Re-Cap!

October 20, 2021
Woodmere Middle 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

REGULAR MEETING

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WMS 8th grader, Victoria Brodsky.

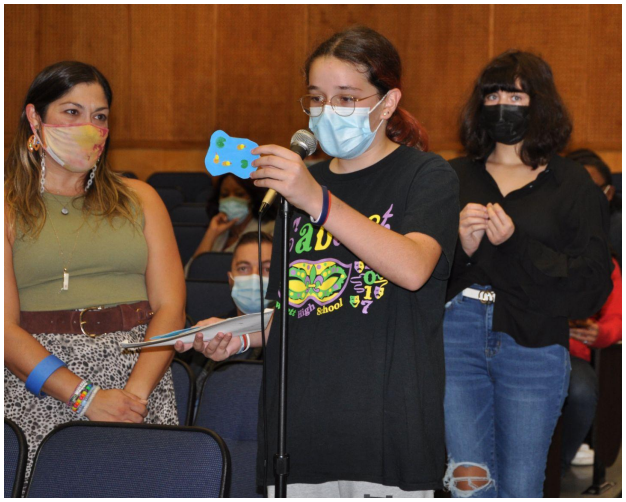




Dr. Andrew Fund introduced orchestra teacher, Ms. Theresa Ruggles. She, and a WMS string quartet, performed a beautiful rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner.” Student musicians included Sofia Mayvaldov, Shaan Patni, Sean Zamidar and Claudia Lee.



Dr. Fund introduced WMS art teachers, Ms. Linda Mizel and Mr. Dominick Guistino, who spoke about art at WMS and introduced student artists, Mia Koloden, Elena Palone, and Darren Chen. The students shared beautiful artwork and explained their creative process in producing their work.







Dr. Marino thanked the Board of Education for all of their efforts on behalf of the children of Hewlett-Woodmere. The Board of Education watched a short thank you video featuring the art and music students of Hewlett-Woodmere. Dr. Marino presented each BOE member with a certificate of recognition.

Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's Report. He has held staff chats at Franklin Early Childhood Center, Hewlett Elementary School, Hewlett High School, the Woodmere Education Center and the Maintenance Shop. The next staff chat will be held at Ogden Elementary in early November. Dr. Marino visited Yeshiva of South Shore, where Rabbi Kramer gave him a tour of their construction. He also attended the FECC “One” kickoff. Dr. Marino provided an update on the HW 2025 initiative. The kickoff meeting with the 21-member implementation team is November 1. K12 Insight will facilitate the meeting to discuss the 2020-2021 school year and review the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Four surveys will be administered in 21-22: Alumni, Student Engagement, Curriculum and Instruction, and School Quality. Dr. Marino hosted Superintendent Roundtables on September 30 at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment and October 12 at the Hewlett Fire Department. The next roundtable is November 16 at the Woodmere Education Center. Dr. Marino concluded his report with a construction update. The HES roof project is continuing; WMS elevator replacement is complete; and the HHS window and HVAC projects are continuing.

Mr. Hogan provided the Curriculum and Instruction Report. He continues to monitor COVID-19 cases within our schools and remains in contact with the Nassau County Department of Health.

The number of students quarantined at this time is very low. Mr. Hogan has been conducting monthly meetings with the P-12 Chairpeople to stay up-to-date with all departments. He has been working on preparing for Superintendent's Conference Day on November 2. A full schedule of workshops will be offered for staff, including some follow-up presentations to the August Superintendent's Conference Day. The Clerical staff will be participating in Google training. Mr. Hogan also reported that the new teacher induction program will begin meeting next week.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Business Office Report. The external audit has been completed and the auditors have confirmed the District's excellent financial position in terms of expenditures, revenues, reserve balances, and fund balances. As part of the process, the external auditor has issued a management letter which provides recommendations on items the District needs to address. The Audit Committee met on October 6. Ms. Van Duyne from RS Abrams joined remotely and provided the key areas of their review process. They provided an unmodified opinion of the financial statements, which is the best opinion possible. The Audit Committee also reviewed the Agreed Upon Procedures Report focusing on Employee Benefits (2020-21 SY) and the Risk Assessment (2021-22 SY) performed by our internal auditors, Cullen & Danowski. Mrs. Donnelly and the business office staff will begin developing corrective action plans. Budget development for the 2022-2023 school year has begun.

Dr. Bediako provided a report from the Human Resources Department. Her office has been continuing the hiring process and as of now, there are no open positions. They are working closely with the IT department on the Basic Educational Data (BEDs) report. Negotiations with bargaining units are ongoing. Dr. Bediako also reported that her office is managing the submission of COVID-19 test results among unvaccinated staff. Currently, more than 92% of staff are vaccinated.

