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 19, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

Mrs. Sheinin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from the HHS Student Council.



Awards and Recognition

Dr. Alexandra Greenberg, Principal of G.W. Hewlett High School, recognized:

Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Ava Morgan and Rachel Chen, respectively.





National Merit Commended Students: Not Pictured (David Abelev, Jeremy Ginzburg, Gavin Glassman) and Julian Valme



National Merit Finalist: Rachel Chen



Dr. Terrence Bissoondial, Science Research Coordinator, recognized:
-Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Finalists for Science Research:
Abdulla Ashrafi and Yeraz Melconian
-Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Semifinalists for Science Research: Isabel Ginsberg, Jeremy Ginzburg, Ariel Greenberg, Joseph Kogan, and Emily Smukler.
-Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF) winners:
Abdullah Ashrafi, Isabel Ginsberg, Ariel Greenberg, Joseph Kogan, Ariel River, and Emily Smukler.



Dr. Bissoondial encouraged all to attend the Science Research Symposium at the HHS Library on May 21.

Mr. Joseph Van Wie, Social Studies Teacher, recognized:
-Semifinalists in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: Jane Marshalik, Simon Myaskovsky, Ella Newman, and Arleen Raina



Mr. Van Vie encouraged everyone to attend the Social Science Research Evening at HHS Library on April 1.

Mr. Joseph Virgilio, Chairperson, Business & Computer Science Education recognized:

DECA Business Challenge Winner: Inon Azour



DECA State Career Conference Achievements:
Jacob (Coby) Agamie, Intisa Ahmed, Inon Azour, Darren Chen, Phillip Ginsburg, Ben Halimi, David Halimi, Eadon Hecht, Anastasia Khaimov, Aidan Khan, Justin Kim, Orr Mizrahi, Justin Ogilvie, Giuliana Oliviero, Aari Rechtweg, Morgan Ruvinsky, Maya Singh, Leo Surillo, and Uri Tamir.



Mr. Jared Pittelli, Business Education Teacher, recognized:
Stock Market Game Winner: Jacob Yamen





Dr. Alexandra Greenberg, Principal, recognized:
Coca-Cola Scholar Regional Finalist: Benjamin Halimi

Dr. Jennie Yi, Chairperson, Social Studies P-12, recognized:
Young People's Continental Congress participant:
Isabel Ginsberg



Mr. Rick Royals, Spectrum Co-Adviser, recognized:
Spectrum Adelphi Press Day award winners:
Intisa Ahmed, Victoria Brodsky, Darren Chen (not pictured), Rachel Chen, Maree Drayling (not pictured), Jordan Kshonz (not pictured), Sienna LaPaglia, Gabrielle Liechtung, Editor-in-Chief (not pictured), Simon Myaskovsky, and Isabella Oren (not pictured), Emily Smukler, Ayden Touti, Leighe Yona



Board of Education President, Mrs. Debra Sheinin, congratulated the Class of 2025 Valedictorian, Ava Morgan, Salutatorian, Rachel Chen, and all the student award winners, recognizing them as representatives of the very best of what our District strives to achieve.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Marino extended congratulations to all student award winners and reported on the following:

- School Meetings:
  -Attended Student Council meetings in the Woodmere Middle School and Hewlett High School. In April, Dr. Marino will visit Hewlett Elementary and Ogden Elementary.

- Staff Chats:
  -Held at Hewlett Elementary, Hewlett High School, and the Maintenance Shop.

- Honor Society Inductions:
  -Foreign Language and Social Studies Induction Ceremonies took place earlier this month.
  -More induction ceremonies to follow throughout April and May.

- Staff Volleyball Championship:
  -The event showcased the best from every school building, with Ogden Elementary School taking the honors.

- Hewlett High School Battle of the Classes:
  -Held on February 28, with each class representing a different holiday.
  -The senior class, representing the 4th of July, emerged as the winners. Well done to all!

- 2025-2026 School Budget Update:
  -Final budget workshop: March 20.
  -Public Budget Forum: March 25.
  -Budget adoption by the Board of Education: April 9.
  -Annual Budget Hearing: May 7
  -Budget vote: May 20, from 7 AM - 10 PM.

- Construction Update:
  -WMS Athletic Field Renovation: Turf field reopened. Next phase: Track replacement, starting at the end of May.
  -Hewlett High School Auditorium Renovations: Work underway with anticipated completion this summer.

