Re-Cap!

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Debra Sheinin, President; Cheryl May, Vice President; Judy Menashe, Francois Tenenbaum, Shari L. Amitrano, Jonathan D. Altus, Chana Jeter

January 10, 2024

Budget Session

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The fourth Budget Development session was held prior to the Work Meeting. Mrs. Donnelly's presentation can be found HERE.

The Building Condition Survey will be presented by the District's architect and Ms. Parahus at the February Work Meeting.

Work Meeting

The work meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Reports and Presentations

The District's Internal Claims Auditor, Shari Diamond of Cerini & Associates, gave a presentation on the Claims Audit. The presentation can be found HERE.

Dr. Montellese, P-12 Chairperson of World Language and English as a New Language, presented on Program Possibilities for 2025-2026. Dr. Montellese thanked the Board of Education for the invitation to talk about world languages and the possible expansion of the World Language program. The three models that are being discussed are Flex, FLES, and Bilingual/Dual Language. The Board thanked Dr. Montellese for the very informative presentation and a discussion amongst the Board followed about the three options presented. In addition, the possible addition of Hebrew at WMS was discussed. The presentation can be found HERE.

Community members, Mr. Amil Virani and Ms. Hilary Newman, asked questions about elementary world language programs.

Ms. Hochhauser, P-12 Chairperson of English Language Arts, presented the Tri-State Consortium Review of P-12 English Language Arts and Literacy. The overall message indicated that high quality learning is taking place in Hewlett-Woodmere. Some recommendations were made, but

it was a very positive visit. Board members asked questions about spelling and grammar, different teaching methods, and how students are impacted when they arrive at WMS. The Board also noted that students are excelling in reading at the middle school level, but seem to struggle with writing. The possibility of adding a writing lab at WMS was discussed. A Board member stressed the importance of highlighting the work being done in the classrooms, being transparent, and sharing information with parents. The presentation can be found HERE.

Ms. Hilary Newman asked several questions about literacy.

Ms. Giese, Executive Director for Communications, Community Services, Registration, and Grants, presented on Competitive and Non-Competitive Grants. The presentation highlighted the federal grants, as well as competitive grants. The Board members asked questions about applying for grants for the upcoming 125th anniversary carnival, the Combat Hate program, and Robotics. The presentation can be found HERE.

Mr. Amil Virani asked questions about the District's poverty level.

Dr. Marino, Superintendent of Schools, presented a Mid-Year Review of Data Points for District Goals. He reviewed the District's goals and objectives and the data that's been collected. The next data review will take place in June 2024. The Board members asked questions about the first quarter grades and the total number of students. There will be additional data to compare to in June. Dr. Marino's presentation can be found HERE.

Financial Reports

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following reports: Treasurer's Report, Budget Status, Revenue Status, and Preliminary Fund Balance.

Resolution - Change Transportation Deadline April 2024. The transportation deadline for non-public schools is typically April 1st. However, Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools will be closed on that date. The Resolution declares that for the purpose of requesting District transportation to non-public schools for the 2024-2025 school year only, that the Board's April 1 deadline be extended to April 2, 2024.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following Financial Actions: Warrants and Summary Findings of the Claims Auditor, Schedule of Contracts, Transfers of Appropriation, and Club Charters. Members of the Board discussed the vendor for the District's 125th anniversary celebration.

Curriculum and Miscellaneous Actions

Policy #8130.2 Workplace Violence Prevention is scheduled for Initial Review. The Board members discussed minor corrections to the policy.

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 PM, Tour of Facility, Hewlett Elementary School

Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Hewlett Elementary School

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the January 10 Work Meeting.