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 17, 2024

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted a tour of the building, led by Director of School Facilities and Operations, Ms. Kim Parahus.

REGULAR MEETING



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

Ms. Sosnovsky, HES Principal, welcomed the Board of Education, administration, parents, students, and members of the community to HES. She thanked the Board for visiting the building. She was excited to share about the wonderful happenings at HES, including the fifth grade chorus, the art and music students and their work, and the fifth grade STEM students and their projects. Members of the Board of Education received 3D printed toys and friendship bracelets handmade by students.

Ms. Sosnovsky introduced fifth grade student, Hannah Siddique, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The fifth grade chorus, under the direction of Mr. Sugar, performed the Pledge of Allegiance song. The audience was encouraged to sing along to the 125th Anniversary song. The chorus has been invited to perform at the 2024 NYSSMA Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany in March. Chorus participants: Angelina Almonte, Anna Maria Balmores, Trinity Bradford, Geovany Carrera Palencia, Nicolas Allen Cera, Allison Collins, Ethan Fain, Sophia Ferdman, Lucas Figueroa,



Alexa Findling, Ilana Gendin, Bryan Giron Velasquez, Nina Gupta, Maecyn Hananel, Mattea Hananel, Safiah Hercules, Keira Kesler, Genevieve Kohlmier, Oren Kravets, Tahlia Levin, Livia Linker, Marc Linker, Kensie Makofske, Ofelia Marrero, Cynthia Martin, Penelope Milillo, Sophie Mills, Kyla Northern, Deepshikha Prajapati, Daman Rameshwar, Emma Resnick, Isabela Romero, Alexa Shalom, Nathaniel Shimunov, Sean Shvartsberg, Hannah Siddique, Daniel Sign, Kimberly Sooklall, Yahli Stein, Victoria Tedesco, Michelle Tsadok, Aishvariia Veliieva, and Kira Warshawski.

Dr. Fund, Director of Art and Music, invited music students to the podium to be recognized for their participation in All-County Music Festival, PEAK (Parents, Educators, and Kids) Music Festival, and Long Island String Festival Association Music Festival.

All-County participants: Anna Maria Balmores, Gorran Chen, Allison Collins, Sophia Ferdman, Safiah Hercules, Hudson Hughes, Kanstantsin Malafeyeu, Daman Rameshwar, Victoria Tedesco, Kira Warshawski, and Eoin Zamorano. PEAK Music Festival participants: Natalie Apicella, Madelyn Ding, Emily Ilyayeva, Violet Kovtun, Amor Maman, Isabella Morocho Aguinaga, and Anael Zaurov. Long Island String Festival Association Music Festival participant: Eoin Zamorano.







Dr. Fund recognized art students who participated in the New York State School Boards Association Art Exhibit, Colors of Long Island Art Exhibit, and All-County Art Exhibit.

New York State School Boards Association participants: Eliya Halfon, Noa Dahan, and Saina Pierrot. Colors of Long Island participants: Dara Widzowski and Isabela Romero. All-County Art Exhibit participants: Sylpa Jan Kafle, Luna Aslor, and Anna Maria Balmores.





Ms. Sosnovsky introduced Ms. Gallagher, STEM teacher, and Ms. Kreisberg, math teacher, to explain the collaboration between the two subjects and the exciting projects the fifth grade students have been working on. Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Kreisberg then introduced HES students Aishvariia Veliieva, Genevieve Kohlmier, Isabela Romero, Tyler Buffalin, Alexa Shalom, Nathan Orenstein, and Kimberly Sooklall, to provide a firsthand account on their projects, which included, Building a Community, 3D printed hands, and printing toys for Toys for Tots.







Board President, Mrs. Sheinin, thanked all students in attendance. She congratulated the chorus students, the art and music students, and the STEM students on their enthusiasm and talent. Mrs. Sheinin thanked HES for hosting the meeting.

Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's Report. He thanked all the HES students for being there to sing and discuss their STEM class. Dr. Marino attended building events including the Puffball tradition at FECC, various New Year's celebrations in the buildings, and visited Ms. Gallagher's class to see students hard at work in STEM class. Over the break, Dr. Marino cheered on student athletes at the Mid-Hudson Wrestling Tournament. Staff chats were held at the middle school and high school. The 125th Anniversary Grand Finale Community Carnival will be held in conjunction with Arts Below Sunrise on May 19, 2024. The contract for the carnival vendor was scheduled for approval at the January Board meeting. The fourth budget development session took place on January 10. Dr. Marino reiterated that all budget presentations can be found online on the budget section of the website. The next Budget presentation by Ms. Donnelly will be on February 7. Dr. Marino provided an update on HW 2025. The State of the District Survey opened on January 5 and will remain open until January 19. The survey is open to parents, community members, staff, and grade 6-12 students. A Superintendent's Roundtable took place on January 11 at the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library and the next one is scheduled for February 13 at Hewlett Fire Department.

Ginny Zorluoglu, HHS Student Council Executive Vice President, reported on behalf of the Student Advisory Council. She reported on the very successful toy drive for SIBS Place. Students enjoyed dressing up in themes for the holiday spirit week. Sports Night is coming up on March 1 and the theme is Decades, each grade will represent a different decade from the 1970s to the 2000s. The annual Teddy Bear gram for Valentine's Day will once again be available this year. Ginny thanked the Board of Education for allowing her to speak on behalf of the Student Council.

Mrs. Michelle Morgan provided a report on behalf of the Central Council PTA. The Central Council Newsletter from January 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.

Mr. Tenenbaum reported on behalf of the Legislative Committee. The Committee met on January 12 to establish their goals for the school year. They created a list of legislators to visit to discuss topics including proper funding especially for new state mandates, "hold harmless" provisions regarding state aid funding, school safety and security, and CPSE reforms within Nassau County.

Mr. Tenenbaum also reported on behalf of the Public and Private Schools Council. The Council met on January 11 at Lawrence Woodmere Academy for a facility tour and presentation on Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology.

Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. The Committee continues their hard work and will meet again on January 24. Many policies are currently under review.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mrs. Jeter and Mrs. May attended the District's Open Houses on January 11 at Franklin, Ogden, and Hewlett. This new initiative is an opportunity for new and potential residents and local realtors to learn about our schools. Each building conducted tours, and had members of the administration, teaching staff, social workers, PTA, and students available to speak and answer questions. They raved about the positive energy in the buildings and thanked all staff involved in this successful event. The middle school and high school Open House is Thursday, January 18.

Ms. May thanked Mrs. Jeter for introducing this concept at a meeting of the Board's Communication Committee and her work to bring it from a concept to an actual event. Mrs. May also thanked the administration for their support and implementing such a well-designed program.

Mrs. Sheinin thanked Mrs. Kavanagh, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Technology, for her eight years of dedicated service to the staff and students of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. She congratulated Mrs. Kavanagh on her new position and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

ROUTINE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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

The Consent Agenda was approved, excluding item 8.2 Schedule of Contracts, which will be voted on separately.

Item 8.2 Schedule of Contracts. Mrs. Jeter expressed concern about the fees associated with the 125th Anniversary Carnival. The Schedule of Contracts was approved.

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

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 PM, Budget Session, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 PM, Work Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM, Building Tour, Ogden Elementary School

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Ogden Elementary School

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the January 17 Regular Meeting.