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

January 15, 2025

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted a tour of G.W. Hewlett High School, led by Interim Director of School Facilities and Operations, Mr. Christopher Milano.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mrs. Debra Sheinin. HHS students, Derin Artan, Kimberley Lin, Mason O'Hare, and Nicole Zhang performed the "Star Spangled Banner."
Dr. Alexandra Greenberg, Principal, G.W. Hewlett High School, welcomed the Board of Education to the high school and introduced senior and Class of 2025 Treasurer, Ellini Bargig, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards and Recognition

Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art and Music, along with HHS art teachers Mr. Saadiq Alli, Ms. Jennifer Csorba, and Ms. Karen Cunningham, recognized the following students:

NCHS Juried Competition & Exhibition: Becky Feygin, Charles Zeledon
New York State School Boards Association: Zhara Barton, Sophia Chunashvili, Elizabeth Ferro, Becky Feygin, Joshua Goldenberg, Gabrielle Liechtung, Adir Perets, Amirah Rahman, Olivia Rubin, Jostin Sequeira Poveda, Edan Shiponi, Kayla Simon, and Alexa Spencer.

Dr. Fund acknowledged the artwork displayed at the meeting from the talented HHS students. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Gallery One art presentation at Woodmere Education Center on January 27, where more than 400 pieces of student artwork will be on display.

Ms. Kim Thompson, Director of Mathematics, recognized students for their achievement in the prestigious American Mathematics Competition:

AMC 10:
First: Leo Chen
Second: Sanzhar Kenzhaev
Third: Carlisle Tomas

AMC 12
First: Sean Zamidar
Second (Tied): David Abelev, Darsh Chavre

From left: Sanzhar Kenzhaev, Darsh Chavre, Sean Zamidar, Ms. Kim Thompson

Dr. Terrence Bissoondial, Science Research Coordinator, recognized Emily Smukler, on being Named a 2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Scholar! Emily has been selected as one of the top 300 scholars out of nearly 2,500 applicants worldwide for this prestigious competition. Her groundbreaking project, “Aptamer-Mediated Biosensing using Self-Assembled DNA Nanomaterials,” explores the potential of DNA nanostructures as biosensors.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Marino congratulated all the student award winners, and thanked their teachers and the high school staff for supporting the students. The Superintendent’s Report included the following topics:

- School events attended include the AI crime presentation at the middle school on January 14, hosted by Central Council PTA. Upcoming events in January include the science fair, spelling bees, STEAM night, and Friendship Day.
- 2025-26 School Budget: The next budget presentation is February 5 at 6:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center. The community is encouraged to attend.
- Woodmere Middle School Nine-period Day: Significant progress has been made, including development of student schedules, and adjustments will continue to be made as needed.
- Construction Update included the HHS and WMS athletic field renovations, the HHS auditorium renovation, FECC kitchen renovation, the tennis courts and the concession stand at HHS.
- The next Superintendent’s Roundtable is January 16 at the HW Public Library. All are welcome to attend.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Class of 2025 Treasurer, Ellini Bargig, thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. The high school is very excited about the upcoming Battle of the Classes on February 28. They are working on new and exciting ways to showcase school spirit.

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Ms. Joann Brown, President, Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, congratulated the high school students recognized this evening, along with their families, teachers, and staff for all their hard work.

PTA REPORT

Central Council PTA Co-Presidents Pam Darby and Sarit Kritzman reported on the events in all of the school buildings. Their full report is linked at the end of this Re-Cap. They thanked Dr. Marino and Mike Losco for making the AI presentation possible. It was well attended and informative.

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 reported that the Policy committee continues their hard work and will have more policies for approval in the coming months.
- **Legislative Committee**: Mr. Tenenbaum reported that the Legislative committee met at Assemblywoman Solages' office on January 14. Many items were discussed including anti-semitism, the availability of organized workshops, the future of foundation aid, transportation mandates, Pre-K, and the Regionalization plan.
- **Public and Private School Committee**: Mrs. Jeter reported that the Public and Private School committee met on January 14 at Yeshiva South Shore. James Igor, the District's Business Administrator, provided an informative transportation presentation.
- **Communications Committee**: Mrs. Jeter reported that the Communications committee met on January 10. Items of discussion included the Happy New Year newsletter, the upcoming Open Houses at all five school buildings, and revisiting the printing of the adult and youth recreation program brochures. Open Houses will be held from 4:00 - 8:00 PM on January 30 at Woodmere Middle School and Hewlett High School, and on February 6 at Franklin Early Childhood Center, Hewlett Elementary School, and Ogden Elementary School.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

- **Capital Improvement Meeting**: Mr. Tenenbaum reported that a meeting was held on January 13 to follow up with work progress and technology integration in the new auditorium. The work is advancing on schedule, and the new project will feature cutting edge technology.

Mrs. Jeter and Mrs. Sheinin thanked the CC PTA, Mr. Losco, and the NCPD officers of the 4th Precinct, for the informative AI presentation on January 14.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the December 18 Regular meeting of the Board of Education were accepted.

Consent agenda approved. Item G.4, Resolution and Agreement, was removed from Consent and voted upon separately. This item was approved.

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

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:10 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Budget Session at 6:30 PM
Work Meeting at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Hewlett Elementary School:
Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the January 15 regular meeting.
Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.