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

February 25, 2026

BUILDING TOUR - G.W. Hewlett High School

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 G.W. Hewlett High School. Interim Principal of HHS, Dr. Al Bauer, welcomed the Board of Education and community members to Hewlett High School. He then introduced Assistant Principal Samantha-Lynn Mazzeo, who welcomed senior Morgan Ruvinsky to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



Director of Art & Music, Dr. Andrew Fund introduced seniors Deniz Artan, Yvette Borohov, Victoria Brodsky, and Samantha Wright, who performed the national anthem. Click HERE to watch.

Board President, Mrs. Debi Sheinin extended a heartfelt thank you to the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work in preparing the schools following the recent blizzard, ensuring a safe and smooth reopening for students and staff.



She also expressed appreciation to Dr. Dina Anzalone for her strong leadership during this challenging time, acknowledging her guidance and support throughout the process.

Social Science Research Coordinator and Social Studies Teacher Joseph Van Wie shared details about the upcoming Social Science Research Night on March 13 at George W. Hewlett High School, where students will present their original research projects.



He also recognized senior Darren Chen, who was named a 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Scholar Semifinalist. Darren's research examined vicarious embarrassment, the feeling people experience when witnessing someone else's embarrassing moment, with a focus on how adolescents experience this emotion on social media. Darren will attend Stanford University, where he plans to major in mechanical engineering. The District congratulates him on this outstanding achievement and wishes him continued success.

6-12 Chairperson of Business & Computer Science Education Joseph Virgilio and Business Education Teacher/Stock Market Club advisor, Jared Pitelli recognized two G.W. Hewlett High School students for their outstanding performance in the Fall 2025 Long Island Stock Market Game, which included 4,276 participating accounts.

- 1st Place: Eilon Bober-Tsafrir, Senior – Account Value: $161,935, Profit: $61,935
- 3rd Place: Mason O'Hare, Sophomore – Account Value: $123,688, Profit: $23,688

This marks the fifth Stock Market Game winner from G.W. Hewlett High School in the past four years, highlighting the strength of the District's academic programs and student dedication.



Mr. Virgilio also recognized several G.W. Hewlett High School students who submitted original apps to the Congressional App Challenge, a nationwide competition that encourages students to design and build innovative software applications. More than 4,600 submissions were received nationwide this year, a 20 percent increase from last year.

Students recognized included David Halimi, who created *Kippah Plus*, a platform that allows customers to design and purchase custom Judaic products, and David Balzac, Ivan Reznikov and Nathaniel Schwartz, who developed *PickUp*, a community-based app that connects people to local pickup sports games.



Chairperson of Mathematics Kimberley Thompson recognized Hewlett High School students for their participation in the AMC 10 and AMC 12 national mathematics competitions. On November 13, 82 students demonstrated strong enthusiasm and dedication to mathematics. We are proud to recognize our top performers!

AMC 10B:

- 1st Place: Leo Chen – Scored in the top 25 percent nationally
- 2nd Place: Deep Aryal
- 3rd Place (tie): Alexander Baum/Nicole Zhang



AMC 12B:

- 1st Place: Shane Zamidar
- 2nd Place: Ryan Ginsburg
- 3rd Place: Sean Zamidar

Stephen Krueger, Math Team Advisor, recognized the outstanding performance of Hewlett's Upper Division team at the Nassau Mathematics Tournament held at Hofstra University on January 9. The five-member team—David Balzac, Micah Newman, Carlisle Tomas, Sean Zamidar, and Shane Zamidar—placed 11th out of 62 teams. When accounting for schools that entered multiple teams, Hewlett ranked among the top seven schools overall. Individual recognitions included David Balzac as the team's highest-scoring 11th grader and overall team leader, and Sean Zamidar, who placed among the top 20 out of 136 twelfth-grade competitors countywide.



Dr. Linda O'Grady, Chairperson of ELA, introduced student Raphael Levi, who shared a reading of his award-winning poem *What I Carry*, recognized with an American High School Poets Award. Watch and listen **HERE**.



David Viegas, Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics, recognized the following swimmers who were named Academic All-Americans: Daniel Ayzenberg, Samantha Anne Cajumban, Brandon Sung, Tristan Tejada, and Julia Underweiser.



Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art & Music Education, recognized and congratulated Hewlett High School students for their outstanding achievements in music and visual arts. Students earned honors across multiple awards:

NMEA All-County (Music)



Althea Abique, Corey Adomako, Deniz Artan, Alexander Baum, Yuval Ben-Baruch, Victoria Brodsky, Leo Chen, Conor Corless, Leeor Davidov, Wyndell Edmonds, Aleksy Fradlis, Sam Fradlis, Max Fried, Romy Fruman, Jesse Garzona Figueroa, Matthew Ginzburg, Jacob Goldberg, Julia Igaunis, Jayden Kong, Alexa LaPaglia, Emily Liechtung, Orya Nahoom, Shaan Patni, Noah Racer, Jack Reich, Matilde Rivera Gonzalez, Samuel Sava, Sophia Sepe, Natalie Silver, Shmuel Silver, Dylan Singh-Dorsey, Carlisle Tomas, Jayden Vargas, Elexis Weisner, Samantha Wright, Mischa Zhang

