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

March 8, 2023

BUDGET MEETING

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the proposed expenditure budget, the additions to the 23-24 budget, the adjustments to the rollover budget, the proposed revenue budget, the allowable tax levy growth and inflation factors, the tax cap analysis, and the proposed rates and fees for the 23-24 school year. Please click HERE for Mrs. Donnelly's presentation.

WORK MEETING

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

Mrs. Sheinin welcomed the community and read the new meeting format, including speaker protocol.

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

Mr. John Wimmer presented an update from the Social Studies Department. He reviewed the social studies curriculum and special events that have occurred at all schools. Students at FECC learn social studies by focusing on the role of community members. In HES and OES, students expand their knowledge of communities and learn about New York State, the United States, and the Americas. At WMS, students learn to critically examine historical documents. WMS students have traditionally performed well in the Long Island Regional History Fair. This year will be the first administration of the New Frameworks United States History and Government Regents on June 1. HHS students continue to be successful in the Junior Science and Humanities Research Program and the Regeneron Social Science Research Program. Mr. Wimmer is currently applying for the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness credential for the 2023-24 school year. Please click HERE to view Mr. Wimmers's presentation.

Dr. Altus thanked Mr. Wimmer for the presentation and asked if there were any courses or programs that he would like to introduce. Mr. Wimmer discussed women's history.

Mr. Tenenbaum asked about moving away from memorization and its impact on students. Mr. Wimmer stated that the students' ability to learn from others is remarkable.

Mrs. May asked about the Regents. Students did well on the 10th grade Regents last year. This year will be the first time students are taking the new U.S. History exam.

Dr. Marino introduced Dr. Andrew Fund, who presented an update from the Art and Music Department. Dr. Fund first reviewed the art programs at each of the District schools and shared the wonderful projects created by students of all ages across many mediums. He also shared how student artwork is shared beyond our walls and into the community. Dr. Fund then reviewed the music programs at all of the schools, including the many performance groups. He shared that the Music Department was named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in 2022. He also highlighted the many performances and concerts that have taken place thus far this year. Dr. Fund concluded by thanking the BOE for their continued support for the arts. Please click HERE to view Dr. Fund's presentation.

Dr. Altus thanked Dr. Fund for his engaging presentation and commented on the visit to the medical facilities to spread holiday cheer. He asked what else the BOE can do to support the arts. Dr. Fund commented that the BOE is a wonderful supporter of the arts and that the upgrades to the HHS auditorium are greatly needed.

Mrs. May commented on the wonderful HHS musical, *Into the Woods.* She mentioned that she saw it on Broadway and that the HHS performance was superior, including the fabulous sets. Dr. Fund thanked the team of people who worked hard to build the scenery.

Mrs. Amitrano thanked Dr. Fund for the work he has done so far and she looks forward to the future. She mentioned that the engagement with the community is wonderful and she would like to see that continue to grow.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Capital Project proposal for the May 16 vote. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

The BOE had an in-depth discussion of the items to be funded under the Capital Projects and the ones to be funded under the Athletic Repair Reserve. Mr. Tenenbaum asked about the softball and baseball field at WMS and if that is needed now. Dr. Altus stated that we will receive 46-47% back from building aid on the Capital Projects and should include as much as possible.

A discussion also took place about the tennis courts and the possibility of adding a fifth court and if the resurfacing is necessary. Dr. Marino and Mrs. Donnelly stated that the resurfacing is necessary for safety reasons. The addition of the fifth tennis court will be put on hold.

Mrs. May expressed concern about the HHS track and field being part of the Capital Project and not the Athletic Repair Reserve. Mrs. Donnelly explained that there is not enough available in the Athletic Repair Reserve to include all athletic projects.

Mrs. Jeter commented that we need to prioritize the projects. Mrs. May stated that we saved the money specifically to be able to repair and replace needed items and that we need to move forward.

Dr. Marino stated that the BOE needs to vote on the resolution for the Capital Project next week and that revisions should not be made at this time. We have been speaking to the community about this project since September.

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

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts. Two contracts will be added before the regular meeting. The Board of Elections contract will move to the April meeting.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Transfers of Appropriation, Surplus Equipment, the Schedule of Gifts, and the Applications for Club Charters.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following Business Office Resolutions: Participation in Cooperative Purchasing, the Acceptance of the Single Audit Report, and the Propositions to be placed on the May 16 ballot.

Dr. Marino reviewed Conference and Travel, which includes the Mid-Hudson Teacher Recruitment Day to be attended by Ms. Fenick.

Dr. Marino reviewed upcoming field trips, which includes the Music Department Trip to Boston and the Varsity Girls Track participation in the Penn Relays.

Dr. Marino reviewed the Legal Notice of the Annual Election.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policies for initial review: Policy #0001 Mission Statement and Vision, Policy #7100 Facilities Planning, Policy #8414.5 Alcohol and Drug Testing of Bus Drivers, and Policy #8700 Insurance.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Ari Gluck asked about the Capital Project proposal and the reason for the rear mezzanine to be added to the HHS auditorium. He also asked for clarification of the repair reserves and cooperative bidding through Nassau BOCES.

A community member discussed student behavior at Woodmere Middle School.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:22 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 7:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Tour of Facility

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 8:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Budget Session

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Public Budget Forum

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the March 8 Work Meeting.