Re-Cap!

April 20, 2021
G.W. Hewlett High School

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Debra Sheinin, *President*; Cheryl May, *Vice President*; Melissa Gates, Mitchell A. Greebel, Judy Menashe

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- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Sheinin.
- Dr. Fale introduced the staff members who were recommended for tenure earlier in the evening at the Tenure Reception. He congratulated them on their accomplishments. The tenure recipients are: Donna Bolognini, Teaching Assistant at HHS; Debra Brass, Library Media Specialist at FECC; Allison Byrne, Teacher at FECC, Beth Erdos, Reading Teacher at WMS; Jennifer Ferrentino, Special Education Teacher at HHS; Dawn Marie Fustanio, Teaching Assistant at HES; Andrea Gosik, Teacher at HES; Sukhjit Khakh, Teaching Assistant at HHS; Walter Lastowski, District Director of Art and Music; Erika Luscher, Teacher at FECC; Lynn McNamara, Special Education Teacher at HHS; Dwight Newby, Teaching Assistant at HHS; Susana Urbina, Teaching Assistant at HHS.
- Mr. John Wimmer acknowledged the 2020 History Day competitors. National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for 6th—12th grade students. Mr. Wimmer congratulated the following high school students: Julia Klayman and Kira Grossman, whose exhibit was entitled, "Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Leading the Barrier Breaking Movement Toward Woman's Equality"; and Madeline Heyman and Madison Honig, whose performance was entitled, "Loving vs. Virginia: The Love Story that Changed America and Broke Barriers in History." Madison and Madeline shared some thoughts about their History Day experience.







- Mr. Wimmer introduced Mr. Vincent Lospinuso, who was awarded New York State History Day Teacher of the Year for the Junior Division for 2020. He was a finalist and runner-up for National History Day Junior Division Teacher of the Year.









- Mr. Lospinuso acknowledged WMS students Sydney Honig, Harley Honig, and Michael Heyman who placed 5th in the National History Day Junior Group Performance competition for their entry on Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Sydney, Harley, and Michael also shared their thoughts about their History Day experience. Congratulations to all.
- Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's Report. He attended many live and virtual events, including staff chats at FECC, OES, and WMS, a student council meeting at HES, the virtual OES fifth grade talent show, the Virtual Enterprise presentation practices, Interview Day, and the Book Trials. Modes of Instruction for the fourth quarter have begun. Seventy-five percent of students are in-person, 18 percent are online, and seven percent are hybrid. The School Quality Survey was launched on April 19 to staff, parents, and students in grades 6-12. Dr. Marino and Mrs. Donnelly will participate in Budget Q and A sessions on April 26 and May 10 at WEC and May 3 at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment.
- Dr. Marino provided the Curriculum Report in Mr. Flatley's absence. He remains in ongoing contact with the Nassau County, New York City, and New York State Departments of Health regarding positive COVID-19 cases. He completes the daily COVID-19 School Report Cards for each school. He is in the process of planning Superintendent's Conference Day for August 2021. Mr. Flatley has been communicating with NYSED regarding spring assessments. He has also been completing principal observations.