Ms. Peterson provided the Special Education Report. Ms. Peterson reported that she continues to collaborate and work with colleagues across the county and island to provide support for students and staff as well as staying up to date with potential changes to the regulations regarding students with disabilities. Ms. Peterson has been visiting each of the non-public schools to review the support we provide to the students with disabilities who attend those schools and discuss any concerns they may have. Ms. Peterson participated in the FECC/SEPTA meeting happily sharing with the parents and staff that the difficulties faced initially in arranging for some student services, nursing in particular, have been arranged. With very few exceptions as new students enter, all student needs are being met. Ms. Peterson participated in her first in-person meeting of the Tri-State Consortium with PPS administrators from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. It was nice to hear from colleagues in neighboring states about issues they faced and ways to address the needs of students with disabilities. Ms. Peterson has been working with Mr. Hogan on the workshops for Superintendent's Conference Day, ensuring that the professional development opportunities for both faculty and staff lead to progress and growth.

Ms. Hayden Millman provided the HHS Student Council Report. They are planning a kickball fundraiser for November 10. During Walk Along Wednesdays, music is played in the halls in between classes. Halloween spirit week is upcoming.

Mrs. Shana Milillo and Mrs. Alyssa Honig 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. Menashe reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. The committee met on October 5. Mrs. Giese provided highlights of the website, calendar, and COVID-19 information. The Blackboard Connect messaging system now has the capability of translating written messages into many languages. A brochure highlighting the District and all schools has been provided to local real estate offices. The Happy New Year newsletter, including information from non-public schools, will be sent to all residents again in January.

Mr. Tenenbaum participated in the NYSSBA annual business meeting on October 18. The NYSSBA website outlines the meeting's results and adopted positions. He noted that it was encouraging to see that school districts across the state are facing similar challenges.

Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. The committee met on September 29 and discussed several policies under initial review. One policy, #6800 Payroll Procedures, is up for approval.

Mr. Greebel planned to report on behalf of the Audit Committee, but Mrs. Donnelly provided a thorough review. He thanked Mrs. Donnelly and the Business Office for presenting financial information in a manner that can be understood by all.

Mrs. May also reported that she attended the FECC “One” event and that it was wonderful to be able to attend school events again.

Mrs. Bonnie Kurtz asked several questions regarding the reorganization plan. She asked about the combination of the IT and Curriculum and Instruction offices and how all the work will be able to be completed. In addition, she asked about two proposed reductions: the 9-period day at HHS and the Princeton Plan. Both Mrs. Sheinin and Dr. Marino responded to the questions. The 9-period day and Princeton Plan are just items that are in the research and exploration phase. The new position in the reorganization will allow for even greater focus on the three areas because all other non-related responsibilities are being moved to another office.

Another community member asked similar questions regarding the reorganization.

The minutes, consent agenda, and policies were all approved.

Mrs. Nicole Eliopoulos thanked Mrs. Kurtz for speaking about some of the concerns. She, too, asked about the reorganization plan. Dr. Marino provided information about how the IT and Curriculum and Instruction offices work together.

Several other community members addressed the Board regarding the reorganization plan, 9-period day, and Princeton Plan.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:30 PM, Budget Meeting; 7:30 PM Work Meeting at Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:30 PM, Tour of Facility at Hewlett Elementary School; 8:00 PM, Regular Meeting at Hewlett Elementary School

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the October 20 regular meeting.

Central Council Newsletter

October 20th 2021

FECC

We had our "One Me" kickoff with the help of our PTA volunteers. It was a wonderful celebration for the students. They rotated through 6 stations including planting a tree, tissue paper designs, stained glass window designs, rock painting, chalk murals, and thumb printing. Each student was also given a One Me t-shirt with the "one" logo on it, paid for by the PTA.

We catered a class parent luncheon which we held outdoors to allow all classes to participate. We held an online spirit wear fundraiser which was a huge success. We are waiting for the company to restock merchandise so we can hold our next one. Picture day was indoors for individual pictures, outdoors for class photos to allow the children to drop their masks for a class picture.

PTA run after school activities began last week and have been going well so far. The kids are so happy to be back doing these activities. We've had a great turnout. We started our annual Stew Leonard's fundraiser selling pies, apple cider donuts, candy corn cupcakes and candy apples. Don't forget to place your order!

We are preparing for our annual PTA costume party next week and Franklin's fall festival including an outdoor dress up parade and pumpkin picking!!

