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

June 11, 2025

REGULAR MEETING



The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Debra Sheinin. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by high school students Aidan Khan and Jacob Yamen, who were approved later in the meeting as the Ex-Officio Member and Alternate Member, respectively, of the Hewlett-Woodmere School Board for the 2025–2026 school year.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Dr. Nicole Montellese, Chairperson P-12, Department of World Language and English as a New Language, recognized students who earned the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. This distinction honors students who have demonstrated proficiency in English and at least one other language. Languages represented among this year's recipients include Spanish, Hebrew, Chinese, French, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Yoruba.

Congratulations to the following students: Anyeli Lux Chun, Ariana Ciampone, Arielle Vaknine, Arleen Raina, Benjamin Halimi, Camilla Angeles, Dayna Ramgarib, Eadon Hecht, Ethell Jarquin Mejia, Farah Shih, Francesco Spadola, Isabella Nolasco, Jeremy Ginzburg, Mai Karutchi, Maxim Libin, Moses Ezekiel, Pheamanda Chen, Simon Myaskovsky, Uri Tamir, and Yarel Sulman.

These exceptional students demonstrated proficiency in English and TWO world languages: Francesca Castro, Kfir Halfon, Mariia Kalachova, Nataly Moiseyev, and Zachary Renzin.



Chairperson of Social Studies P-12, Dr. Jennie Yi, recognized students who earned the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness. This achievement signifies a strong understanding of civic knowledge and skills, as well as a commitment to being active, engaged members of their communities.



Congratulations to the following students: Rachel Chen, Gavin Glassman, Benjamin Halimi, Gabrielle Liechtung, Giselle Mayers, Simon Myaskovsky, Dayna Ramgarib, Yuval Saportas, Yarel Sulman, Armani Tetsoti, and Olivia Ziarno.

High school students from the History Bee and Bowl Club were recognized by Club Advisor Jessica Hoefer on behalf of Dr. Alexandra Greenberg, principal. These students demonstrated exceptional academic dedication and teamwork in competitions focused on history and general knowledge.

The **Varsity Team** includes Captain and Club President Rachel Chen, along with Daniel Baum, Ryan Bernstein, Isabel Ginsberg, and Aviv Parag.

The **Junior Varsity Team**, named Long Island Quiz Bowl Champions, includes Captain Micah Newman, Joshua Simms, Jacob Tenenbaum, Jack Reich, and Deep Aryal.

Additional team members who contributed to the club's overall success and helped the team qualify for the championship include: David Abelev, Derin Artan, Victoria Brodsky, Mohammad Faiz, Lucas Giordano, Gavin Glassman, Matthew Illisaca, Miriam Khmelniker, Mikayla Kotlyar, Luka Profiloski, Joshua Racer, Zachary Renzin, and Moshe Schulman.



Middle school students who participated in the National History Bee Competition were recognized by Principal John Andruszkiewicz and Club Advisor Vincent Lospinuso. While the students were not in attendance at the meeting, they were honored in a group photo taken later in the week to celebrate their achievement and dedication to academic excellence.

Congratulations to the following students: Sivan Goldwasser, Natalie Hesney, Jacqueline Hsi, Matthew Ginzburg, Eliot Samuelson, Misty Lin, Robert Sokolyansky, Jayden Kong, Eitan Farago, Alex Baum, Tamar Bober-Tsafrir, Ma'yan Ben-Simon, and Danir Dzhakhanov.



Superintendent Dr. Ralph Marino, Jr. recognized Board of Education members for their commitment to ongoing professional development through the NYSSBA Excellence Recognition Program. This program honors Board members who actively enhance their governance skills through participation in training, workshops, and educational events.

Congratulations to the following honorees:

Meredith King – Board Achievement Award
Chana Jeter – Board Mastery Award
Debra Sheinin – Board Lifetime Achievement Award







Board of Education President Debra Sheinin, on behalf of the Board and the entire HWPS community, recognized Superintendent Dr. Ralph Marino, Jr. for his ten years of dedicated service and impactful leadership. Dr. Marino was honored for his student-centered approach, commitment to academic excellence, and lasting contributions to innovation and growth across the District. The Board expressed deep gratitude and extended best wishes to Dr. Marino as he enters his next chapter.





SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Marino began by thanking Board President Debra Sheinin and the members of the Board of Education for their kind words recognizing his upcoming retirement. He congratulated all of the evening's student award recipients, as well as their dedicated teachers and advisors.