- HW 2025 Update:
  -Making Feedback Matter Workshops are being conducted.
  -K12 Insight facilitator reviewed focus group results from elementary and secondary levels.
  -Follow-up sessions will occur in May.
  -Reports available on the District website.

- Budget Q & A Sessions (Upcoming Dates):
  -April 24 at HWPL
  -May 6 at HWPL
  -May 13 at Hewlett Fire Department

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Executive Board members Sienna La Paglia and Leighe Yona shared exciting updates about upcoming events at Hewlett High School. They are enthusiastically planning for spring activities and reflected on the success of the Battle of the Classes, calling it a fun-filled event. They also expressed their intention to incorporate the feedback received to make next year's celebration even better.





Wesley Sreter provided a report on his participation in the March 5 *Disconnected Conference*, hosted by NYSUT, which focused on the growing issue of cell phone use in schools. He expressed his gratitude to the administration for the opportunity to attend

alongside Ms. Joann Brown and Ms. Ginette Orlando of WMS.

Mrs. Sheinin thanked Wesley for attending the conference and for sharing the valuable insights gained.

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT



Ms. Ginette Orlando, representing HWASA, expressed gratitude to the Board of Education for their continued commitment to safeguarding the anonymity of staff members with diligence and fairness.



Ms. Joann Brown, representing HWFA, extended congratulations to all students, families, and faculty members for their outstanding achievements.

PTA REPORT

Central Council PTA Co-Presidents Pam Darby and Sarit Kritzman congratulated all the student award winners recognized during the meeting. They also provided an update on events across all school buildings. The full report, including building updates, is linked at the end of this recap.



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Menashe 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. Jeter provided an update on the Communications Committee, which met on February 27. The committee discussed feedback from the open houses, strategies to attract families to move to Hewlett-Woodmere, and ways to improve budget communications.
- The Health, Safety and Wellness committee met on March 3 to address concerns about online threats of violence on social media, made by students. Mrs. Jeter explained that these actions carry serious consequences, and parents are encouraged to discuss the importance of responsible behavior with their children. Additionally, there has been a noticeable increase in the use of e-bikes and e-scooters on the streets of Hewlett-Woodmere. The Nassau County Police Department is aware of these concerns.
- Mrs. Jeter reported that the Public and Private School Council met on March 18 at Kulanu Academy. Attendees had the opportunity to take a tour of the school, and Ms. Barbara Giese gave an informative presentation on Title Grants.
- Mr. Tenenbaum reported on behalf of the Capital Improvement committee, which met on February 28 to review the Woodmere Middle School lab renovation project. This collaborative effort incorporated recommendations from the faculty, based on their daily observations, as well as the needs of the students.
- Mrs. May reported on the Policy Committee, which is recommending three policies for approval this evening:
    - **Policy #1500**: Public Use of School Facilities
    - **Policy #5280.1**: Student Participation on Non-School Sponsored Athletic Teams
    - **Policy #8334**: Use of Credit Cards

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

Mrs. Sheinin read the speaker protocols. There were no speakers on Agenda items.

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the Regular meeting dated February 12, 2025 were accepted.

- Consent agenda unanimously approved
- Policies unanimously approved

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

Mrs. Sheinin re-read the speaker protocols and reminded the public not to refer to staff members by name, position, or any identifiable details. Each speaker will be allotted two minutes.

Speaker cards were submitted to address various topics, including: fostering a collaborative atmosphere, decision-making processes and transparency, communication, the process for granting tenure, administrative leadership changes and their impact on students, maintaining the high ranking of Hewlett-Woodmere schools, changes in leadership and the lack of consistency, minority voices not being heard, the shortage of diversity throughout District staff, efforts to

increase diversity in schools, changing the rules that govern public participation at board meetings, and supporting the Board of Education. Several members of the public expressed their gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to speak.

The following individuals submitted speaker cards (with apologies for any misspellings):

Laura Rosenberg
Mari Isakov
Yelena Freedlis
Emily Ruvinsky
Michael Davidov
Layla Michel
Ammaar Shareef
Seanna Ellis
Abby Fraser
Anayo Michel

Mrs. Sheinin thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Board Adopts Proposed 2025-2026 Budget, 6:45 PM
Work Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Building Tour, 6:30 PM
Tenure Reception, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

Thursday, April 24, 2025, HW Public Library
Budget Q & A, 11:00 AM

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, Woodmere Education Center:
Annual Budget Hearing, 6:30 PM
Work Meeting: 7:00 PM

NOTE:

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