Re-Cap!

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Debra Sheinin, President; Cheryl May, Vice President; Judy Menashe, Francois Tenenbaum, Shari L. Amitrano, Jonathan D. Altus, Chana Jeter

June 14, 2023

Woodmere Education Center

Public Hearings

The Public Hearings were called to order at 5:40 PM.

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Marino explained the annual review of Policy #5300, Code of Conduct. There were no comments from the public.

Dr. Marino shared the District-Wide Safety Plan. The committee worked on the plan and made adjustments. The plan is available on the website for public comment. The plan will go for approval at the August 23 Board of Education Meeting. There were no comments from the public.

Work Meeting

The Work Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

The treasurer's report was presented by Mrs. Donnelly. There were no questions.

Dr. Marino led a discussion about notification of holidays on the District calendar. This agenda item was added based on a request from a community group, the District 14 EID collective. The group requested to add the Eid holidays to the District calendar so students, staff, and the community would be informed on the holidays. An in-depth discussion took place regarding adding all religious holidays to the calendar, and if so, where the holidays should be listed. Mrs. Hussain shared survey data and discussed the importance of recognizing holidays so teachers are cognizant of observant students and understanding regarding missed tests and activities. The Nassau BOCES master calendar was noted by both the Board and community members as a point of reference. Nassau BOCES includes all religious holidays on their calendar. Mrs. Sheinin said there would be a vote during the Regular Meeting regarding the addition of the holidays to the District calendar.

Mrs. Sheinin explained that agenda items three and four would be postponed until later in the meeting.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts. A Board member asked a question about the vendor and costs for summer playschool.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Bids, Transfers of Appropriation, and Schedule of Gifts.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following reports: Budget Status, Revenue Status, Fund Balance, and Extraclassroom Account.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Business Office Resolutions. A Board member requested additional information about the WEC parking lot lighting. A discussion took place regarding the number of lights and funding.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Non-Resident Tuition Rates, District-Wide Safety Plan, Budget Timeline for 2024-2025 Budget, and Applications for Club Charters.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the Schedule of Conferences and Travel. Barbara Giese and Samantha Nasso will attend the National School Public Relations Association National Seminar in July. Dr. Ralph Marino will attend the National Superintendents Roundtable Symposium in July, and the New York State Council of School Superintendents Fall Leadership Summit in October.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended that five students from the HHS Science Research program attend the New York Science Congress State Finals in Syracuse, New York.

Dr. Marino reviewed the 2022-2023 Board of Education Goals and discussed the Board of Education Goals for 2023-2024. Dr. Marino also reviewed the 2022-2023 District Goals and discussed the 2023-2024 District Goals. These items are tabled until the June 28 work meeting.

Mr. Cohen, Eastern Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center gave a presentation, Combating Hate: A Digital Empowerment Workshop. The presentation can be found HERE.

Ms. Kavanagh gave a presentation on Regents Weighting and the “Do No Harm” grading practice. The presentation can be found HERE. The discussion on the presentation was paused and resumed later in the evening.

Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.

WMS students Althea Abique, Yuval Ben-Baruch, Emily Liechtung, Eyal Mizrachi, and Sophia Sepe recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the Star Spangled Banner.



Dr. Fund recognized middle school and high school students on behalf of the Nassau Music Educators Association, Long Island String Festival, New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education, and the Art Supervisors Association.



Nassau Music Educators Association recipients (WMS): Althea Abique, Yuval Atias, Alexander Baum, Yuval Ben-Baruch, Ella Marie Cayo, Leo Chen, Leeor Davidov, Romy Fruman, Jacqueline Hsi, Mitchell Krasner, Alexa LaPaglia, Emily Liechtung, Eyal Mizrachi, Mikkel Myaskovsky, Noga (Rei) Preis, Sophia Sepe, Dylan Singh-Dorsey, Elexis Weisner, Myla Williams, Sean Zamorano, and Mischa Zhang.



Nassau Music Educators Association recipients (HHS): Anneliese Baum, Leah Bragin, Victoria Brodsky, Lily Cohen, Olivia Ginzburg, Lucas Giordano, Benjamin Herzberg, Barbara Hogue, Suzanne Hogue, Anastasia Inglima, Justin Kim, Claudia Lee, Krista Lee, Frank Minerva, Sapir Mizrachi, Daniel Nidetch, Shaan Patni, Ariel River, Elani Rocha, Samuel Sava, Victoria Son, Arielle Vaknine, Ari Vanunu, and Nathalie Vargas.



Long Island String Festival recipients: Derin Artan, Dylan Singh-Dorsey, Lily Cohen, Lucas Giordano, Krista Lee, Shaan Patni, and Victoria Son.

New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education recipient: Anastasia Inglima

Art Supervisors Association recipients: Zhara Barton, Mohammad Faiz, Damaris Villatoro Rodas, Mischa Zhang, and Yael Madjar.