- Mrs. Donnelly provided the report from the Business Office. The Public Budget Forum was held on March 23. The BOE has adopted the proposed budget. Both the budget-to-budget and tax levy increases are 1.95% She presented at the recent joint PTA meeting about the budget. On April 6, the legislature released the updated state aid runs. There is a significant increase in our aid. She has participated in many webinars that are providing insights into the increases. It is important to note that the increases are reliant on the state's projected revenue increases. In addition to state monies, the District will be receiving an allocation under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan. These one-time allocations have an allowable use over multiple years and the District is required to develop a plan for the use of funds. The plan must be posted for public comment. The Annual Budget Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 6:00 PM in the HHS auditorium and will be livestreamed on the website. Budget Question and Answer sessions will be held at WEC on April 26 at 7:00 PM and May 10 at 11:00 AM. An additional Q and A session will be held at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment on May 3 at 12:00 PM. All budget presentations can be found on the District website. The District has received $150,000 from the Town of Hempstead COVID-19 Relief Fund Grant. The Business Office staff is continuing to prepare for year end.
- Ms. Peterson provided the Special Education report. She has attended many recent school events including Autism Awareness Day, Fifth Grade Talent Show, "Check Please and Check Please 2", and Interview Day. She attended the Saving Lives Coalition meeting where they discussed the legalization of marijuana. She has also attended the Nassau County Town Hall meetings, as well as virtual meetings with her colleagues throughout the county. Northwell Health continues to offer workshops for our parents. She participated in the BOCES Diversity Fair interviews. She was pleased to see many high quality candidates. Ms. Peterson and her staff are preparing for the end of the school year.
- Dr. Fale provided an update from the Human Resources office. Fifteen candidates were interviewed during Saturday's Diversity Fair. He thanked Ms. Peterson, Dr. Anzalone, Dr. O'Hara, and Mrs. Gallegos for participating. A COVID-19 vaccination pod at Mount Sinai South Nassau for students aged 16-18 has been approved. A letter was sent to all high school families. Dr. Fale participated in Interview Day at HHS and it was a wonderful experience.
- Mr. Ric Stark commented on behalf of the District's Employee Organizations. He congratulated the tenure recipients and looks forward to presenting the scholarship awards in May in person.
- Mrs. Milillo and Mrs. Honig provided the PTA report. FECC: Held annual PARP celebration in March and it was a huge success. Children were able to celebrate each day during the two-week event with special dress-up days. PARP concluded with Prismatic's Magic Laser Light Show. The read-a-thon was extended over spring break. FECC students participating in autism awareness by dressing in blue and white and walking around the building. Balloons and a DJ were on hand for the day. A virtual assembly featuring Warren Levi was held for "I am Me" Day. There are a lot of events on the horizon including Earth Day planting and crazy sock fundraiser. OES: March Madness was celebrated by decorating the building with motivational messages. Families made basketball cupcakes for home bake night. Students were given motivational bracelets and tattoos. The week concluded with basketball cookies. The Cereal Run was a big success. Parents donated cereal boxes and in total, more than 400 cereal boxes were collected. The front of OES was decorated for St. Patrick's Day. OES just completed the first outdoor book fair. Fifth graders enjoyed hot pretzels during March Madness and recently had a Virtual Bingo Night with fifth grade teachers. HES: HES is planning for graduation and field day. A fifth grade roller skating mixer was held with OES. Spring Mother's Day plant sale, pizza-making, Label Daddy, and Little

Shoppers are current fundraisers. HES now has a new banner across the fence on Broadway. WMS: Skate Nights and Bowling Nights were very successful. Teacher/Staff membership is at 100%. Holocaust survivor Marion Lazon gave an inspirational presentation. The Black History Month presentations were well received by all students. Charles Smith, Jr. was a special guest. Music clubs began this week. Graduation is currently being planned and is tentatively scheduled for June 21 and June 24 with a total of four ceremonies. Adventureland Trip is June 7. HHS: Senior breakfast with grab and go bagels will be this Friday. The senior journal for graduation is currently being created. Graduation ceremonies are in the planning stages. The Prom is also being planned. Details to follow. Staff Lunch is planned for June 4. Award and honor society inductions are being held virtually. SEPTA: Raffle winner was selected in March. Still need more volunteers for next year. They received a video copy from the executive functioning presentation. If anyone would like a copy, please email hwsepta@gmail.com. John's Crazy Sock fundraiser is underway. Each school will have a crazy sock day in May. Best Buddies Walk will be held in May. Morgan Brodwin Memorial Award of Excellence flyer will be distributed soon.

Board Committee Reports

- Mr. Greebel reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee. The Committee recommends the approval of both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.
- Mrs. Gates reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. The Committee met on April 8 and reviewed the outgoing communications regarding COVID-19. They also reviewed the numerous budget materials planned for dissemination to the community. The HW 2025 School Quality Survey was also discussed.

Communications

- Mrs. Sheinin read a letter from a community member who has relocated out of state and thanked those involved in educating his daughter. Mrs. Sheinin thanked the resident and wished his family well in their new home.
- Dr. Jon Altus congratulated all of the tenure recipients and student History Fair honorees.
- The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
- A question was asked through the chat feature about BOE members showing support to candidates who have not been involved in the District. The question also referenced BOE members displaying candidate signs on their lawns. Mrs. Sheinin suggested that the individual reach out to the specific BOE member personally.
- The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 28, Annual Budget Hearing, 6:00 PM, Hewlett High School

Tuesday, May 11, School Budget Vote, 7:00 AM—10:00 PM, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, May 12, Board of Education Work Meeting, 7:30 PM, Hewlett High School

Wednesday, May 19, Board of Education Regular Meeting, 8:00 PM, Hewlett High School

NOTE:

All agendas and supporting documentation for the April 20 meeting can be found by clicking HERE.

The April Construction Update can be found HERE.