HES

- This past month has been full of well-received events and activities at HES, but we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the fantastic accomplishment of our sister school, OES! Ogden had the great honors of both being named a PTA School of Excellence, AND receiving the PTA Early Bird Award for their push towards 100% membership! We are so proud of Ogden's accomplishments and look forward to holding future joint activities so that our children can continue the friendships they made at FECC and will no doubt continue when they reunite at WMS!
- Unfortunately, due to a UFO-worthy mystery, Back to School Night, which was originally scheduled for Thursday, September 23rd, had to be rescheduled for the following week, and was held on Tuesday, September 28th.
- We sold Mums at Back to School Night, a fundraiser that was brilliantly put together by co-president Jennifer Gonzalez, and we are grateful for the time and energy Meredith Samuelson and Pinella Teicher took to make this fundraiser a success.
- Our music department has begun morning meetings of chorus, band, and orchestra, and much to the delight of many of our children, our chorale of talented singers has been chosen to lead our musical ensembles!
- Bingo night was well-attended and pizza and snacks were available for purchase outside in order to ensure proper safety measures for our families.
- On October 14th, Tech University was made available to our parents in order to close the gap between our ever-evolving technology platforms and guidance on how parents can best keep their children safe.
- Our upcoming PTA meeting was held on Tuesday, October 19th, and our turnout was a bit lower than we had hoped for.
- In the upcoming weeks we will celebrate October with our Pumpkin Patch, PTA Fall Festival, and Costume Parade.
- Our biggest issue currently is that we are desperately in need of more volunteers for big tasks, such as committee members, and smaller jobs such as volunteering at our events.

OES

Ogden was named a PTA School of Excellence! This designation is given to schools that collaborate with families to build a stronger and more supportive school environment for all students. Ogden also received the PTA Early Bird Award; we will continue to push towards 100% PTA membership.

With the opening of the fall season, Ogden is decorated with bales of hay, cornstalks and mums provided by the PTA. We have plans for many exciting events, to enjoy this season with children, families and our staff.

After School Activities - In mid-September the planning for After-School Activities was finalized and has now been in progress for a few weeks. Parents and their children had the opportunity to pick from sports, cooking and STEM programs. This was another opportunity to move back to a sense of normalcy for our children.

Class Parent Luncheon - Our teachers had the opportunity to meet with their respective class parents while enjoying lunch from Nicolino's Eatery provided by the PTA. With tables set up under the front atrium, teachers came out in scheduled shifts to discuss the plan for the year and upcoming events. Dr. Anzalone also joined in to greet parents as conversations continued over hot coffee and desserts.

Bubbles, Suds & Snacks Car Wash - The 5th grade class spent the morning deep in suds alongside their teachers and PTA members scrubbing the cars of parents and family members. Dr. Anzalone greeted parents, Mrs. Murray directed traffic in the rear section of the building, and numerous parent volunteers were present, all watching over students to help ensure student safety. Students also sold snacks to parents and family members that came to support the car wash. Excited students held up signs and recruited passersbys to come and support as well! The event was featured in the Long Island Herald with pictures showing the children's excitement and hard work.

Student Council Elections - Alongside our Bulldog Mascot draped in red, white and blue, the nominated students gave speeches to their peers asking students for their votes. By the end of the day, the students had voted and Ogden's 2021 - 2022 student council had been elected. There are big plans from the students to change the world and make a difference at their school.

Custodian Appreciation Day - The PTA thanked and gifted our custodians for their hard work and dedication to our schools. We acknowledge that it is because of our custodial staff and their diligence in daily sanitizing that our schools are safe to be in daily. OES Custodians work hand-in-hand with PTA and administration to make it all happen.

PTA Meeting - Our first PTA meeting was conducted via Zoom and had great attendance with about 60 parents and staff members in attendance! There was open dialogue between parents and Dr. Anzalone and Mrs. Murray as we discussed upcoming PTA and school events. We will continue to encourage parents to attend PTA meetings by keeping the Zoom option and working on a schedule that is more feasible for working parents.

Alvin Ailey - For the first time since introducing the Alvin Ailey program, both the 3rd and 4th grade classes had the opportunity to learn the traditional African dances. The 4th graders captivated the audience with their rhythmic moves to the beat of African drums. This year the fourth graders not only learned the traditional dances, some students also provided the rhythms their classmates moved to as they beat the drums. The 3rd graders have started their rehearsals and will give their highly anticipated performance to parents and teachers on October 20th.

Picture Day - Smiling faces and a sunny day was the setting of our outdoor picture day! The students took their group class photos on the lawn with nature as their background. PTA parent volunteers came out to assist teachers with directing students smoothly through the individual picture process. The 5th grade class and teachers gathered together on the playground for their graduating class photo. We look forward to including the group photo in this year's yearbook.

