Re-Cap!

February 9, 2022
Woodmere Education 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

BUDGET MEETING

The budget meeting began at 6:30 PM. The budget presentation can be found HERE.

WORK MEETING

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

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

Mrs. Giese provided the annual Communications Update. The presentation can be found HERE. A Board member asked a question about the District's use of social media.

Dr. Terry provided the annual Science Update. The presentation can be found HERE. The Board asked Dr. Terry questions related to the challenges facing educators, how teachers are preparing students for Regents exams, and if the Physics regents is offered in January.

Dr. Fund and Mrs. Kavanagh presented on three options to video record Board meetings. The presentation can be found HERE. The options they presented were using an iPad, using a video camera with a high quality microphone, or investing in a traveling wireless setup. They discussed the different equipment needed and the cost associated with each option. In all the options, the meetings would not be livestreamed, but recorded and then posted to the website. Additionally, any change would require a revision to the current Board policy about Board Meetings. Dr. Marino will ask the attorney if we can conduct a pilot for one month without changing the current Board policy. The Board asked Dr. Fund and Mrs. Kavanagh questions about the sound quality, the availability of the equipment within the District, and what other Districts are doing.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Business Office Reports: Budget Status Report, Revenue Status Report, and Preliminary Fund Balance Report. A Board member asked a question about the high number assigned to assigned encumbrances. Mrs. Donnelly responded that it has to do with purchase orders.

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

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Schedule of Contracts. She noted that a few more contracts will be added for the next meeting.

Mrs. Donnelly presented two Business Office Resolutions: flat roof replacement at the high school and a facilities cooperative bid.

Dr. Marino reviewed the Field Trips, including the DECA States competition that will be held virtually.

Dr. Marino reviewed Conferences and Travel, which includes Dr. Marino and Mrs. Giese's attendance at the National School Public Relations National Seminar in Chicago in July, and Mrs. Giese and Mrs. Nasso's attendance at the New York State Public Relations Spring Conference in Syracuse at the end of March.

Dr. Marino announced the task force participants for the Nine-Period Day and Princeton Plan.

Dr. Marino stated that three seats on the Nassau BOCES Board of Education would expire as of June 30, 2022. Since our Board is eligible to nominate candidates, the Hewlett-Woodmere Board of Education will nominate Ronald Ellerbe, Fran Langsner, and Robert Schoen for three year terms. The resolution will appear on the February 16 Board of Education agenda.

The Board of Education proposed drafting a letter to Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York. The Board discussed the letter and its possible contents. Mrs. Sheinin reiterated that the letter would be neutral, not political. A letter will be drafted and the Board will review it and make changes in public at the February 16 Board of Education meeting. The letter will include: what is the District's responsibility, how can we live with COVID-19 going forward, and the need for a timeline to prepare. If approved at the February 16 meeting, the Board expects to send out the letter prior to Winter Recess.

The Board of Education discussed the Mask Mandate. Members of the Board explained that for the past two years, Hewlett-Woodmere has been able to keep schools open and followed all local and state mandates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following individuals spoke about the Mask Mandate (please excuse any incorrect spellings of names. Speaker cards are handwritten and not always easily deciphered): Jen Hogue, Jeanine Cavataio, Kelly Joyce-Shapiro, Julia Kravtsova, James Hogue, Jeff Goldstein and Sam.

Anosha Vireni spoke about the mental health of students.

Jennifer Gonzalez and Chani Jeter spoke about public relations and use of social media.

Hewlett Woodmere Faculty Association President Ric Stark thanked the Board of Education for holding a respectful meeting where residents can express their opinions.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Franklin Early Childhood Center, 7:30 PM: Tour of Facility, 8:00 PM: Regular Meeting

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

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

NOTE:
Click here for the agenda and supporting documentation for the February 9 Budget Meeting.
Click here for the agenda and supporting documentation for the February 9 Work Meeting.