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

November 8, 2023

Budget Session

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Work Meeting

The work meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Reports and Presentations

Ms. Shari Diamond of Cerini & Associates LLP presented a report on the District's Claims Audit findings for the 2022-23 school year, as well as the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the 2023 NYSED Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Test Data. There were several questions from the Board regarding NWEA, and how to educate the community on the value of the tests to reduce opt outs. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

Ms. Kavanagh introduced Dr. Greenberg and Ms. Harrison who gave a presentation on Student Participation and Academic Achievement. The Board asked questions about the algebra and geometry data. Additionally, they asked about the Twilight program and if parents are aware of the different paths available to students. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

Ms. Kavanagh introduced Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Fund, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Virgilio who gave a presentation on the 2024-2025 Course Guide. The Board asked questions about the proposed changes in the Art Department, Business and Computer Science Department, and Operation Success/Twilight Program. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

The Student Residency agenda item was tabled.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Five-Year Reserve Fund Management Plan. The Board asked questions about the maximum amount we are permitted to invest, dormant bank accounts, and the Workers Compensation Reserve fund. The presentation can be found HERE.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard on Agenda Items

Ms. Fried, Woodmere, asked about excess reserves. She also asked if more field trips can be considered.

A Board member raised a concern about building administrators not being able to ask for funds to replace outdated items in their buildings. Mrs. Donnelly responded and said building administrators do ask for monies, if needed, throughout the school year. She reassured the Board that she would remind the building/department administrators that if additional funds are needed to replace items, that they should share the information during the budget process. These requests would be communicated with District administrators and the Board to make a final determination.

Financial Reports

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following reports: Treasurer's Report for August and September, Budget Status, Revenue Status, Extraclassroom, and Warrants and Summary of Findings of the Claims Auditor from August 2023.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Transfers of Appropriations, Schedule of Surplus Equipment, and Applications for Club Charters.

Curriculum and Miscellaneous Actions

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the Schedule of Field Trips: Boys' Wrestling Trip to the Mid-Hudson Wrestling Tournament in LaGrangeville, New York, and Boys' Wrestling Trip to the Eastern States Wrestling Classic in Loch Sheldrake, New York.

Ms. Kavanagh explained the UPK allocations offered to the non-public schools who offer a NYS Universal Pre-K Program.

Dr. Marino reviewed the revisions to the previously approved data points for 2023-2024 District Goals.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policy for final review: Policy #4322 Programs for the Gifted and Talented. Ms. Newman submitted a speaker card in regards to Policy #4322.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policy for initial review: Policy #4710 Grading Systems.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items

SB, Hewlett, expressed concerns regarding social media, technology platforms, alignment of curriculum across buildings, and District communications.

Ms. King, Hewlett, discussed the HES library funding and the WMS nine-period day.

BOE Trustee, Ms. Amitrano, brought up recognizing District staff at each particular building during the monthly meeting.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:20 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 PM, Tour of Facility, Woodmere Middle School

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Woodmere Middle School

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the November 8 Work Meeting.