NYSSMA All-State (Music)
Deniz Artan, Yuval Ben-Baruch, Yvette Borohov, Max Fried, Julia Igaunis, Claudia Lee, Orya Nahoom, Samuel Sava, Victoria Son, Carlisle Tomas, Ari Vanunu, Samantha Wright

ACDA (Music)
Tyler Bragin, Matthew Ginzburg, Emily Liechtung, Sophia Sepe

LISFA (Music)
Shmuel Silver, Dylan Singh-Dorsey, Mischa Zhang





NYSSBA (Art)
Shirel Alkobi, Anthonia Ayandeji, Justin Bennett, Elizabeth Ferro, Becky Feygin, Brianna Grinshpun, Natalie Hanousek, Emiliya Iani, Shyla McLaughlin, Jose William Molina, Reason Paudel, Brianna Paz

ASA All-County (Art)
Tamar Bober-Tsafrir, Tevel Bober-Tsafrir, Becky Feygin, Robert Fratti, Ramiel Jeacoma, Riley Lahey, Finn McLaughlin, Gabrielle Megira, Ryan Restifo, Kyle Troyakov, Mischa Zhang





Dr. Fund thanked everyone for their support, especially the HHS staff for making the LI String Festival, hosted at HHS, such a success.

Robotics Coach Daniel Duffey Birkenstock, along with members of the team, thanked Dr. Anzalone and the Board of Education for their continued support. They highlighted a successful season, sharing the team's multiple achievements and awards, recent fundraising successes with new sponsors, and their plans for upcoming competitions.



Board President Ms. Sheinin congratulated all students on their outstanding accomplishments and wished Daniel Ayzenberg good luck in the upcoming New York State Swimming & Diving Championships, where he will be competing in the 100-yard breaststroke.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Superintendent Dr. Dina Anzalone expressed pride in all student accomplishments and thanked both students and parents for their dedication, noting the important role families play in supporting the District's young men and women. She also recognized the efforts of the maintenance staff, who worked through challenging snow conditions—including sleeping overnight to ensure safety on District streets—while the Hewlett-Woodmere Business Association coordinated with local businesses to address snow removal.

Updates included the upcoming 2026 Summer Programs and Playschool, as well as the *Arts Below Sunrise* event on April 26. Dr. Anzalone discussed ongoing BOE policy and extracurricular matters, the celebration of Lunar New Year, budget development, and the search for a new Assistant Superintendent for Business. A new organizational chart has been completed, and meetings were held with David Viegas regarding youth athletics programs.

Additional highlights included the postponement of *Battle of the Classes*, the Long Island Robotics event scheduled for March 1, the opening of Pre-K registration, Volleyball Night on March 4, All District Band Night, and the successful *Aladdin* production at HES.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Student Advisory Council provided the report and shared highlights of recent student activities. They discussed upcoming events, such as the Battle of the Classes, and presented t-shirts to Board members and administration.





EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Beth Wagner, HHS English teacher, spoke on behalf of the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, thanking Hewlett High School for hosting the Board of Education meeting and for highlighting the many accomplishments of HHS students.



PTA REPORT



Mrs. Pam Darby and Dr. Sarit Kritzman, Central Council co-presidents, welcomed everyone back and thanked Hewlett High School for hosting the Board of Education meeting. They highlighted recent and upcoming PTA activities, including Volleyball Night and the Harlem Wizards event, as well as the April 28 All-PTA meeting. The PTA Monthly Report, outlining building highlights and upcoming events, can be found linked at the end 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. Amitrano reported on behalf of the Endowment Fund, which met on February 10 and discussed the upcoming Arts Below Sunrise event.
- Mrs. King reported on behalf of the Extra-Curricular Activities, Co-Curricular Activities & Interscholastic Athletics Committee, sharing highlights from the February 11 meeting. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Viegas for publicly recognizing student-athletes and noted that the pool is back up and running. She also provided an update on the concession stand, as warmer weather approaches, the project will be completed.
- Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee, which recommended approval of three policies on the agenda:
    - **Policy #1336:** Fee Policy
    - **Policy #1500:** Public Use of School Facilities
    - **Policy #5152:** Admission of Non-Resident Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION NON-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Jeter reported that on February 11, she attended NYSSBA Advocacy Day in Albany, where Board of Education members from across New York State met with legislators to advocate for the needs of their school communities. Key topics included special education funding, unfunded mandates, transportation and bus routes, and current civil service processes.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD, AGENDA ITEMS

None

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting were accepted and approved.

Consent Agenda approved, with exception of Items G1 and G5 which were voted on separately and approved.

POLICY ACTIONS

The following policies were approved:

- **Policy #1336:** Fee Policy
- **Policy #1500:** Public Use of School Facilities
- **Policy #5152:** Admission of Non-Resident Students

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

Mrs. Sheinin introduced and congratulated Richard Snyder on his appointment as Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, effective March 5, 2026.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, Woodmere Education Center
Budget Meeting, 6:30 PM
Work Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, Woodmere Education Center
Tour of Facility, 7:00 PM
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:

Click HERE for the agenda and supporting documentation for the February 25 meeting.
Click HERE for the February Central Council PTA Newsletter.