Mums Fundraiser - The mums brought bursts of fall colors to the Ogden atrium as parents and teachers picked up their pre-orders. PTA volunteers and staff sold mums after school; all the additional plants that were ordered completely sold out by the end of the day.

Upcoming:
10/28 - It's Fall Y'all & Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser
10/29 - Vocabulary Parade & Trunk or Treat

OES, and our sister school HES, are planning a joint fundraiser to support local organizations and celebrate the season of giving for the Thanksgiving holiday. We plan to work on more events that allow us to bring the children together in addition to keeping our respective traditional events for the students.

WMS

WMS October 2021

Our membership is slow for families but almost at 100% for teachers we have about 180 members right now- and almost all have included a donation. We will make a big push during parent teacher conference which is November 4 & 5.

Our Fall Sports are starting to come to an end- and winter will be starting the 2nd week of November. With the fall sports we started Pretzel sales and they kids and families are enjoying them at the outside football and soccer games - at our last few outside games we will include spirit wear as well.

Our book fair was Thursday & Friday and we did fairly well, still counting the totals- we also had kids bring in gently used books so we could donate them to St. Mary's Hospital, all the kids and families we super supportive and we collected an amazing amount of books.

This upcoming week we will have an virtual presentation for Hispanic Cultural Month for all students- The PTA cultural arts committee will also have snacks and games during recess that represent the Hispanic culture.

November 1st we are proud to bring back our fall dance- CLUB WMS will be outside on our blacktop a dance under the stars- pizza, refreshments, and snacks provided as well as the beats and dancer from EJ the DJ.

That's all our Roses for the month no thorns to report. See you next month.

SEPTA

We had our first joint PTA meeting with FECC and we also joined WMS for their second PTA meeting. We also went to HHS & HES Back to School nights.

We started after school classes at Ogden and Hewlett, running chess and piano and chess and guitar, respectively. All classes are full.

We are donating goodies for the Leader's Scavenger Hunt taking place before Halloween.

Best Buddies board members from the High School are planning on speaking at one of our PTA meetings about Best Buddies and the thought of Bringing Best Buddies to each school.

We are planning on selling fidget toys at parent teacher conferences.

We are planning a virtual parenting workshop on stress with Dr. Caryl Oris, Child Psychiatrist, that will be open to all parents.

CULTURAL ARTS

Art: Student art work is now on display at Dunkin by the Hewlett train station. In mid-November we will be displaying student artwork at Dolce Confectionary in Hewlett.

WMS: Mrs. Mizel is running Pumpkin Decorating Contest. This year's theme will be literary characters. Decorate your pumpkin to look like your favorite literary character.

Music: HHS Musical tickets will be on sale starting Nov 1. Tickets will be purchased electronically this year. HHS Little Shop of Horrors leads will be giving a preview of the musical to 7th grade chorus students and the 1st graders at Franklin on Nov 18.

Concerts: We are finalizing plans on audience seating with the COVID guidelines; more information will be communicated within a few weeks.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Our Art and Music teachers are sharing, listening, viewing and learning famous artist of Hispanic Heritage including Selena, Shakira, Lin Manuel Miranda, Carols Santana, Bad Bunny, Pablo Picasso, Luis Jimenez and Salvador Dali.

Public BOE Meetings: At each public BOE meeting that occur at the 5 schools we will feature a music performance and an art gallery of students in that building.

HHS

High school had back to school night where PTA gave staff a water bottle and snacks. Membership is around 200 members with a good percentage of staff as members.

Senior report: We had our first senior parent meeting and are organizing fundraisers we will be doing to raise money for the post prom.

We Sold spiritwear at college night and back to school. Items can be purchased on cheddar up. https://hewlett-high-spiritwear.cheddarup.com/

We did a friendlier fundraiser where we got a portion of sales when parents mentioned the senior fundraiser she. Ordering dinner over a 3 day span. We have a pizza place fundraiser Thursday October 21 and Friday October 22 where we get a portion of sales but can be any time during day (not on delivery). Our next meeting is Monday where we will plan more fundraisers for upcoming months.

Nassau Region PTA Meeting

October 7, 2021, Nassau Region PTA Resolutions Workshop.
There were approximately 53 persons on the call.
This meeting focused on the upcoming 125th Convention to be held November 19 to 21, 2021 in Syracuse, NY, where the members will be voting on new resolutions, retentions, updates and recissions.

There are 2 new resolutions which will be presented:

1. Protection of and Support for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students
2. Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education

There are 5 retentions and 11 updates on current resolutions.

These should be presented to the PTAs, where a vote needs to be taken and then the PTA President and/or representatives will vote at the Convention.

Attached are the Resolutions, Updates, Retentions and Recissions, brochure for Fall Conference Call and brochure for 125th Convention.