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

February 12, 2025

Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education conducted a tour of Hewlett Elementary 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. Principal Heather Sosnovsky welcomed the Board of Education members and the community to Hewlett Elementary School. The HES Student Council members Mia Silva, Alyssa Agliam, Natalie Apicella, Sofia Gavrylyuk, Silas Nieves, and Andrea Rivera led the Pledge of Allegiance, with Ms. Calev accompanying them on the piano.







To the delight of all in attendance, the Musical Theatre Club performed, "*Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"* from the *"Lion King."*





Awards and Recognition

Ms. Kim Thompson, P-12 Chairperson of Mathematics, along with teachers Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Kreisberg, and Ms. Rutter, proudly announced the winners of the HES STEM Showcase:

1st Place: Business #5 – Coffee Shop
Jolie Logvin, Issam Ahmed, Luca Kassim, Isabella Beylik



Tied for 2nd Place:
Business #19 – Sushi Restaurant
Jeremy Rodriguez, Gabriel Volfman, Sofia Gavrylyuk, Violet Kovtun

Business #22 – Burger Queen
Zoe Kong, Owen Colletti, Andrea Rivera Morales, Alex Jeter

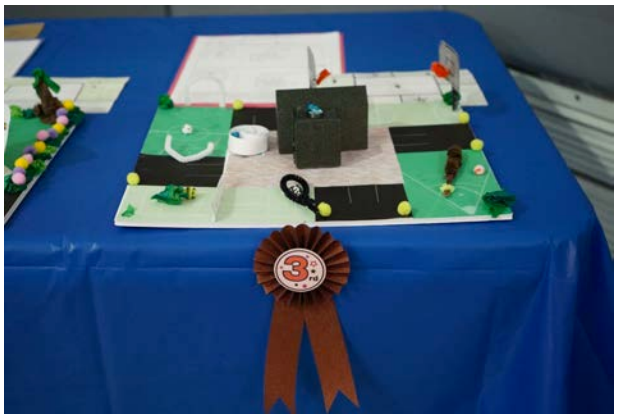


3rd Place: Business #10 – Rec Center
Analia Rodriguez Coronell, Chao Wang, Gabriele Spadola, Natalie Apicella









Principal Sosnovsky introduced the HES Kindness Ambassador Award winners, who shared how they've grown and the skills they've learned this year.

- **Grade 2**: Mia Martinez & Kiley DelGrosso
- **Grade 3**: Jake Baumel & Sianna Gentles
- **Grade 4**: Drew Findling & Owenize Udevbulu
- **Grade 5**: Sebastian Berg & Gabriella Kopp



The Board of Education was presented with thoughtful gifts crafted by HES students: a miniature HWPS bulldog and a heart made with the 3D printer, along with custom mugs decorated to celebrate the "Candyland Dreams" theme.

Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art and Music Education, recognized students for their outstanding achievements in the arts:

- **NYSSBA Art Show**: LeAnna Niyazov, Zoya Prajapati, Victor Zalta
- **Long Island String Festival All-County Music Performance**: Alyssa Agliam, Sofia Gavrylyuk, Ashton Hoopingarner, Violet Kovtun, Silas Nieves, Andrea Rivera Morales, Mia Silva
- **PEAK Music Festival**: Rachel Edmonds, Daniel Hernandez, Mason King, Emmerson Quinn, Camila Salazar, Paiden Suleman, Parker Suleman, Owenize Udevbulu, Daniel Uwadiae
- **LISFA Music**: Sofia Gavrylyuk







Dr. Fund acknowledged the artwork displayed at the meeting from the talented HES students and thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of the arts and music in HWPS.

Board of Education President Mrs. Debra Sheinin addressed the attendees by thanking the HES students, staff, and administration for creating the joyful theme of the meeting. She congratulated the students from the Student Council, the musical theater group, the STEM project winners, the Kindness Ambassadors, and Art & Music award recipients for their accomplishments.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Sheinin addressed the public, acknowledging the concerns of teachers, their union, and the community regarding the staffing adjustments recently announced. She emphasized that decisions like these are never easy, and the Board recognizes the impact they have on individuals, families, and the entire District.

