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 11, 2023

Budget Session

The first budget session preceded the Work Meeting. Please see Mrs. Donnelly's presentation HERE.

Work Meeting

The work meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Sheinin stated the following: I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the tragic events in Israel. Our hearts go out to the people affected by these distressing circumstances. It is important that we, as a community, acknowledge the challenges faced by individuals and families here in Hewlett-Woodmere and we support each other with comfort and understanding.

Let us observe a moment of silence in solidarity with those experiencing hardship and with the hope for peace and resolution in the near future.

Reports and Presentations

Mrs. Donnelly introduced Mr. Brendan Nelson from R.S. Abrams. Mr. Nelson reviewed the results of the external audit. He complimented the Business Office for their hard work and cooperation and stated that there were no weaknesses to identify. The District's Worker's Compensation reserve exceeded estimated liability and he recommended ongoing monitoring to reduce the balance. A Board member asked about finding ways to invest to maximize return on the District accounts. Mr. Nelson agrees with the recommendation. Another Board member asked how the auditors decide what to focus on each year. Mr. Nelson stated that it varies from year-to-year and they often focus on areas that are problematic in other Districts. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

The Student Achievement Data presentation has been moved to another date.

The Competitive and Non-Competitive Grants presentation has also been moved to a later date.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Five Year Budget Projections. The presentation can be found HERE. A Board member asked about previous election cycles and the percentage increase that the District is comfortable presenting to voters. Mrs. Donnelly stated that the District has settled several multi-year contracts with bargaining units which will assist in budget projections moving forward.

Financial Reports

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following: Treasurer's Report, Budget Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Warrants and Summary of Findings of the Claims Auditor, Analysis of Reserves at Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023. There were no questions from the Board members.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts. There will be an addendum to the Simon Wiesenthal Center contract previously approved. The Ogden farm trip bus will also be amended. Mrs. Eliopoulos submitted a speaker's card to ask questions relating to the Ogden fifth grade trip to Spring Brook Farm. Several other parents joined her. They asked for additional information regarding the cancellation of the trip due to the lack of bussing. A discussion ensued where it was explained that the bussing company would not sign a purchase order attesting that they had the proper insurance.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Bids, Transfers of Appropriation, Surplus Equipment, and the Applications for Club Charter.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following resolutions: Funding Reserves Year Ended June 30, 2023; Approval of SEQRA Type II Determination; Acceptance of the Independent Auditor's Report. A Board member asked about the plan for building a storage facility behind WMS. Mrs. Parahus stated that there is equipment at HHS that needs to be stored and that she is working with the District architects.

Curriculum and Miscellaneous Actions

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the Conference and Travel schedule. Dr. Marino will attend the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference from December 2-3 in Rochester, NY. Dr. Wendy Yu will attend the 2nd Annual Chinese Language Education Administration and Development Conference for New York K-12 Schools from November 3-4 in Niagara Falls, NY. Dr. Darla Smyth will attend the New York State English Council Annual Conference from October 18-20 in Albany NY.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed the Schedule of Field Trips which included the high school music student trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida from February 5-9, 2025.

Dr. Marino reviewed the suggested data points to align with the 23-24 District Goals. There will be a mid-year checkpoint in January 2024.

Dr. Marino reviewed the HW 2025 Implementation Team for 2023-2024.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policies for final review: Policy #2342, Agenda Preparation, Dissemination, and Opportunity for the Public to be Heard; Policy #5305, Academic Eligibility for Participation in Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities at the High School Level.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policies for initial review: Policy #4322, Programs for the Gifted and Talented; Policy #5280.1, Student Participation on Non-School Sponsored Athletic Teams. A discussion ensued about policy #5280.1. This policy will be sent back to the Policy Committee for review.

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

Mrs. Meredith King discussed the recent storm and the leaking and flooding in District buildings.

Mrs. Heather McMahon spoke about athletics.

Mrs. Irina Abramovich spoke about preparation for weather-related events.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 18, 7:00 PM: Tour of Facilities, Franklin Early Childhood Center;
7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Franklin Early Childhood Center

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

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 PM: Tour of Facilities, Woodmere Middle School;
7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Woodmere Middle School

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the October 11 Work Meeting.