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 20, 2024

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted a tour of Ogden Elementary School, led by Mrs. Kim Parahus.

REGULAR MEETING



The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mrs. Debra Sheinin. Mrs. Nicola Lynch, Principal of Ogden Elementary School, welcomed the Board of Education and introduced the Student Council cabinet members: President Casey Santana, Vice President Jagger Lahey, Treasurer Liya Kopach, and Secretary Liam Rodriguez. Liya and Liam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ogden Elementary students Angelina Alvarado, Alice Makofsky and Talya Sasson presented artwork and essays expressing gratitude, demonstrating school spirit, and showcasing achievements. Ogden's cheerleaders gave a spirited performance, and the Grade 5 Chorus, accompanied by Mrs. Santanastaso, performed "God Bless America."













Chorus members included: Angelina Alvarado, Kalani Burnham, Hailey Duron, Jasmine Gao, Sabine George, Torie Hopkins, Kaitlyn John, Elaina Makofsky, Astor Roberston, Casey Santana, Milana Vilencia, Penelope Zapata.

Cheerleaders included: Torie Hopkins, Arielle Jeanne, Kelsey John, Liya Kopach, Senai Lewis, Sam Piotrowski, Elysa Spitzer, Vivienne Tejada.

Awards and Recognition

Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art and Music, announced multiple student achievements, including All-County honors and participation in prestigious music festivals such as NYSSBA, LISFA and PEAK.

All-County	Angelina Alvarado
All-County	Jasmine Gao
All-County	Sabine George
All-County	Torie Hopkins
All-County	Kaitlyn John
All-County	Elaina Makofsky
All-County	Eli Rahmanzada
All-County	Astor Robertson
All-County	Casey Santana
LISFA Music	Jasmine Gao
NYSSBA	Malena Mangal
NYSSBA	Alaia Perez Pu
PEAK Music	Olivia Grinberg
PEAK Music	Rose Hsi
PEAK Music	Olivia Katz
PEAK Music	Dalia Madjar









Mrs. Sheinin and several BOE members attended the first performance of the high school musical, *Chicago*. She congratulated Dr. Fund on the fabulous show. The show will also take place on November 22 and 23 and all are encouraged to attend. Mrs. Sheinin thanked Ogden Principal Mrs. Lynch and all the students from Ogden for the warm welcome and the wonderful performances.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Dr. Marino thanked Mrs. Lynch for hosting the meeting. He highlighted several school events, including Halloween parades and Veteran's Day observances. Dr. Marino also mentioned the ongoing progress on large capital projects, such as the high school auditorium renovation and WMS field and track replacements, slated for spring 2025. He updated the Board on the HW 2025 initiative and the NYS Education Department's Regionalization Plan. Dr. Marino encouraged community participation in upcoming focus groups and reiterated the importance of attending the January 8 budget presentation. Dr. Marino welcomed Ms. Virginia Figueroa as the new Assistant Director of Special Education, effective December 19, 2024, and congratulated Mr. Joseph DiBartolo on his upcoming retirement after 23 years of dedicated service to the District.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT



Leighe Yona, Executive Secretary of the Student Advisory Council, reported on recent student activities, including a successful blood drive, Veteran's Day discussions, and upcoming fundraising events. The council is also preparing for a holiday toy drive with SIBS Place.

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

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Ms. Joann Brown, president of HWFA, thanked Ogden for hosting the meeting and congratulated the students who performed.

PTA REPORT

Pam Darby and Sarit Kritzman, Central Council PTA co-presidents, provided a report (link below).

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Special Education Committee**: 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.
- **Policy Committee**: Mrs. May discussed proposed policies for approval during the meeting.
- **Capital Improvement Committee**: Mr. Tenenbaum updated the Board on progress regarding school facilities.
- **Legislative Committee**: The committee met on November 15 to establish advocacy goals, focusing on issues such as antisemitism, foundation aid and the regionalization plan. Mr. Tenenbaum shared that the committee also drafted a list of local state elected officials to schedule meetings with and discuss these topics.

- **Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology Committee**: Mrs. Amitrano shared discussions from their November 4 meeting, including topics like Regionalization, AI, Double Accelerated Math, HS course catalog, and Superintendent's Conference Day.
- **Health and Safety Committee**: Mrs. Jeter addressed discussions on e-bikes and safety measures.
- **Communications Committee**: Mrs. Jeter shared updates from their November 15 meeting. Items of discussion included a welcome packet for staff, monthly video newsletter, New Year's Newsletter, open houses, website updates, and Regionalization - the Regionalization postcard has been sent out and all are encouraged to read it.
- **Activities and Athletics Committee**: Mrs. King discussed the November 18 meeting where the discussion included the capital projects and completion dates, a ceremony to honor scholar-athletes and teams, and a form on Student Participation on Non-School Sponsored Athletic Teams.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mrs. Jeter attended a meeting on November 12 with elected officials Assemblywoman-elect Judy Griffin, Assemblyman Ari Brown, and a representative from Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages' office. Topics discussed included:

- Foundation aid formula
- Charter schools
- PreK
- Legislators emphasized the importance of community involvement.

Mrs. Jeter and Mrs. May shared information about a coalition of Nassau and Suffolk County school districts working on potential litigation regarding the NYS Education Department's Regionalization Plans. The Board of Education:

- Will discuss joining the lawsuit.
- Officially expressed opposition to the Regionalization Plan.

Mr. Tenenbaum attended District-wide Veteran's Day events, thanking organizers and veterans for their service.

Mrs. Jeter attended a workshop, A Guide for Families to Understanding Supports and Services Administered by OPWDD, hosted by the Special Education Department on November 18, and thanked Dr. Farber for organizing the event.

Mrs. Amitrano attended the Comedy Night featuring alumni John Diresta, noting the value of successful alumni returning to the district.

Mrs. May thanked Mr. DiBartolo for his 23 years of outstanding service to the District, highlighting his contributions in both the business and transportation offices.

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 October 16, 2024.

Routine Recommended Actions: Minutes of the October 16 meeting accepted. Consent agenda approved. These items were removed from the consent agenda and were voted upon and approved separately:

F.2 Resolution, Settlement Agreement and Release

G.1: Personnel Action Report

I.2 Resolutions: Woodmere Middle School/Hewlett High School Science Classrooms

Mr. Tenenbaum noted that last week's presentation on the science lab reconstruction showed space for new smart boards. Even though the smart boards in the labs are less than three years old, the drawings specify for 85" smartboards so that sufficient space is allocated for larger screens when the time comes to replace them.

Policies approved:

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)

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)
Mrs. Irina Abramovich raised concerns regarding Policy 5280.1 and its associated forms.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 PM and reconvened at 11:00 PM. Resolutions authorizing the commencement of Article 78 proceedings regarding Regionalization and the retention of Rigano LLC were approved.

FUTURE MEETINGS
Wednesday, December 11, Woodmere Education Center:
Work Meeting at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18, Woodmere Middle School:
Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the November 20 regular meeting.
Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.