He shared the excitement felt throughout the school buildings as the year concludes with concerts, celebrations, and award ceremonies. Graduation and moving-up ceremonies are set to begin the week of June 23, and the District looks forward to celebrating all HWPS students.

Dr. Marino also provided an overview of the District's summer programs, which begin June 30. These include Summer Playschool, Summer School, the Extended School Year Program, Summer Art and Music Camp, and the English Summer Learning Program. He expressed appreciation to all staff involved in these important programs.

Lastly, he shared an update on summer capital construction projects, which include the new kitchen at Franklin Early Childhood Center, turf replacement at the middle school, tennis court and concession stand improvements at the high school, updates to the science labs, renovations to the high school auditorium, and replacement of the high school gym floor. Dr. Marino thanked the community for its continued support of the school budget and ballot propositions that make these projects possible.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT



Wesley Sreter, Executive Board President, reported on the successful spring blood drive, highlighting strong participation and community support. He also noted that elections for the 2025–2026 Student Council officers are currently underway. On behalf of the Student Council, he thanked the Board of Education for their ongoing support throughout the school year.

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Joann Brown, President of the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, and Ginette Orlando, President of the Hewlett-Woodmere Administrators and Supervisory Association, extended their congratulations to all student award recipients. They also congratulated Dr. Ralph Marino, Jr., on his upcoming retirement and recognized Board of Education members honored with NYSSBA awards for their continued commitment to professional development.





PTA REPORT

Pam Darby and Sarit Kritzman, Co-Presidents of the PTA, congratulated Dr. Ralph Marino, Jr., on his upcoming retirement and expressed their gratitude for his ongoing collaboration and support of the PTA throughout the year. They also extended congratulations to all the students and Board of Education award recipients for their achievements. Please refer to their June newsletter linked at the end of this re-cap.



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. Student ID #26808 has been removed from consideration and is not recommended for approval.
- Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee, who recommends for approval the five policies listed on the agenda:
    - **Policy #0110**: Sexual Harassment
    - **Policy #1336:** Fee Policy
    - **Policy #2160:** School Board Officer, Members, and Employee Ethics
    - **Policy #5300:** Code of Conduct
    - **Policy #8113:** Extreme Heat Condition Days
- Mrs. Jeter reported that the Communications Committee met on June 5. Topics discussed included strategies for budget communications, feedback from Election Day, the upcoming graduation newsletter, and the introduction of a new communications platform, ParentSquare, designed to streamline and enhance communication with families.
- Mr. Tenenbaum reported that the Capital Improvements Committee met on May 21 to conduct a final review of the District's upcoming summer projects. The plans were subsequently approved by the Board of Education at a Special Meeting held on May 23.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. May expressed her appreciation to the Central Council of PTAs for their dedication and hard work throughout the school year. She also highlighted the success of the red carpet pre-prom event, describing it as an extraordinary celebration.

Mrs. Sheinin congratulated high school students Aidan Khan and Jacob Yamen, who were set to be approved as the Ex-Officio Member and Alternate Member, respectively, of the Hewlett-Woodmere Board of Education for the 2025–2026 school year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (AGENDA ITEMS)

None

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 14, 2025 and Special Meetings dated May 20, 2025, May 23, 2025, were accepted.

Consent Agenda approved, with the following exceptions:
F.1 CSE and CPSE Recommendations: Student #26808 has been removed from consideration and not approved.
Items voted upon separately after discussion and approved:
G.1 Schedule C, Coaches
G.10 Community Education Rate Schedule for 2025 - 26
G.14 Resolution and Stipulation of Settlement
I.2 Field Trips

Policies approved:

- **Policy #0110:** Sexual Harassment
- **Policy #1336:** Fee Policy
- **Policy #2160:** School Board Officer, Members, and Employee Ethics
- **Policy #5300:** Code of Conduct
- **Policy #8113:** Extreme Heat Condition Days

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

Ms. Michelle Morgan, Co-President of SEPTA, extended her heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the end-of-year activities for the Class of 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, Woodmere Education Center
Work Meeting, 5:00 PM

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, Woodmere Education Center
Organization and Regular Meeting, 5:00 PM

NOTE:

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the June 11 regular meeting.
Click HERE for the Central Council PTA Newsletter.