Re-Cap!

February 16, 2022
Franklin Early Childhood Center

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

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

TOUR OF FACILITY

Mrs. Kim Parahus and Dr. Lorraine Smyth provided a tour of Franklin Early Childhood Center.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.



Dr. Lorraine Smyth introduced a video recording of students in Dr. Montellese's class who recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Lorraine Smyth and Dr. Andrew Fund introduced a video recording of students from Ms. Nicolich and Ms. Niederman's classes singing *This Land is Your Land*.

Dr. Andrew Fund presented a video highlighting the art and music programs at FECC.



Dr. Bissoondial introduced two students, Anneliese Baum and Benjamin Sherman, and Mr. Van Wie introduced two students, Elizabeth Balzac and Carrie Zheng. All four students achieved semifinalist status at the Junior Human Science and Humanities Symposium. The students have worked tirelessly to develop a topic, conduct research and surveys, analyze data, record results, and discuss the implications of their research. The students are judged on a variety of criteria against

participants from across the nation. Additional information about their projects and research can be found HERE.

Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's report. Dr. Marino attended various events in the buildings. He watched the students at FECC participate in a safari adventure obstacle course, read to Mrs. Maltz's fifth grade class for World Read Aloud Day at HES, and attended and enjoyed the HHS Theater Company's performance of *Auntie Mame*. This month the District also held its annual Gallery One art exhibit. Dr. Marino enjoyed seeing all the artists enthusiastically participating and the wonderful turnout of spectators. K12 Insight facilitated a debrief meeting on the Alumni Survey. The District launched two surveys earlier in the month, Student Engagement and Curriculum & Instruction. The surveys will close next week and the District will meet with K12 to review the results next month. Dr. Marino hosted a Superintendent's Roundtable on February 8 that was well attended. The next roundtable will be held on March 15 at Woodmere Education Center. Dr. Marino provided an update on the Nine-Period Day and Princeton Plan Task Forces. The first meeting of the Nine-Period Day Task Force was held last week. The kickoff meeting for the Princeton Plan is this week.

Mr. Hogan provided the Curriculum & Instruction report. He discussed the reduction in our COVID-19 numbers since the Omicron variant positivity rate a month ago. Currently, we have seven total students and staff members on quarantine. The newly instituted COVID-19 self-reporting form is working very well. The reduction in COVID-19 cases has allowed Mr. Hogan to get back into the classrooms. Recently he has observed Music, Chemistry, AP World History, Reading and Physical Education classes. The transition of the Curriculum & Instruction office has begun with Mrs. Kavanagh chairing the Professional Development Committee, New Teacher Induction Meetings, and joining Mr. Hogan in monthly and mid-year goal meetings with the P-12 chairpeople.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Business Office Report. Budget development is ongoing. Since October, Mrs. Donnelly has had monthly presentations regarding the 2022-2023 budget. The budget meeting last Wednesday reviewed the history of the tax cap, our tax levy limit for 2022-23, projected expenditure and revenue budgets. There are three upcoming budget meetings on March 9, March 17, and March 22. All previous budget presentations can be found HERE. Since the District receives money from the federal government and expends more than $750,000 of federal dollars in a single fiscal year, we are required to have an independent financial audit referred to as a "single audit." While the process was delayed a bit this year due to COVID-related grants, the auditors have now provided the District with a document request list and will visit the District this month to complete the process. Mrs. Donnelly also gave an update on the FEMA Reimbursement Request. In October 2020, a reimbursement request was submitted for a number of COVID-related purchases, including gloves, hand sanitizer, masks, and additional desks. In September 2021, FEMA asked for some clarification on the usage of supplies. At the time, our application was still pending. This month, Mrs. Donnelly and Mrs. Parahus had a conference call with a case manager from FEMA. They indicated that the application is still in the queue, waiting to be reviewed and that the

District could submit additional COVID-related costs beyond the original time period. Mrs. Donnelly is working with Ms. Parahus and other staff members to gather information and submit requests until they close the window.

Dr. Bediako provided the Human Resources report. She explained the process for the high school principal search and announced that the District found an outstanding educator to lead HHS into the future in Dr. Alexandra Greenberg. The negotiations continue with various bargaining units, including the Teachers' Union.

Ms. Peterson provided the Special Education report. She attended several building events this month including World Read Aloud Day at HES, the performance anxiety presentation by Mark Zauss at HHS, and the Gallery One art exhibit. She thanked Dr. Fund for the wonderful student artwork that will be displayed in her office. Ms. Peterson shared that the District partnered with Lynbrook Public Schools to host a parent workshop for parents of students with disabilities. The presentation focused on guardianship and safeguarding the future of children with severe disabilities to ensure they are cared for and protected beyond the lifespan of their parents. Annual review season for the Committee on Special Education is in full swing. Ms. Peterson has been meeting with the CSE chairs who are conducting annual reviews to determine the support required for each student. She has also been meeting with agencies that provide related services to confirm we are able to meet all mandates for next year. The NYS Special Education data has been certified and submitted to NYSED regarding the services we provide to students. Additionally, Ms. Peterson participated in several committee and task force meetings, made a presentation at District Leadership Team of the two social emotional learning programs that will be piloted, and continues to observe teachers and meet with staff.

Madeline Heyman, Executive Treasurer of Student Council, provided a report. She spoke about the recent fundraisers in the building, noting Valentine's Day as a fun and successful day. The Executive Board of Student Council has met with Ms. DeCarlo and the BOE to make certain their voices are heard on various topics. They are satisfied with the many goals they've achieved this year.

Mrs. Shana Milillo and Dr. Shari Findling reported on behalf of the Central Council PTA. The information can be found in the PTA newsletter at the end of this document.

Board Member Committee Reports

Mr. Greebel reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee. The Committee recommends the approval of the recommendations by both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee, who recommends the approval of the three policies on the agenda.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Greebel commented on the success of the wrestling program this year. The team finished third in Nassau County, with senior Josh Gendlin becoming the sixth Nassau County champion in team history.

The Board of Education was invited to HES to explain the role of the Board of Education to the fifth grade students. The students asked informative questions about the mask mandate and the District's absence policy. Several Board members commented that spending time with students in the classroom is the best part of the job.

Several Board members participated in World Read Aloud Day at HES. It was a wonderful experience and they very much enjoyed their time in the building.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard on Agenda Items:

Christie Goldstein spoke about the task force regarding the Nine-Period Day.

Amil Vitani spoke about item 1.5 BOE Letter to NYS Governor Kathy Hochul.

Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting were approved.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved, item 1.5 BOE Letter to NYS Governor Kathy Hochul was removed and will be considered under a separate vote.

Three policies were approved: #5420 Student Health Services, #4850 Animal Dissection, and #0330 Evaluation of Professional Staff for abolishment was approved.

The Board of Education reviewed the draft letter to NYS Governor Kathy Hochul, prepared by President Sheinin. A discussion followed about the contents of the letter. The letter will be modified to include six signatures and one dissent and it will be sent out immediately. The agenda item was approved in a vote of 6-1.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:05 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Budget Meeting at 6:30 PM, Work Meeting at 7:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Tour of Facility at 7:30 PM, Regular Meeting at 8:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center

Thursday, March 17, 2022, Budget Meeting at 7:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, Public Budget Forum at 7:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the February 16 regular meeting.

Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.