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

October 18, 2023

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted their annual Tour of Facility of Franklin Early Childhood Center, led by Director of School Facilities and Operations, Ms. Kim Parahus.

REGULAR MEETING



The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by first grade students from Mrs. Luscher's class. Following the pledge, the students sang two songs. Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art and Music, presented the students with certificates of participation.

Dr. Smyth welcomed the Board of Education to Franklin and expressed gratitude for their hard work for all the students of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. In honor of School Board Recognition Week, Franklin administration presented the Board with hand-made thank you cards, personalized pumpkins, a piece of artwork, and a heartfelt video. The video can be viewed HERE.







Varsity Football Coach, Mr. John Palladino, recognized members of the football team, Zane Frederick-Branch, Lucas Garzona, Mekhi Jean-Baptiste, Thierry Labossiere, Franz Limage, and Daniel Sheinin, for assisting stranded motorists during the storm on September 29. There were many additional football team members present in support of their teammates. Mr. Palladino commented on the genuine camaraderie of the football team and the terrific group of students. Board President, Mrs. Sheinin, and Board Trustee, Mrs. Amitrano, both commented on the wonderful football program and its positive influence on the players.

Dr. Marino read a Proclamation in honor of School Board Recognition Week. He spoke of the important work performed by the Board, and thanked them for the countless hours they devote to the staff, students, and community of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. The Board members currently serving our district and their years of service are as follows: Debra Sheinin, Board President, five years of service (2018), Cheryl May, Vice President, 12 years of service (2011), Judy Menashe, Trustee, five years of service (2018), Francois Tenenbaum, Trustee, two years of service (2021), Shari Amitrano, Trustee, two years of service (2021), Dr. Jonathan Altus, Trustee, eight years of service (2012 - 2018, 2021), Chana Jeter, Trustee, one year of service (2022).





Mrs. Sheinin read the Speaker Protocols.

Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's Report. He attended multiple celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month in the buildings. Although the homecoming parade suffered the consequences of the rainy weather, he enjoyed the pep rallies in all of the buildings and the fantastic win of the varsity football team. He is looking forward to the many fall events taking place throughout the District. The 125 Anniversary Committee met at the end of September and discussed holding a grand-finale carnival to coincide with Arts Below Sunrise. The District has contacted several carnival companies for information and availability. There have also been discussions about a time capsule that would be opened in 25 years. The first 2024-2025 budget meeting was held on October 11. Dr. Marino mentioned that all budget presentations can be found online on the budget section of the website. The next budget meeting is scheduled for November 8 at WEC. An HW 2025 survey planning meeting is scheduled to discuss the State of the District Survey and Senior Exit Survey. Dr. Marino held a Superintendent's Roundtable at the end of September at Hewlett Fire Department, and at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment (CALE) on October 19.

HHS students, Francesca Castro and Wesley Sreter, provided a report on behalf of the Student Advisory Council. They reported on the exciting things that have been taking place at the high school and look forward to the fundraising and holiday events that are coming up.

Mrs. Michelle Morgan and Mrs. Bonnie Kurtz provided a report on behalf of the Central Council PTA. They extended a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Education for everything they do. The Central Council Newsletter from October can be found HERE.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Menashe reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee who recommended for approval the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Mrs. Jeter reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. The committee met on October 11 and set their goals for the school year. Items of discussion included: update to the District website, social media, and a branding guide.

Dr. Altus reported on behalf of the Extracurricular Activities, Co-Curricular Activities, and Interscholastic Athletic Committee. The committee met on September 27. Many items were discussed, including: volleyball teams at WMS for grades 7 and 8, improving the fields at HES and OES, the timing of replacing the turf, dugouts, and batting cages at HHS, and the PAL programs and permits.

Mrs. Amitrano reported on behalf of the Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology committee. The committee met on September 22. Items of discussion included: summer curriculum projects and the Tri-States ELA visit in October.

Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. The committee met on October 4. There are two policies being recommended for approval: #2342 Agenda Preparation, Dissemination, and Opportunity for the Public to be Heard; #5305 Academic Eligibility for Participation in Athletics, and Co-Curricular Activities at the High School Level.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

Mrs. Meredith King, Hewlett, spoke about the implications of installing turf fields at the same time at both WMS and HHS.

ROUTINE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The minutes were accepted from the Regular BOE Meeting on September 20, 2023.

The Consent Agenda was approved. Item H.7 Resolution: Approval of SEQRA Type II Determination was removed from Consent and was voted upon separately.

Mrs. Parahus explained the resolution for approval is to declare a negative determination. Action will not result in significant adverse impact to the environment. Voting is not on the scope of the project, its cost, or any other factors. The resolution, H.7, Approval of SEQRA Type II Determination, was unanimously approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

A speaker card was submitted by Bonnie Kurtz, Woodmere. Mrs. Kurtz spoke about the tennis courts at WMS and the need for lights to allow for games to play after it gets dark.

BOE Vice President, Mrs. May, requested an item be added to the November 8 Work Meeting agenda: off-duty police officers stationed outside of our school buildings.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 PM, Budget Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 PM, Work Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

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 October 18 Regular Meeting.