



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

December 17, 2025

BUILDING TOUR - FECC

The Board of Education conducted a tour of the building, led by Allan Wakefield, Interim Director of School Facilities and Operations, prior to the Regular Business Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

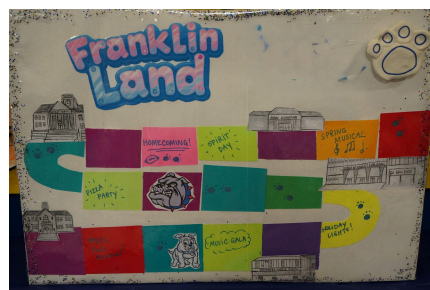
The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education began at 7:30 PM at Franklin Early Childhood Center. Dr. Nicole Montellese, Principal of the Franklin Early Childhood Center, welcomed members of the Board of Education and the community to the building. Under the direction of music teacher Ms. Laura Welsher, students from the classes of Mrs. Niederman, Mrs. McQuillian, and Mrs. LoPiccolo led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the song "America."



Dr. Montellese introduced a video highlighting a glimpse into the life of a student at Franklin Early Childhood Center. View it [HERE](#).

Dr. Montellese and Assistant Principal Amy Pernick spoke about the theme for the year, **Play**. Members of the Board of Education were invited to participate in a game of "My Turn, Your Turn," which teaches many important skills and is part of the social emotional curriculum.

Board members were also given a special **Franklin Land** game board, created by students in collaboration with art teacher Mrs. Emily Machado.



Andrew Fund, Director of Art and Music, recognized Franklin Early Childhood Center art student Mia Wang, whose artwork was selected for the New York State School Boards Association Student Art Exhibit.



Board President Debra Sheinin and Superintendent Dr. Dina Anzalone congratulated District Clerk Barbara Randazzo on her upcoming retirement after more than 20 years of dedicated service.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Anzalone shared that she attended many of the wonderful winter concerts throughout the District, noting that the culmination of the season was the Chorale Tour on December 18. She also attended the Franklin Early Childhood Center's lively Puffball celebration. In addition, Dr. Anzalone met with the Central Council PTA to discuss safety issues and address erroneous reporting related to lead in water.



She reported attending several budget meetings, as well as multiple Board of Education committee meetings, including curriculum, athletics, special education, policy, and communications. Committee members will provide additional reports on their work. Dr. Anzalone also announced that the District's security staff will receive AED and CPR certification in January through the Hewlett Fire Department.

Dr. Anzalone shared that she met with Mrs. Hadassah Geisinsky of Chabad of the Five Towns to explore partnerships that support the well being of all students in the school community. She noted that the playscapes at Ogden Elementary School and Hewlett Elementary School are complete, and work at Franklin Early Childhood Center is underway. Dr. Anzalone concluded her report by extending warm wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa to all who celebrate.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Daniel Brailofskiy and Noam Sheerit provided the report. They shared the success of a recent food drive held during a varsity basketball game and reported that the Student Council delivered donations collected for the Holiday Toy Drive to SIBS Place. In addition, the Student Council is currently discussing themes for Spirit Week and the Battle of the Classes.



EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Kaitlin Coder, President of the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, thanked Franklin Early Childhood Center for hosting the fun and festive Board of Education meeting. She also expressed appreciation to music teacher Ms. Welscher and art teacher Mrs. Machado, and congratulated art student Mia Wang. Holiday greetings were extended to all.



PTA REPORT

Pam Darby and Dr. Sarit Kritzman, Co-Presidents, thanked Franklin Early Childhood Center for hosting the meeting. They also thanked the students who performed and congratulated Mia Wang for being recognized for her artwork. A summary of building happenings is linked at the bottom of this recap.



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Sheinin reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee, which 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, which recommended for approval two policies on the agenda: #2245, Ex-Officio Student Member of the Board, and #4531, Field Trips and Excursions.
- Mrs. May also reported on behalf of the Curriculum, Assessment & Technology Committee, which met to discuss under-enrolled courses at the high school, the Do No Harm initiative, high school guidance, and college acceptances.
- Mr. Tenenbaum reported on behalf of the Legislative Committee, which met and established their priorities for the school year. The committee has created a list of elected officials they would like to meet with, and meetings are scheduled for January and February.
- Mrs. Jeter reported on behalf of the Communications Committee, which met to discuss the importance of ParentSquare signup, and StudentSquare. The committee also reviewed the use of automated programs by the transportation department that will allow for online bus registration and more efficient bus routes. Additionally, the committee discussed inviting local legislators to attend student events.
- Mrs. King reported on behalf of the Activities and Athletics Committee, which met to discuss StudentSquare, equitable distribution of uniforms for boys and girls athletic teams, and planned facility upgrades.

MISCELLANEOUS BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Board members reported that they attended the very special Trees for Troops event with Hewlett Elementary School students. Students had the opportunity to read letters they wrote to service members, and Christmas trees and Hanukkah boxes were shipped to troops serving overseas.

Mrs. Sheinin and the members of the Board of Education welcomed Mrs. Dolores Pugliese to her new role, effective January 5, 2026, and expressed their enthusiasm for working together. Mrs. Sheinin also thanked the community for their continued support and extended holiday greetings to all.



ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting accepted.

Consent Agenda approved, with the exception of G.4, Community Education Staffing and Pay Rate Schedule for 2025-26, which will be voted upon separately.

G.4, Community Education Staffing and Pay Rate Schedule for 2025 - 26 approved.

Oath of Office administered by President Sheinin to District Clerk Dolores Pugliese.

Policy #2245, Ex-Officio Student Member of the Board, approved.

Policy #4531, Field Trips and Excursions, approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Woodmere Education Center

Budget Meeting, 6:30 PM

Work Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Woodmere Middle School

Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:

Click [HERE](#) for the agenda and supporting documentation for the December 17 meeting.

Click [HERE](#) for the December Central Council PTA Newsletter.