year has progressed random messages of kindness



**Clockwise from top:** Bubbles say "welcome back" on the first day of school – Positive message for all – Random act of kindness from one teacher to another – Nothing says kindness like unexpected goodies delivered on a cart. – Rep. Themis Klarides and Sen. George Logan (center) join the fun at the PTO Ice Cream Social



### Test results to be presented

**P**RICIPAL SHERMAN will present the school's annual testing report to the BOE at its Oct. 21 meeting. The report focuses on the results of the state's spring 2019 *Smarter Balanced* tests that assess students in grades 3-6 in language arts and math. Individual results were mailed home to parents in mid-September.

### No-school dates and early dismissals

- Sept 26 BOWA Regionalization Mtg @AHS 6:00
- Sept 30 - No School Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 8 - 1:10 Dismissal Prof Development
- Oct 9 - No School Yom Kippur
- Oct 14 - No School Columbus Day
- Oct 15 & 17 - 1:10 Dismissal Parent Conferences
- Oct 21 - Regular WBOE Meeting
- Nov 5 - No School Prof Development
- Nov 27 - No School Prof Development
- Nov 28 and 29 - No School Thanksgiving



CONNECTICUT  
GREEN LEAF  
SCHOOLS

**T**HE BRS *GREEN TEAM* is part of the state's *GreenLEAF Schools* program\*. Members are parents, school staff, administrators and town citizens.

Below: A food waste and recycling program in the cafeteria has students separating recyclables, trash and liquids.



\* A Project to Research, Identify and Promote Sustainability in Connecticut Schools

# GET TO KNOW YOUR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Steven Fleischman, M.D. – Chair



**D**R. FLEISCHMAN has been a member of the WBOE since 2009 and was elected Chair in July 2019. Dr. Fleischman also served as Vice-Chair until June 2019 and Chair of the Finance Committee since July 2011. Steve has been a resident of Woodbridge since 2004, has four children and is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Albany Medical College and Yale University School of Medicine. He has served as President of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. He currently serves on those boards as well as the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Executive Board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Steve has a private practice in ObGyn locally and is currently the Associate Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale New Haven Hospital.

## Lynn Piascyk – Vice Chair



**L**YNN PIASCYK was elected to the Board in 2015 (after retiring from BRS in 2013) and elected Vice Chair in 2019. She is a graduate of Beecher Road School and Amity High School. During her 36 year tenure as a Grade 1 teacher at BRS she was presented the Award of Excellence for Distinguished Service and was the district's 1993 Teacher of the Year. A resident of Woodbridge since 1964, Lynn also serves as a Justice of the Peace. She holds a B.S., M.S., and Sixth Year Professional Degree of Advanced Study as a Classroom Teacher Specialist. Lynn is Chair of the Curriculum Committee and a member of the Finance and Facilities Committees as well as the BOE Liaison to the Safety and Security Committee.

## Maegan Genovese – Secretary



**M**AEGAN GENOVESE has one child at BRS as well as a child recently graduated from WCSU. She earned a BA in Psychology from WCSU and an MS in Research, Statistics, and Measurement in the Behavioral Sciences from SCSU. She has been a resident since 2013 and is a data manager/analyst in research initiatives covering child welfare, behavioral health, education and social services. Maegan is currently employed at The Consultation Center at Yale University School of Medicine. Maegan has served as Secretary of the Board and the CABE Liaison since her election in 2017, as well as the Policy Chair since the beginning of 2019.

## Daniel Cowan P.E.

**D**ANIEL COWAN, a resident since 2012, was elected to the Board in 2019 and has one child attending BRS. Mr. Cowan is a UNH graduate and an Engineering Consultant with EMCOR Services NEMSI. Active in the BRS PTO, he served as Coordinator of the Halloween HOOT for the last several years. Mr. Cowan will serve on the Facilities and Policy Committees.



## Jeff Hughes

**J**EFF HUGHES moved to Woodbridge in 2011 and has two children currently attending BRS. Mr. Hughes is a UCONN graduate and serves as the Area Manager for Residential Colleges at Yale University. Mr. Hughes also has extensive business knowledge in landscaping, construction, restaurants, contract negotiations and capital projects. Mr. Hughes will Chair the Facilities Committee and serve on the Finance Committee.



## David Ross, M.D., Ph.D.

**D**AVID ROSS, recently appointed to the Board, has been a resident since 2013, and has a child attending BRS. Dr. Ross is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Ross is the Associate Program Director of the Adult Psychiatry Residency Program at Yale and serves as co-chair of the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative. Dr. Ross will serve on the Curriculum Committee.



## Joyce Shavers



**J**OYCE SHAVERS has two children at BRS. In November 2018, Joyce was appointed to the BOE to fill a vacancy and was reelected in May. She organized the after-school Chinese program at BRS and was an instrumental advocate and leader in the after-school FIRST Lego League (FLL) at BRS, an international science and robotics team competition program. Joyce is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School and worked at the law firms of Simpson Thacher as well as Cravath, Swaine and Moore in NYC. Joyce also led HR departments at Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Cantor Fitzgerald. Joyce is Chair of the Finance Committee, a member of the Curriculum Committee, and served on the Ad Hoc Enrichment Committee.

## Michael Strambler, Ph.D.



**M**ICHAEL STRAMBLER moved to Woodbridge in 2018 and was recently appointed to the Board with one child at BRS. Dr. Strambler is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and is an Assistant Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine with an appointment at The Consultation Center at Yale. He is the director of the Child Well-Being and Education Research program and the Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER). Dr. Strambler also serves on the Board of Achievement First Bridgeport Academy. Dr. Strambler will serve on the Curriculum Committee.

## Jeffrey Townsend, Ph.D.



**J**EFFREY TOWNSEND, a resident since 2009, was elected to the Board in 2019. He has two children attending BRS. Dr. Townsend received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Brown University. He taught elementary, middle school and high school science before getting his doctorate at Harvard. He is currently the Elihu Professor of Biostatistics and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University, and will serve on the Policy Committee.