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,
Chana Jeter, Meredith King

October 16, 2024

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted a tour of Franklin Early Childhood Center, led by Mrs. Kim Parahus.

REGULAR MEETING



The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mrs. Debra Sheinin. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Schneider's first grade students who then sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee," under the direction of music teacher, Ms. Laura Welsher.

Dr. Lorraine Smyth, Principal, welcomed the Board of Education and members of the community to Franklin. She spoke of this year's school theme, which is Friendship. Students from Mrs. Albenda's class made friendship bracelets for the members of the Board. Dr. Smyth thanked the Board of Education for being educational advocates and introduced a video created by kindergarten teachers and students entitled, "You've Got a Friend in Us" to commemorate School Board Recognition Week.

Art teacher, Ms. Emily Lutz, spoke briefly about the display of fall art projects and their friendship theme.





Mrs. Sheinin thanked Dr. Smyth for hosting the meeting, and thanked the students for their wonderful performance.



Mrs. Sheinin asked for a moment of silence to honor former Board of Education member, Mr. Stephen B. Witt.

Dr. Ralph Marino, Jr., Superintendent, shared a brief biography of Mr. Witt, who served on the Board of Education for 27 years. Mr. Witt's numerous contributions were highlighted. He will be sorely missed by the Hewlett-Woodmere community.

Awards and Recognition
Dr. Marino presented Mrs. Schneider and her class with a certificate of recognition.



Dr. Marino read the Governor's Proclamation for School Board Recognition Week. October 20-22 is the annual NYS School Boards Association conference in New York City. The Board and Dr. Marino are looking forward to this informative convention.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Dr. Marino shared information about the many fall events that have taken place already, including Barrels of Fun at Franklin, "It's Fall, Y'all" at Ogden, and HES Fest. WMS held a spirited Pep Rally, and the high school celebrated a successful Homecoming victory. A highlight was the Track and Field Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Dr. Marino shared that the first budget workshop for the 2025-26 School Budget is scheduled for November 13, with details to be made available on the District website. Focus groups are being

formed for the HW 2025 initiative to gather feedback on District improvements and community engagement.

A Superintendent Roundtable took place on September 30 at the Hewlett Fire Department. The next Roundtable will be held on October 29 at 12:00 PM at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment.

Dr. Marino also shared updates on various construction projects:

- Elevator restorations and kitchen renovations at Franklin.
- Exterior column replacements at Hewlett Elementary.
- Various renovations at G.W. Hewlett High School, including the auditorium and science labs.
- Woodmere Education Center is also undergoing ADA toilet renovations.

Lastly, Dr. Marino noted that there will be a presentation on the Woodmere Middle School 9 Period Day at the November 13 Board of Education work meeting.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT



Student Council Executive Board President, Wesley Sreter, reported on the amazing start to the fall season, including spirit week, the pep rally, and the fantastic Homecoming parade and football game. Upcoming is a blood drive on November 7. The high school is excited about the holiday season and fundraising events.

Wesley thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT



Ms. Joann Brown, President of the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, thanked FECC for hosting the meeting. Congratulations were extended to the building administration, the teachers, and students for their hard work making it such an enjoyable evening. On behalf of HWFA, Ms. Brown thanked the Board of Education for all they do for the students and staff of the District.

PTA REPORT



FECC PTA co-president Kristy Kung reported on behalf of the CC PTA. The October newsletter is linked below.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Special Education Committee:** Mrs. Menashe reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee. The Committee recommends the approval of the recommendations by both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.
- **Communications Committee:** Mr. Tenenbaum shared that the committee met on September 19 to discuss updates from the communications office, social media and branding, and graphic uniformity in District communications. They also reviewed materials related to the Superintendent search.
- **Science Labs:** Mr. Tenenbaum reported on meetings held on September 24, 25, and October 8 to develop a corrective action plan for completing high school science labs. The team visited East Williston's science labs, with the next meeting scheduled for October 18.
- **School Boards Associations:** Mr. Tenenbaum represented the District at both the Nassau-Suffolk and New York State School Boards' annual resolution meetings, where a proposed resolution to modernize the civil service exam system received overwhelming support.
- **Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology Committee:** Mrs. Amitrano reported on the committee's October 1 meeting, where Dr. Anzalone provided updates on technology tools, software reviews, AI, professional development, Tri-States, the new teacher academy, and the science lab project.
- **Audit Committee:** Mrs. Amitrano reported that the committee met on October 9 and recommends approval of the Resolution accepting the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and related funding reserve resolutions.
- **Activities and Athletics Committee:** Mrs. King reported on the committee's October 9 meeting, where they received an update on the high school auditorium renovation from Dr. Andrew Fund and discussed increasing social media presence with Mr. David Viegas.
- **Policy Committee:** Mrs. Menashe, on behalf of Mrs. May, reported that the committee is actively updating policies, currently focusing on the Grading Policy, and appreciates everyone's input.

Mr. Tenenbaum wished everyone a Happy Festival on the first night of Sukkot**.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)
There were no public comments on agenda items.

ROUTINE ACTIONS
Acceptance of minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting dated September 18, 2024.

Consent Agenda approved, with the exception of H.4, RFP for Architect-Engineer and H.5, Schedule of Contracts, which will be voted upon separately.

H.4, RFP for Architect-Engineer: A discussion took place among BOE members regarding this RFP. The item was not approved.

H.5, Schedule of Contracts: A discussion took place on item 10.4 Thornton Tomasetti, peer review for the high school auditorium renovation design. The contract was approved, as were all contracts listed in the October 16 Schedule of Contracts.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)
There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 PM for matters of potential litigation, employment of particular personnel and matters of student safety.

FUTURE MEETINGS
Wednesday, November 13, Woodmere Education Center:
Budget Meeting at 6:30 PM
Work Meeting at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, November 20, Ogden Elementary School:
Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the October 16 regular meeting.
Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.