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

May 10, 2023

The work meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Sheinin welcomed the community and read the protocols to be followed by speakers from the audience.

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

Ms. Amanda Kavanagh introduced Dr. Kim Mattes, Interim P-12 Chairperson of Mathematics. Dr. Mattes reviewed the next generation learning standards for mathematics and the mathematical practices used throughout the District. Dr. Mattes then provided an in-depth review of the elementary, middle, and high school mathematics programs. She also reviewed many special events such as the FECC Number Parade, Steam Nights, Math Game Days, the $1.25 Words Challenge, classroom collaborations, and math contest winners. Please view the presentation HERE.

Board members thanked Dr. Mattes for the presentation. Dr. Altus asked if students are losing the ability to solve complicated equations. Dr. Mattes assured him that the foundations are still being taught.

Mrs. May asked about Tri-State Indicator #8 and sharing student work online.

Mrs. Sheinin asked about the parent portal and the grades and information that can be viewed.

Mrs. Menashe asked about double acceleration and if it is possible to keep the students at WMS. Dr. Mattes has not been part of any conversations discussing this. It is a matter of staffing.

Ms. Kavanagh provided an overview of Teaching, Learning, and Technology. She reviewed the District committees and teams she participates in and explained that the work she is sharing stems from those groups. Ms. Kavanagh shared the Programmatic Review Schedule which outlines the timeline for curriculum review. She discussed the elementary instructional minutes

for 2023-2024 which were restructured to align the buildings horizontally and to allow for time to include the NYS Digital Fluency and Computer Science Standards as well as Social and Emotional Learning within the instructional day. Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the academic summer programs available, including the new Summer Learning Academy for students in grades P-6. An update on both instructional and administrative technology was shared. The role of the Technology Integration Lead Teachers was reviewed. Instructional Technology goals and meeting agendas were shared. Ms. Kavanagh highlighted the District Technology Showcase. Please view the presentation HERE.

Mrs. Jeter asked if the Summer Learning Academy is open to both public and non-public P-6 students and if that would affect the curriculum for those children recommended for the program. Ms. Kavanagh stated that the groupings will be the same size and all student goals will be addressed.

Mrs. Sheinin commented that parent recommendation is important too and she appreciates that the program is open to all.

Mr. Tenenbaum commented that a mix of technology and traditional teaching methods is important. He also asked if there is funding left over from the academic enrichment that can be used in other ways.

Dr. Altus thanked Ms. Kavanagh for the wonderful presentation and asked about Artificial Intelligence. Ms. Kavanagh commented that we do not have the whole picture yet and that there are many differing opinions. There are both advantages and drawbacks.

Mrs. May commented that she is glad that we are bringing STEM in to all fifth graders and that we need to be sure that they do not lose it at WMS.

Questions from the Public on the TLT Presentation

Mrs. Abramovich asked about the upgrades to student computers and Internet issues. Ms. Kavanagh states that the chromebooks are on a 4-5 year cycle. IT regularly monitors the network.

Mrs. King asked about AI and the instructional minutes proposed. Ms. Kavanagh shared the process for aligning the instructional minutes.

Mrs. Eliopoulos asked about instructional minutes.

Mrs. Morgan asked about the Digital Fluency and Computer Science Standards.

Mrs. Baigel asked about digital standards, auto correct and educating teachers on technology.

Dr. Marino commented that the alignment of the instructional minutes came up during the Princeton Plan Task Force meetings, the November 9 Board of Education presentation, and the Math Tri-States study last year. We need to make sure that all students are equally prepared for 6th grade.

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

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following Business Office Resolutions: Independent Accountant's Report; Participation in Cooperative Purchasing for the 2022-2023 School Year; and Participation in Cooperative Purchasing for the 2023-2024 School Year. Amil Virani asked Mrs. Donnelly to review the highlights of the Independent Accountant's Report. He will be provided a hard copy of the report.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the District's revised Professional Development Plan.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the trip to the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona for one student from June 13-17, 2023. This is the first time in 25 years that a HHS student has qualified.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the Schedule of Conference and Travel. Mrs. Donnelly will attend the 2023 Association of School Business Officials of New York Education Summit and Expo in Saratoga Springs from June 4-7.

Dr. Marino reviewed the NYSSBA Resolutions Kit and explained that submissions are due by July 5. It was determined that Mr. Tenenbaum and Mrs. May would work together on a resolution draft to eliminate Regents exams.

Dr. Marino discussed the Board of Education meeting dates for the 2023-2024 school year. It was agreed that time changes would be as follows: Budget Meetings at 6:30 PM; Work Meetings at 7:00 PM, Regular Meetings at 7:30 PM; Tour of Facilities at 7:00 PM; Summer Meeting at 5:00 PM.

Dr. Marino reviewed the request from several board members to write a letter of support for Districts who need to change their mascots per Board of Regents mandate. The discussion focused on the Board of Regents overstepping their authority to require the change in Native American mascots. It was determined that the first step would be to consult with counsel.

Dr. Marino shared the following policies for initial review: #1336 Fee Policy; and #1500 Public Use of School Facilities.

Dr. Marino shared the following policies for final review: #0115 Student Bullying, Harassment Prevention and Intervention; #2160 School Board Officer, Members, and Employee Ethics;

#4526 Network and Technology Acceptable Use; #5465 Child Abuse in an Educational Setting; and #5500 Student Records.

Speaker cards were received from the following community members:

Darren Moritz spoke about the recents conflicts at WMS and potential consequences.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:00 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 16, 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM, School Budget Vote and School Board Elections, Woodmere Education Center

May 17, 8:00 PM, Regular Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

June 7, 7:30 PM, Work Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the May 10 Work Meeting.