Dr. Montellese recognized the following students who achieved the 2023 Seal of Biliteracy: Krisantina Prifti (Albanian), Aurelie Narcisse (French), Gilly Tamir (Spanish & Hebrew), Michael Pignatelli (Italian), Sarra Mikhaylov (Spanish & Italian), Sara Cho (Korean), Ethan Abelev (Spanish & Russian), Olivia Ginzburg (Spanish), Abigail Khaytman (Spanish), Tamar Honore (Spanish), Leila Flores (Spanish), Emily Erdos (Spanish), Talya Uziel (Spanish), Erica Sava (Spanish), Niv Shapira (Spanish), Romi Adar (Hebrew), Isaias Valdez (Spanish & Italian).



Dr. Greenberg introduced Robotics advisors and retirees, Mr. Schildknecht and Ms. Torrenson. Mr. Schildknecht and Ms. Torrenson recognized Robotics students.



Team Bionica: Deniz Artan, Sidrah Ashrafi, Anneliese Baum, Hiral Chavre, Rachel Chen, Joanna Chen, Moyosore Dixon, Maree Drayling, Olivia Ginzburg, Nicole Kuznetsov, Ilana Mizrahi, Jaime Ng.

Team Roboboogie: Ethan Abelev, Abdullah Ashrafi, Brian Chen, Lily Cohen, Evan Geltman, Jeremy Ginzbug, Julia Igaunis, Yeraz Melconian, Shivani Persuad, Jaden Stallwroth, Addison Star, Alexandre Tourneux, Zarina Wadiwala, Hunter Weisner, Shane Zamidar.



The Work meeting resumed with the discussion about Regents weighting. Many students spoke and asked the Board to reconsider implementing the “Do No Harm” policy. The Board continued the discussion about giving students an advantage when applying to college and consistency with other Districts. Several parents spoke about the stress on students and are in favor of reinstating the “Do No Harm” policy.

Dr. Marino presented the 2023 New York State School Boards Association Resolutions Kit.

Dr. Marino presented the following policies for Initial Review: #0100 Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination, #1900 Parent and Family Engagement, #4316 Physical Education, #4526.1 Internet Safety Policy, #5100 Attendance, #5151 Homeless Children, #6240 Investment Policy, #6700 Purchasing, #8115 Integrated Pest Management, #8630 Technology Resources and Data Management.

Dr. Marino presented the following policies for Final Review: #1500 Public Use of School Facilities, #1336 Fees, #5300 Code of Conduct.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A community member discussed safety at fire drills.

The Work Meeting ended at 10:15 PM.

The Regular Meeting resumed with the recognition of the Board of Education members.

Dr. Marino presented the Board Excellence Award to Mr. Francois Tenenbaum, and Board Achievement Awards to Mrs. Shari Amitrano and Mrs. Chana Jeter on behalf of the New York State School Boards Association.







Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent’s Report. He recognized the many end of year events he attended in the buildings including the lively concerts, Honor Society Induction ceremonies, Community Recognition Awards, Athletic Awards, the Nassau County Council of School Superintendent’s Valedictorian and Salutatorian Breakfast, and the Memorial Day Parade. He held staff chats in HES, OES, and HHS. The HW 2025 Senior Exit Survey was sent to all 2023 graduating seniors and the State of the District survey is still in development. The 125th Anniversary Committee met and brainstormed about upcoming events. He thanked the committee members for their hard work.

Mrs. Bonnie Kurtz, Central Council PTA Co-President, provided the PTA Central Council President's report, which can be found at the end of the recap.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Menashe reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee. The committee recommends for approval the recommendations of both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Education.

Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. The committee recommends approval of three policies listed on the agenda.

Mr. Tenenbaum reported on behalf of the Public and Private Schools Committee. He attended the most recent meeting at HALB and discussed the learning environment approach, and how to streamline the process of transportation and religious activities. Mr. Tenenbaum also attended the NYSSBA Annual meeting and spoke about the importance of developing a relationship with the Long Island School Board coalition.

The Board of Education requested two Resolutions be added to the agenda for approval:

- I.1.3 Resolution: Placement of Religious Holidays on Printed Calendar
- I.1.4 Resolution: Do No Harm 2022-2023 School Year

ROUTINE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The minutes from the May 17, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting were accepted.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately: G.1.3 Schedule of Annual Leadership for 2023-2024 School year, I.1.3 Resolution Placement of Religious Holidays on Printed Calendar, I.1.4 Resolution Do No Harm 2022-2023 School Year, H.1.8 Resolution SEQRA Approval.

The following policies were approved:

#1336 Fees Policy

#1500 Public Use of School Facilities

#5300 Code of Conduct

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 5:00 PM, Work Meeting, Woodmere Education Center
Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 5:00 PM, Organizational & Regular Meeting, Woodmere Education Center
Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 5:00 PM, Regular Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Matthew Samuelson and Brian Chen spoke about condemning hate speech in the District.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:30 PM.

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the June 14 regular meeting.

Click HERE for the Central Council PTA newsletter.