Mrs. Sheinin reassured the community that the Board deeply values the work of our educators and the contributions they make to our students every day. While the Board must make difficult decisions to ensure the long-term well-being of the District, they are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to support the schools, staff, and students during this transition. She concluded by thanking everyone for their understanding and ongoing dedication to the schools and the community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Marino provided a Superintendent's Report, which included the following topics:

- School events attended include the Lunar New Year celebrations, STEAM and STEM night, World Read Aloud Day, Science Fairs, Black History Month assemblies, Gallery One Art Exhibit, the Hewlett Theater Company production of "Almost, Maine", and the fantastic Art and Music trip to Disney World. The District is very proud of our students and their amazing performances.
- 2025 - 2026 School Budget Update: The next budget presentation is March 12 at 6:30 PM at Woodmere Education Center. Prior presentations are available on the District website under the Budget Development tab.
- WMS Nine-Period Day Update: There will be a public presentation at the April 9 BOE Work meeting. All are encouraged to attend.
- Construction Update: Projects currently underway are the high school auditorium renovation with expected completion in July of 2025, and the middle school athletic field renovation.
- HW 2025 Update: Focus groups for secondary teachers, community members, parents and students were held on February 10 to provide information about experiences related to district/school perceptions, communications and overall community.
- There will be a Superintendent's Roundtable on February 13 at the Hewlett Fire Department.
- Budget Q&A sessions will begin in April.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Camila Angeles, Student Council Officer, reported on the amazing start to the winter semester at the high school. Students are excited about the Battle of the Classes on February 28, with this year's theme being holidays. Valentine's Day teddy bear grams are also underway, generating much enthusiasm. She thanked the Board of Education for allowing students to be represented and to speak at the meeting.



EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT



Ms. Joann Brown, President, Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, congratulated the HES staff and students and thanked them for hosting tonight's meeting. Ms. Brown expressed the sentiments of the faculty over the difficult decisions being made regarding staffing adjustments. She thanked the Board of Education for their transparency and open communication.

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.



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. King spoke on behalf of the Curriculum, Assessment and Technology committee. The committee met on January 21 and discussed timelines and communications for the WMS Nine-Period Day. They are pleased to see the digital publication of Hewlett Highlights and thanked Dr. Anzalone for putting this together.
- Mrs. King reported on behalf of the Activities & Athletics committee who met on February 11. Congratulations were extended to Dr. Fund for the wonderful job organizing the Disney trip. Other topics of discussion included the WMS track which is anticipated to be ready for use in the spring.
- Mrs. Sheinin reported on behalf of the Special Education committee. The committee recommends for approval the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.
- Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy committee. The committee met twice in the month of January. There is one policy for approval, Policy #0110 Sexual Harassment.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

- Mrs. May thanked the administration of HES for inviting Board members to participate in World Read Aloud Day.
- Mr. Tenenbaum reported on his attendance at the National School Boards Association 2025 Advocacy Institute in Washington DC. Topics of discussion included AI, advocacy, general trends and legal updates at the federal level. It was a great networking opportunity with fellow school districts and BOCES trustees. Board member Chana Jeter also represented HWPS. Mr. Tenenbaum attended the NSBA Day on Capitol Hill and joined a delegation of NYS School Board members meeting at Senator Gillibrand's office to discuss and share common concerns.
- Board members reiterated the comments of Board President Sheinin about staffing adjustments. They encouraged members of the community to attend future budget presentations so their voices can be heard. Upcoming budget meeting dates are March 12 and March 20 at 6:30 PM, at Woodmere Education Center. There will be a Public Budget Forum on March 25. Please refer to the District website for budget related materials.
- Mrs. Amitrano attended the Hewlett-Woodmere Business Association networking event on February 12. It was incredible to see the new businesses in the community. This is an important partnership between school and community. Thank you to Ms. Barbara Giese for the Welcome Bags, which were positively received and appreciated by the association members.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the Regular meeting dated January 15, 2025 were accepted.

- Consent agenda approved. The following agenda items were removed and voted upon separately: G.8, Section 75, Civil Service Charges and H.2, Schedule of Contracts.
- G.8, Civil Service Charges, approved.
- H.2, Schedule of Contracts approved after a discussion on Contract #2.19: Charter bus/vans for DECA Trip.
- Policy #0110 Sexual Harassment, 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 8:30 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Budget Session at 6:30 PM
Work Meeting at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

Thursday, March 20, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Budget Session at 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Public Budget Forum at 6:30 PM

NOTE:

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the February 12 regular meeting.
Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.