



Re-Cap!

November 15, 2017

Hewlett High School

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Scott McInnes, *President*; Cheryl May, *Vice President*; Jonathan Altus, M.D., Melissa Gates, Mitchell A. Greebel, Daniella R. Simon, Stephen B. Witt

Regular Meeting

- The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. John Wimmer, Chairperson of P-12 Social Studies.
- Music students, Danielle Frucchione, Evan Panzer, Edward Maday and Sofia Barone, under the direction of Mr. Walter Lastowski, performed the Star Spangled Banner.



Professional Recognitions

- In recognition of School Psychology Awareness Week, Dr. Debra Lo Verde recognized the District's School Psychologists for their important work and efforts in supporting our students.



Dr. Lo Verde thanked the Board of Education, the administration and the community for placing value on mental health and the role of our psychologists who work tirelessly to support students, in and out of the classroom.

- Mrs. McNiff recognized Hewlett High School head custodian, Bill Scarlett. She thanked Mr. Scarlett for the extra effort put forth in coordinating this evening's Board of Education meeting at the high school, and noted his 18 years of service to the District and students of HWPS.

Presentations

- Mr. John Wimmer, Chairperson of P-12 Social Studies, introduced the two National Merit Commended Students.
- Dr. Patricia Nardi recognized the Social Science Research Students for their Regeneron Social Science Projects.





- Mrs. Rose Panarelli, Chairperson of Business, and Mrs. Susan Hanlon introduced Virtual Enterprise students. Two students presented their current VE business and gave a marketing pitch.



- Dr. Terrence Bissoondial recognized students who participated in the Siemens Regeneron STS and Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Competition.

Administrator Reports

- Superintendent's Report was given by Dr. Ralph Marino. Recent events attended include the FECC Storybook Parade, the HES Halloween Extravaganza Assembly, the OES Art for the Sky Event, the WMS Cultural Arts Assembly on Hispanic Heritage, the HHS Homecoming Parade and Football Game, College Letter Signing, Business Advisory Board Meeting and this afternoon's musical production, *Annie Get Your Gun*. Bus runs to FECC, OES and WMS provided an early morning learning opportunity! The pep rallies brought tons of school spirit at FECC, HES, OES and HHS, and our students remembered our country's veterans during assemblies at FECC, HES, OES and WMS. The first meeting of this year's HW 2025 Stakeholder Planning Team was held on November 2. The recommendation of strategic planning facilitator, K12 Insight, is on the agenda for approval at this meeting. Dr. Marino will hold a Superintendent's Roundtable at the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library on November 28. All community members are welcome to attend!
- Dr. Mark Secaur presented the Curriculum Report. He recently attended the Long Island Technology Summit where two HW staff members presented a workshop, Incorporating A Digital Creation into the Elementary Curriculum. Dr. Secaur also attended the Paws of War event at OES. Earlier in the evening, he enjoyed a fantastic performance of *Annie Get Your Gun* at HHS. On November 7, Superintendent's Conference Day was held for staff and followed the EdCamp model. This was the District's third EdCamp. A big thank you goes to the HS custodial staff for their cooperation and hard work. There were thirty sessions in the high school, largely lead by HW teachers. The feedback has been very positive. It was a great day! Upcoming events include Interview Day at the HS and a meeting of the District Technology Committee.
- Mr. Louis Frontario provided the Business Department Report. In preparation of the 2018-19 budget, Mr. Frontario and Mr. DiBartolo have met with building principals to review needs and current budget, as well as what they envision for next year. In addition, they are preparing for the fixed asset inventory done by the New York State Insurance Reciprocal. This important function occurs every 5 years at no cost to the District. It is an important part of our financial audit, which allows us to better manage our assets. The Audit Committee is scheduled to meet on

December 1 to accept the results of the independent audit, which will then be submitted to the state. Mr. Frontario and Mr. DiBartolo are participating in a mentoring program for new business officials. They currently have an administrative intern in their office.

- Mrs. Barbara McNiff provided an update from Human Resources. Staff Development for Clerical and Nursing Staff took place on Election Day. Many sessions involved staff training one another. Google training, Infinite Campus and District website training were popular and well received. Overall, it was a very productive day. The nurses split up; many went out of District for training. The Nassau County Council of School Superintendents provided training on teen substance abuse, a very important topic and a meaningful day. Mrs. McNiff recently attended the New York State Association of School Personnel Administrators conference in Cooperstown, NY. This three day conference provided valuable information on civil service and certification topics. Positive changes are coming, including ways to help teachers get certified and processed more quickly.
- Dr. Debra Lo Verde provided a Special Education report. She enthusiastically attended the HS Pep Rally, FECC Fall Harvest Parade and this afternoon's performance of *Annie Get Your Gun*. In addition, she attended the LI Association for Special Education Administrators conference. This one day conference highlighted the regulations required by NY State, which is one of the most highly regulated states in the country. We are in constant pursuit of making sure we understand all regulations. Professional Development was held for school psychologists and chairpersons. The school attorney was present and discussed IEPs and how to create them so they are meaningful and useful.
- Michelle Schwarzman from the HHS Student Advisory Council reported on preparations for an upcoming charity event. Details will follow once finalized.
- Mr. Ric Stark, President of the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, acknowledged the important work of the District's teachers. HWFA knows the community values our schools and the work our teachers do. Negotiations for a new teachers' contract will continue on December 5.
- Central Council Co-presidents Debi Sheinin and Susette Preziosi highlighted events in all the school buildings, including the HS Senior Committee Paint Night fundraiser and the WMS Hispanic Heritage assembly. HES PTA voted for murals to be painted throughout the building. OES PTA held a unity event celebrating diversity, titled We are Ogden. FECC will host the I Can parade on November 16 and the WMS Jazz Band will perform. Holiday boutiques will be held at FECC, OES and HES. Coming up on November 30, SEPTA will present a workshop, entitled Kids in the Middle: Cultivating Different Abilities to Foster Self-Determination and Resilience.

Board Committee Reports

- Mr. Mitchell Greebel reported on behalf of the Special Education committee. The Committee recommends for approval the recommendations of both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

- Mrs. Gates reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. There is one policy recommended for approval, Policy #8505 Meal Charge Policy. The committee will meet on November 28 with a focus on the District's technology policies.
- Mrs. Gates reported that the Communications Committee meeting would be rescheduled.

Board Member Reports

- Mr. Witt recently attended a Celebration of Diversity in Schools at the Crest Hollow Country Club. The event was sponsored by Hofstra University and attended by several hundred board members from across the county.

Public Comments

At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, a resident inquired about budget increases and including certain Catholic and Orthodox holidays in the 2018-19 school district calendar. Another resident inquired about including certain Muslim holidays in the 2018-19 school district calendar and asked if NYSED has yet to establish the Regents testing dates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, December 13, 2017: Work Meeting at 7:30 PM at WEC

Wednesday, December 20, 2017: Budget Meeting at WMS at 6:00 PM.

Tour of Facilities at WMS at 7:00 PM.

Regular Board Meeting at WMS at 8:00 PM.

NOTE:

All agendas and supporting documentation for the November 15 meeting can be found by clicking [**HERE!**](#)