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

November 13, 2024

Budget Development Session

The Budget Development Session was called to order at 6:30 PM. Mrs. Sheinin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Dr. Groveman reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 budget development timeline. Key topics included the fund balance, schedule of reserves, retirement contributions, and health insurance rates. Additionally, a proposal for a new school lunch software system, MySchoolBucks, was discussed.

  The Board asked questions about the software's capabilities, school safety, and the soccer field project.

  The Board will compile a list of potential budget items for the next Budget Development session on January 8, 2025.

  The presentation can be found at the end of the document.

Work Meeting

The Work Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Reports and Presentations

Links to presentations can be found below.

- *Middle School and High School Science Classrooms* - Mr. John Grillo of JAG Architects presented the revisions and proposed reconstruction plans for the science classrooms.
  The project aims to align with community-approved designs.
  Board members raised questions about seating and technology needs, as well as the lead time for materials and construction.
  The Board expressed thanks to all involved in the project for their hard work.
  Increased costs related to this project are scheduled for approval on November 20.

- *WMS Nine-Period Day Proposal* - Dr. Anzalone introduced Mr. John Andruszkiewicz, Principal of WMS, who outlined the transition from an 8-period day to a 9-period day, effective September 2025.
  Board members asked about compliance requirements, state aid, and impacts on the Gifted and Talented program.
  Public comment was made regarding scheduling, hallway traffic, and the impact of the new schedule on students, NYSED requirements/instructional hours, and a possible visit to another school district.
  The Board will vote on the Nine-Period Day proposal on November 20.
- *2025-2026 Course Handbook for G.W. Hewlett High School* - Dr. Alexandra Greenberg, Principal of HHS, presented the updates to the course catalog for the 2025-2026 school year, including new course offerings and modifications.
  Ms. Mary Harrison and other department chairs, Dr. Andrew Fund, Dr. Brian H. Terry, Ms. Michele Hochhauser, Ms. Kimberly Thompson, Mr. Joe Virgilio, Dr. Jennie Yi, and Dr. Nicole Montellese discussed their respective areas. Questions were raised by the Board about new classes and college credit offerings. The Future U event in January was mentioned as an opportunity for Board members to learn more about these changes.
  The Board will vote on the course catalog on November 20.
- *Regionalization Plan Discussion* - Mrs. May read aloud a description of the NYS Education Department's proposed Regionalization Plan. Mrs. Jeter and Mrs. Pam Darby (CC PTA co-president) attended a meeting, sponsored by the Southwest Quadrant of School Superintendents on November 12, where the proposal was discussed.
  The Board Legislative Committee will meet on November 15 to further discuss this matter.
  Community members are encouraged to submit comments on the plan, with the comment period ending November 24. A postcard will be sent to the community with instructions on how to participate in the discussion.
  The Board is preparing a letter which is scheduled for approval on November 20.

Financial Actions

Dr. Groveman reviewed several financial items, including:

- Schedule of Contracts
- Transfers of Appropriation
- Budget Transfers
- Surplus Equipment from Athletics, Facilities, and Library to be donated or discarded
- Applications for Club Charters
- Draft RFP for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services

- Request to Establish Dorothy E. Schneider Memorial Scholarship by family members for a deserving student
- Updated Schedule of Central Treasurers to reflect a change in the High School
- Updated Board Appointments (James Igoe and Charles Carollo to begin December 1, 2024)
  These financial actions are scheduled for approval on November 20.

Curriculum and Miscellaneous Actions

Data Points for District Goals:

Dr. Anzalone presented suggested data points for Goal 1 of the District's objectives. The Board reviewed the points and plans for further analysis in February and August 2025.
The data points are scheduled for approval on November 20.

Policy Actions:

Dr. Marino reviewed the following policies:

- 4322: Programs for the Gifted and Talented
- 4327: Homebound Instruction
- 4821: School Ceremonies and Observances
- 4821.1: Instructional Arrangements for School Days of Religious Observance
- 4821.2: Ceremonies and Observances (to be abolished)
- 4821.3: Observance of Days of Special Significance (number change)
- 5150: Initial Entrance and Placement in District Schools
- 5465: Child Abuse in an Educational Setting (add form)

These policies are scheduled for approval on November 20.

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

Mrs. Sheinin addressed the topic of Summer Playschool:

- The District is not considering outsourcing this program.
- The issue of whether students will be paid the State minimum wage (which is not required) for the program will be discussed further at a budget session in March.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:10 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 PM - Regular Meeting at Ogden Elementary (Tour of Facility at 7:00 PM)
Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 PM - Work Meeting at Woodmere Education Center
Wednesday, December 18, 7:30 PM - Regular Meeting at Woodmere Middle School (Tour of Facility at 7:00 PM)

NOTE: Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the November 13 Work Meeting.

LINK TO PRESENTATIONS:

Click HERE for the Budget Development Session #1 presentation.
Click HERE for the Middle School/High School Science Classrooms presentation.
Click HERE for the WMS Nine-Period Day presentation.
Click HERE for the 2025-2026 Course Handbook for G.W. Hewlett High School presentation.