Re-Cap!

November 9, 2022

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

BUDGET MEETING

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the 2023-2024 budget development goals, additions and considerations to date, the budget timeline, information requested by the BOE, information still needed, and the budget presentations scheduled for December. Please click HERE for Mrs. Donnelly's presentation.

A member of the Board asked about the possibility of beginning the language program in elementary school and adding Hebrew as one of the languages we teach. Dr. Marino answered that this will be addressed during the Work Meeting.

Another Board member asked if they were able to submit recommended initiatives. Dr. Marino stated that Board members may suggest items during budget meetings.

Another Board member asked about the Discovery teacher at WMS. Dr. Marino stated that it is just a consideration at this point.

There were no questions from the public.

WORK MEETING

The work meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Sheinin read a statement about the rules of order, meeting behavior, and public commentary. She thanked the public for attending the meeting and stated that there are several important presentations on the agenda.

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

Dr. Marino introduced Mr. John Grillo, the District's architect, to present updated information on the proposed May 2023 Capital Project. This presentation was the third time Mr. Grillo is sharing potential scope of work based on requests and input from the Board. The scope of work has been narrowed. Mrs. Donnelly shared information about how the District will fund the

projects without borrowing. Once the Board reaches consensus, Dr. Marino will hold meetings throughout the community to share information.

Board members discussed the potential projects at length. Mrs. May stated that we need to decide where we want to go as a District. We need to keep improving our facilities. A conversation also took place about the pool repairs. Dr. Altus asked about the state aid for the work. Mrs. Donnelly replied that 46.4% will come back to the District over time.

Additional conversations took place about the HHS auditorium and the proposed balcony.

Mrs. Menashe stated that we need to prioritize and move forward.

Questions from the public were asked about the percentage of state aid and stadium lights usage.

It was decided that the pool work would be removed from the project. Mrs. Amitrano asked about outdoor bathrooms. Mrs. Menashe discussed the need for an additional tennis court.

It was decided that Dr. Marino would share with the community and then bring the plan back to the Board. The presentation can be found HERE.

Mrs. Kavanagh, Dr. Greenberg, Mrs. Harrison, Dr. Terry, Dr. Mattes, Dr. Montellese, Dr. Fund, Mrs. Hochhauser, and Mr. Machado, presented the suggested revisions to the HHS course catalog. The presentation can be found HERE. Board members asked questions about the computer programming courses and the CTC requirement. Questions were also asked about the addition of a two-year algebra sequence. It is important not to have additional under enrolled courses. A discussion took place about the recommended revisions to the AP Physics prerequisites. In addition, questions were asked about the addition of 2.5 science courses.

Mrs. Sheinin stated the following: "Thank you to Dr. Marino and all the members of both Task Forces. The hard work and dedication put into creating these reports is evident and will be used to assist the Board in determining what would be the best outcomes for the students, staff, and community of Hewlett Woodmere."

Dr. Marino presented the report from the Princeton Plan Task Force.

He began by thanking the members of the task force for their time and efforts. He underscored that the goal of the task force was to determine "how," not "if," the District could implement the Princeton Plan. Dr. Marino summarized the report and the information presented in the report from each of the work groups.

Board members asked questions about the following:

- Two grades per school and if other districts do the same.

- Potential cost savings.
- The impact on our special education students.
- Equity between HES and OES. Dr. Marino stated that after the Tri-States report on mathematics, the buildings and administration will be addressing inequities.
- Mrs. Sheinin commented that there is not a significant cost savings and it appears that the community does not want the Princeton Plan.
- Mrs. May commented that this is more about equity between HES and OES than it is about cost savings.

Speaker cards were received from Gabrielle Barry and Nicole Eliopoulos. Several other community members spoke, as well.

The overwhelming sentiment is that the community does not want to implement the Princeton Plan.

The equity issue among the elementary schools was discussed at length. Dr. Marino stated that Mrs. Kavanagh will be working with building leadership.

The Board agreed not to move forward with the Princeton Plan. The presentation can be found HERE.

Dr. Marino presented the report from the Nine-Period Day Task Force. He began by thanking the members of the task force for their time and efforts. He underscored that the goal of the task force was to determine "how," not "if," the District could implement a nine-period day at Hewlett High School. Dr. Marino summarized the report and the information presented in the report from each of the work groups.

Board members asked questions about the following:

- Mrs. Sheinin asked how other high schools can make nine periods a day successful. She also asked if the task force considered a zero period.
- Mrs. Jeter discussed the data about teenagers and sleep deprivation.
- Dr. Altus discussed that 40% of our students are taking nine courses and that the cost savings is not significant.
- Mrs. Sheinin stated that the District is already realizing the savings of about $1 million from the elimination of under enrolled courses.
- Mrs. Menashe mentioned the lack of extra-help for students and asked if the task force considered alternatives.
- Dr. Marino stated that the mission of the task force was to go from a 10-period to a nine-period day. The objectives were approved by the Board a year ago.
- Mr. Tenenbaum requested that we continue to be cognizant of the under enrolled classes.

Speaker cards were received from Irena Kopach, Jennifer Cohen, Anoosha Virani, Laura Fratti, Regina Ginzburg, and Keisha Grant.

The overwhelming sentiment was that the community does not wish to move to a nine-period day at Hewlett High School.

The Board agreed not to move forward with the Nine-Period Day. The presentation can be found HERE.

The Special Education Report can be found HERE.

The Public and Private School Public Relations Plan can be found HERE.

There was no commentary or questions from the Board on the remainder of the agenda items.

Mrs. Sheinin adjourned the meeting at 1:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 8:00 PM, Hewlett High School, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 6:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Budget Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 7:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Work Meeting

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 8:00 PM, Hewlett Elementary School, Regular Meeting

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the November 9 Work Meeting.