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

April 10, 2024

Public Hearing

Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Public Hearing began at 6:30 PM. Mr. Mike Losco, Director of Health, Safety, and Security, introduced the District-Wide Safety Plan. The plan is available on the District website (click HERE to view) and will be open for public comment for a thirty-day period. The plan will be on the Board agenda for approval at the May 15, 2024 meeting. Mr. Losco highlighted the information on Page 19, Recovery - School District Support for Buildings.

Members of the Board asked questions about the recent flooding and earthquake. Mr. Losco reiterated the importance of communication.

Special Meeting

The Special Meeting began at 6:45 PM. The Board unanimously approved the three agenda items:

1. Adoption of the proposed budget in the amount of $138,494,692.
2. Approval of the resolution: SEQRA Type II Determination
3. Approval of the Personnel Action Report

Mrs. Sheinin congratulated Mr. John Andruszkiewicz, incoming principal of Woodmere Middle School. His appointment is effective July 1, 2024.

Work Meeting

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

Reports and Presentations

The Internal Claims Auditor, Ms. Diamond of Cerini & Associates, presented the quarterly report which included January 2024 - March 2024. The internal audit reviewed over 5,000 checks.

There were no outstanding inquiries. The auditor noted the great communication with the District and will continue to work with staff on proper controls. The Audit presentation can be found here.

Ms. Barbara Giese, Executive Director of Communications, Community Services, Registration, and Grants, presented the Communications Update. Highlights included the new District website, which has increased functionality and meets ADA compliance requirements. The District has greatly increased the followers on Instagram and plans to increase engagement in the coming year. The communications office is working on budget communications, a branding guide, and a new mobile app. The Board appreciated the tracking of the Instagram numbers and believed the information to be very helpful. The Communications Update can be found here.

Dr. Jennie Yi, P-12 Chairperson of Social Studies, presented a Social Studies Curriculum Update. Dr. Yi thanked the Board of Education and administration for their support over the last seven months as she acclimated to the District and her new position. Dr. Yi spoke about her passion for social studies and developing student interest. Board members asked questions about AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, and AP Euro. The Social Studies Update can be found here.

Mr. Joseph DiBartolo, Business Administrator, presented a Transportation Update. Mr. DiBartolo's presentation referenced the school bus driver shortage and the contributing factors. The District currently transports students to 92 schools a day. Electric bus conversion is a possibility in the future. A Board member asked about mileage requirements for transportation. The District provides transportation up to 15 miles, or 50 miles for Special Education services. Another question was raised about online transportation registration and applications. This has not started yet, but Mr. DiBartolo said it is a goal of his. The Transportation Update can be found here.

Public comments: Amil Virani asked about the pay and benefits offered to current and new bus drivers.

Financial Reports

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following reports: Treasurer's Report, Budget Status, Revenue Status, Preliminary Fund Balance, Warrants and Summary Findings of the Claims Auditor.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following Financial Actions: Schedule of Contracts, Transfers of Appropriation, Surplus Equipment, Schedule of Gifts, and the Acceptance of the 2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card.

Curriculum and Miscellaneous Actions

Dr. Marino reviewed the following miscellaneous items: Field Trip Proposal: Girls Track and Field team to attend the Penn Relays, BOCES Administrative Operations Budget 2024-2025, Nassau BOCES Board Election 2024-2025, BOE Meeting Dates for the 2024-2025 School Year, Members of the Board of Registry for the May 21, 2024 election, and Resolution for Appointment of Acting District Clerk for the May 21, 2024 election. Members of the Board commented on the steep increase in the BOCES budget. A member of the Board also noted a proposed BOE meeting date for next year falls on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, and that the May 14 regular meeting is occuring before the budget vote.

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policies:

Policy #4710, Grading Systems, is under Initial Review.

Policy #6420, Online Banking Services, is under Initial Review.

Policy #4322, Programs for the Gifted and Talented, is under Final Review.

Policy #8135, Instructional Technology Systems: Disaster Recovery Plan, is under Final Review.

Board members discussed weighting and criteria for the removal of the Advanced Placement (AP) designation, in reference to Policy #4710. HHS student, Zachary Zipes, spoke about a No Harm Policy. Mrs. Sheinin thanked everyone for their comments, and members of the Board thanked the Policy Committee for their hard work and efforts.

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

Mr. Tenenbaum spoke about the Nassau-Suffolk School Board Association letter dated April 3, 2024 in opposition to New York State Faith-Based Affordable Housing Act Assembly Bill A.8386 Senate Bill S. 7791.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 PM, Regular Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 PM, Budget Q&A, Hewlett Fire Department

Thursday, May 2, 12:00 Noon, Budget Q&A, Center for Adult Life Enrichment

Wednesday, May 8, 6:45 PM, Annual Budget Hearing, Woodmere Education Center

Thursday, May 16, 11:00 AM, Budget Q&A, Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM, Budget Vote and School Board Elections, Woodmere Education Center

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the April 10 Public Hearing, Special Meeting, and Work Meeting.