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

April 9, 2025

Special Meeting: 2025-2026 Budget Adoption

At 6:45 PM, Board of Education President, Debra Sheinin called the special meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Sheinin welcomed everyone to the special meeting and read aloud the Speaker Protocols.

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard - Agenda Items:

> Dr. Altus, Woodmere, thanked the Board of Education for putting forth a fiscally responsible budget and encouraged the community to vote on May 20.

Approval of Proposed Budget to be presented to District voters on May 20, 2025 in the amount of $143,082,665.

Resolution & Agreement and Stipulation of Settlement and Release, Lawrence UFSD, approved.

Resolution and Change of Retirement Date Agreement approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Work Meeting - Reports, Presentations, and Agenda Items

Links to all presentations are at the end of this re-cap.

1. **Internal Claims Auditor Presentation:** Ms. Shari Diamond of Cerini and Associates presented a review of the first quarter of 2025. She noted an exceptionally low error rate and expressed her appreciation to the Business Office staff for their cooperation.
2. **WMS Nine-Period Day Presentation:** Presented by Mr. John Andruszkiewicz, Principal, Woodmere Middle School. The Board of Education thanked Mr. Andruszkiewicz for the informative presentation. They expressed appreciation for being included in the

committee and noted that it was a highly collaborative process. Additional points raised included: time allocated for Social and Emotional Learning instruction, scheduling of testing after school, co-teaching, and the Discovery class model. Comments from the public included: questions regarding world languages offered in grades 7 and 8, including class sizes and whether high school classes are under-enrolled; a request was made to review enrollment numbers from a budgetary perspective; concerns about student lockers-specifically, whether they will be built into classrooms, as access could be challenging in some instances; discussion of the Discovery program at WMS, including how it was previously offered during lunch, requiring students to choose between recess and Discovery.

3. **Capital Projects Planning:** Mr. Chris Milano, Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, explained that this five-year capital plan serves as a building synopsis and provides a baseline for a more detailed, future plan. The Five-Year District Summary page links the individual pages and contains critical information. The Board asked if the building condition survey is a requirement of New York State, and about the fuel oil storage tank at the high school. Questions from the community included: What is the Carriage House currently used for, and is it necessary to maintain it? What is the state aid percentage for capital projects? Does the District assess building usage that is operating below 100% capacity?

4. **Communications Update**: Ms. Barbara Giese, Executive Director of Communications, Community Services, Registration, & Grants, provided a communications update. The Board of Education (BOE) inquired about the best way to communicate with parents and explored the potential use of ParentSquare, a new communication app. There was also a question regarding the use of TikTok in education, followed by a discussion about the use of Instagram and Facebook for communication purposes.

Financial Reports

Financial Reports reviewed by Mr. Carollo: Treasurer's Report, Budget Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Preliminary Fund Balance Report, and Warrants & Summary of Findings of the Claims Auditor.

The Board discussed the resolution to resume contributions to the EBALR reserve. Board members questioned the reasoning behind reinstating the contributions, and Mr. Carollo explained that it was due to a contractual change in the calculation of sick time.

Financial Actions

Financial Actions reviewed by Mr. Carollo: Schedule of Contracts, Schedule of RFP/Bids,

Transfers of Appropriation, Surplus Equipment, Schedule of Gifts, Insurance Broker Services, and Acceptance of 2025 - 26 Property Tax Report Card.

Miscellaneous Actions

Dr. Anzalone reported on the National Speech and Debate Association Competition in Des Moines, Iowa from June 15-20, 2025; and the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, FL from April 25-30, 2025.

Dr. Marino reported on the following items:
-BOCES Administrative Operations Budget for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of $27,877,216.
-Nassau BOCES Board of Trustees. There are six candidates running for three seats currently held by Ronald Ellerbe, Fran Langsner, and Robert Schoen.
-Members of the Board of Registry and Inspectors of Election for the May 2025 school district elections.
-Resolution to appoint an Acting District Clerk for the May 2025 school District election.
-Board of Education Meeting Dates for the 2025-26 school year. The Board discussed the calendar, and set the schedule for the meeting dates in the 2025-26 school year.

Policy Actions

Eight policies were discussed:

Final Review:
#2245, Ex Officio Member of the Board
#4710, Grading Systems
#8332, Staff Use of Cellular Phones & Electronic Equipment

Initial Review of Annual Review Policies:
#4526.1, Internet Safety
#5100, Attendance Policy
#6240, Investment Policy
#6700, Purchasing Policy
#8135, Instructional Technology Systems: Disaster Recovery Plan

Opportunity for the Public to be Heard, Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Sheinin reread the Speaker Protocols and reminded the public not to make any reference to staff members by name, position, or any identifiable reference.

Ms. Goldstein, Hewlett, discussed the importance of continuity in building administration and shared her positive experiences working with staff members. She encouraged the Board to listen to the voices of the community.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:05 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

April 23, 2025, Woodmere Education Center
7:00 PM - Tenure Reception
7:30 PM - Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025, Woodmere Education Center
6:45 PM - Annual Budget Hearing
7:00 PM - Work Meeting

May 14, 2025, Woodmere Education Center
7:30 PM - Regular Meeting

NOTE:
Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the April 9 Work Meeting.
Click HERE for the Internal Claims Auditor Presentation
Click HERE for the WMS Nine-Period Day Presentation
Click HERE for the Capital Projects Planning Presentation
Click HERE for the Communications Presentation