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

March 12, 2025

Budget Development Session #3

The Budget Development Session was called to order at 6:30 PM. Mr. Charles Carollo, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Personnel, presented information to the Board of Education on the development of the 2025-26 budget. There will be one final budget session on March 20, followed by the Public Budget Forum on March 25. The Board of Education will adopt the proposed budget on April 9, 2025. See below for a link to the presentation.

It was noted that, if approved on the May 20 ballot, Capital Reserve #1 will be depleted and closed.

Comments and questions from the Board of Education included:

> A question was asked about how many unbudgeted Special Education positions have been added to the budget.
> Comment on the tax levy. The Board would like this number below 2%.
> The cost of the HHS tennis court lighting project was discussed.
> The Board would like to consider a review of the administrative structure. This information was requested for the March 20 budget session.

Mr. Carollo next reviewed the Proposed Rates and Fees Schedule for 2025-2026, which shows modest rate increases for 2025-2026. The Board requested a budget for summer playschool.

The community had the opportunity to comment on the budget presentation.
A question was asked about the 'projected other revenue.'

The Budget Session ended at 7:08 PM.

Work Meeting

Mrs. Debra Sheinin, Board of Education President, called the Work Meeting to order at 7:08 PM. She thanked the community members for their engagement and attendance at the meeting. The

community was reminded that personnel matters are legally protected and cannot be publicly discussed. Mrs. Sheinin emphasized the legal requirements and governing policies related to the BOE decision making process. Mrs. Sheinin read the speaker protocols and explained there would be a two-minute time limit per speaker.

Reports, Presentations, and Agenda Items

Resolution to participate in the Southern Westchester BOCES joint bidding unanimously approved.

Five Year Reserve Fund Management Plan - Mr. Charles Carollo presented information. There are currently 11 reserve funds. It was noted that, if approved at the May 20 election, Capital Reserve #1 will be depleted and closed. Capital Reserve #2 was established last year. Total amount in all reserves as of June 30, 2024 is $71,235,597. The Board commented on the unemployment insurance reserve fund and teacher layoffs. See below for the presentation.

Financial Reports

Financial Reports reviewed by Mr. Carollo: Treasurer's Report, Budget Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Preliminary Fund Balance Report, Warrants & Summary of Findings of the Claims Auditor. Mr. Carollo mentioned that he is having the external auditor, RS Abrams, review the Preliminary Fund Balance Report to ensure its accuracy.

Financial Resolutions

Financial Resolutions reviewed by Mr. Carollo: Approval for Propositions to be placed on the May 20, 2025 ballot, Acceptance of Single Audit Report, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024, Acceptance of Annual Risk Assessment Update Report.

Mrs. Sheinin thanked Mr. Carollo, the Business Office staff, and the members of the Audit Committee for their hard work. The Audit Committee met on March 5 and reviewed the audit reports.

Financial Actions

Financial Actions reviewed by Mr. Carollo: Schedule of Contracts, Schedule of Gifts, Schedule of Surplus Equipment, Establishment of the Melissa Gildin Special Education Memorial Scholarship, and Addendums to Established Scholarships.

Miscellaneous Actions

Legal Notice of Annual Election, Nassau BOCES Board of Education Candidate Nominees - the Board of Education will nominate Fran N. Langsner and Robert Schoen at the Regular Meeting on March 19, 2025.

Policy Actions

#2245: Ex-Officio Student School Board Member. The policy will be sent to our attorney for feedback to a question about non-public school student eligibility.
#4710: Grading Systems
#1500: Public Use of School Facilities - Final review, for approval March 19.
#5280.1: Student Participation on Non-Sponsored Athletic Teams, Final review, for approval March 19.
#8332: Staff Use of Cellular Phones and Electronic Equipment. The policy will be sent to the technology department for clarification on the word "modem."
#8334: Use of District Credit Cards, Final review, for approval March 19.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

Mrs. Sheinin reminded speakers that the Board of Education will listen to comments, but not engage in dialogue. She again reminded speakers of the protocol.

Speaker cards were submitted to discuss the following topics (among others):
concerns about changes in school administration, tenure process, lack of stability and continuity in leadership, high taxes, level of transparency, process/procedure for hiring administrators, lack of teachers of color, grading policy, the appeal process, and support for the Board of Education.

The following individuals submitted speaker cards:
Yuliya Lankri
Mari Isakov
Ella Zalkind
Laura Rosenberg
Yelena Fradlis
Vicki Vanunu
Anayo Michel
Alyssa Matatov
Yana Shvartsberg
Gil Bruh
Anastasia Khaimova
Aaron Isakov
Gittel Siegel
Robyn Kelstein

A petition was submitted to the District Clerk in support of the high school principal.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

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

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

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

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the March 12 Work Meeting.
Click HERE for the Budget Development Presentation
Click HERE for the Five Year Reserve Fund Management Plan Presentation