Re-Cap!

January 12, 2022
G.W. Hewlett High School

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

WORK MEETING

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Sheinin.

Mrs. Sheinin welcomed attendees to the Board of Education Work Meeting. She reiterated that the Work Meeting is where the Board discusses predetermined topics that are on the agenda. No motions are made or adopted at Work Meetings. When the BOE has finished their discussion on an agenda item, the public is welcome to speak on that item.

Mrs. Sheinin informed the public that they are welcome to share comments and questions on non-agenda items, but there will be no Board discussion on those items.

There are two different opportunities for the public to speak. The first is during the review of agenda items. The second is at the end of the meeting on non-agenda items.

Those wishing to discuss the mask mandate, livestreaming, or COVID-19 vaccinations will be able to speak at the end of the meeting since those items are not on the agenda. Each audience member who wishes to speak will be permitted to do so only once and for a two minute time limit. All questions and comments should be directed to the Board through the Board president.

Mrs. Sheinin reminded the audience that there was press in the room and that everyone should be respectful of their neighbors. Those wishing to speak should complete a speaker card.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Treasurer's report. There were no questions.

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

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts and the Schedule of Bids. The Audit Committee will make a recommendation for External Auditor services.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Surplus Equipment, which includes copiers scheduled for replacement and a compact tractor, which is no longer operational.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Applications for Club Charters from WMS and HHS.

Mr. Hogan reviewed the schedule of Field Trips, which includes the NYSSMA Jazz Ensemble on March 6-7.

Mr. Hogan reviewed the Policies for Final Review: Policy #8130 School Safety Policy and Policy #1000 Community Relations Goals (minor revisions will be made to this policy).

Mr. Hogan reviewed the Policies for Initial Review and Abolishment: #5420 Student Health Services, #4850 Animal Dissection, and #0330 Evaluation of Professional Staff (for abolishment).

Mrs. Sheinin addressed the public prior to moving on to the next agenda item, the 2022-2023 District Calendar. She reminded the community that in 2018 the Board took the position that there was no secular purpose for adding a holiday to the District calendar. This position was adopted on the advice of counsel. Once again in 2019, the Board exercised its discretion and determined that insufficient secular purpose would be achieved by adding the holidays.

This evening is the first time the Board will have a public discussion about the 2022-2023 school calendar.

Mrs. Sheinin then opened the floor for Board member discussion. The majority of the Board members expressed concern regarding adding a religious holiday to the calendar. Although the formal vote will not take place until January 19, 2022, the consensus was that the Eid holidays would not be added to the calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following individuals spoke about the 2022-2023 District calendar, the addition of the Eid holiday, and cultural diversity (please excuse any incorrect spellings of names. Speaker cards are handwritten and not always easily deciphered):

Shari Findling, Arib Khan, Tara Woltman, Yasmeen Mozawalla, Shana Millilo and Alyssa Honig, Michael Brenner, Haseene Mooppan, Sidran Shrafi, Afsah Shareef, Anoosha Virani, Asma Rasheed, Intisa Ahmed, Lisa Kaplan-Miller, Shahnaz Mallik, Ibrahim Rasheed, Sarina Hussain, Dr. Iqra Khaleez, Sameer Baig, Adam (no last name given), Ari (no last name given), Ahmed (no last name given), Zainab Mozawalla, Isra Rasheed, Ammaar Shareef.

The following individuals spoke about masks in schools: Dr. Diana Kopach, Daylin Layne.

Gabriela Pesantez spoke about the ERASE Racism essay contest and a recent comment by a Board member.

Michelle Morgan spoke about the value of the PTA and encouraged all parents to join.

Mrs. Sheinin then turned the discussion back to the 2022-2023 District calendar and asked the Board members for their input on calendar option A or B.

Calendar A: Mr. Greebel, Mrs. Menashe, Mrs. Amitrano, Mrs. May, Mrs. Sheinin

Calendar B: Mr. Tenenbaum

Dr. Altus was not in favor of A or B.

The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:40 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, Tour of Facility at 7:30 PM; Regular Meeting at 8:00 PM, G.W. Hewlett High School

Thursday, January 27, 2022, Budget Meeting at 7:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center

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

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

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the January 12 Work Meeting.