



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 22, 2026

TENURE RECEPTION

Prior to the Board of Education Meeting, Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools proudly hosted a reception honoring our newest tenured staff members in recognition of their dedication and meaningful contributions across the District.

Dr. Dina Anzalone opened the evening with congratulatory remarks, followed by building principals who shared reflections and formally recognized each honoree for achieving tenure.



REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM by Board President Debra Sheinin, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Sheinin welcomed attendees and extended congratulations to the staff members who were recognized for receiving tenure earlier in the evening.

RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Albert Bauer, Interim Principal of George W. Hewlett High School, recognized student Sophia Melgar for being named a Nassau BOCES Student of the Quarter.



Dr. Terrence Bissoondial, Science Research Coordinator at George W. Hewlett High School, recognized students Ella Findling, Valeria Paez Martinez, Julia Igaunis, Sebastian Mendoza Reyes, David Balzac, Arielle Kauderer, and Alexa LaPaglia for their Science Research achievements.



Mr. Joseph Virgilio, Business Chairperson at George W. Hewlett High School, recognized DECA students for their recent Business Club and Personal Finance Challenge achievements, including Inon Azour, Aidan Khan, Darren Chen, Phillip Ginsburg, Jacob Yamen, Giuliana Oliviero, Morgan Ruvinsky, Ari Rechtweg, Raphael Levi, Ellon Bober-Tsafir, and Layla Michel.



Samantha Mazzeo, High School Assistant Principal at George W. Hewlett High School, recognized students for their representation at the LI Regional Forum: Jacob Yamen, Aidan Khan, Luciana Oliviero, and Raphael Levi.



Ms. Mary Harrison, Chairperson of PPS, and Mr. Nicholas Damiani, School Counselor at George W. Hewlett High School, recognized students from the Sources of Strength leadership



group for their participation in the Erase Racism Conference: Althea Abique, Corey Adomako, Matthew Duverne, Mishkat Hashmi, Jayden Hunter, Emilie Joseph, Julianne Legaspi, Tali Rosenthal, Kayla Simon, and Mischa Zang. Students also shared reflections on what they learned at the conference.

Dr. Andrew Fund, Director of Art & Music, recognized Hewlett Elementary School students selected for All County and LISFA honors: Abigail Cohen, Rachel Edmonds, Kyle Li, Ariella Schoenfeld, Paiden Suleman, Parker Suleman, Jake Baumel, Sebastian Goorsammy, Mahallya Jolivert, Diana Malafeyeu, and Grace Udevbulu.



Ms. Linda O'Grady, ELA Chairperson at Woodmere Middle School, recognized student Leron Aroubas for being the winner of the NYS Regional Spelling Bee. Ms. O'Grady, along with Mr. Michael Director, Mr. Bill Rose, and Mr. Brian Steckler, also presented awards for the Elks Club Essay Contest winners from Woodmere Middle School: Elaina Makofsky, Isabel Kurtz, Leah Mokretsov, and Sophia Baigel.



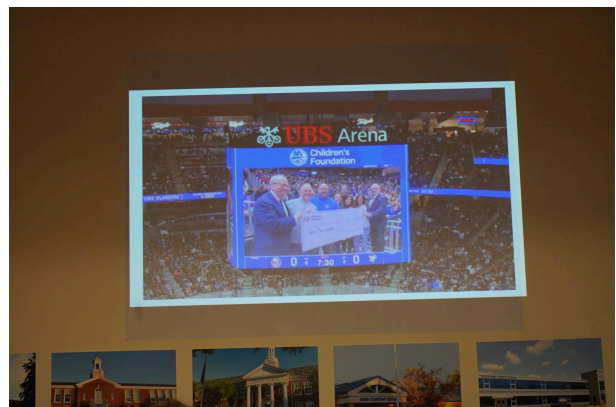
Ms. Kimberly Thompson, P-12 Mathematics Chairperson, recognized American Mathematics Competition winners: Lerone Aroubas (Woodmere Middle School) – First Place and Special Distinction; and Jasmine Gao (Woodmere Middle School) and Mason King (Hewlett Elementary

School), who tied for Second Place and each earned Certificates of Achievement for outstanding performance in Grade 6 and below.



PRESENTATIONS

John Andruszkiewicz, Principal of Woodmere Middle School, announced that Woodmere Middle School was selected as a recipient of a \$10,000 grant through the New York Islanders Power Play for Education program. The school was formally recognized at a recent New York Islanders game at UBS Arena. This generous support will help enhance the school's environmental center, further developing it as a hands-on learning hub for Woodmere Middle School students as well as elementary students across the District who visit and engage in the space. His presentation is linked below.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Dr. Dina M. Anzalone expressed appreciation to Dr. Smyth for her hard work in

planning the tenure reception. She extended congratulations to students and parents on their many accomplishments throughout the year.

Dr. Anzalone highlighted her attendance at several District events, including the 2026 Law Conference at Hofstra University with Dr. Smyth, Dr. Farber, and Mrs. Jeter; All-District Jazz Night; the One World Celebration at FECC; serving as a Book Trial judge; the National Business, Marketing & Computer Science and Humanities Honor Society induction ceremonies; a Girls' JV Lacrosse game; the Harlem Wizards vs. HW Staff basketball game; and meetings with the Parent Athletic Committee, among others.

She also shared that planning is underway for the District's Memorial Day Parade, along with additional opportunities to engage the vibrant school community.



STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Council members Giuliana Oliviero, Luciana Oliviero, and Morgan Ruvinsky advised on upcoming events, including the May 20 Blood Drive at the High School and the May 29 Battle of the Classes and helping to coordinate Memorial Day activities. They thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to be part of the process, noted that the Harlem Wizards game was a successful and enjoyable event, and extended congratulations to DECA.



EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Co-President of HWFA, Ms. Kaitlin Coder congratulated the tenure recipients and students. She thanked Dr. Smyth for streamlining the interview process and Dr. Andruszkiewicz for his presentation and securing the grant. She also congratulated the newly appointed directors.



PTA REPORT

Mrs. Pam Darby, PTA co-president, congratulated the tenure recipients and students and thanked Dr. Smyth for her work in the hiring process. She also congratulated the newly appointed directors and reported that the PTA is actively engaged in a variety of school activities. She shared that efforts are underway to recruit new volunteers for PTA committees and chairperson roles, and noted that the PTA looks forward to hearing updates on the budget.

In closing, she presented a symbolic “key” to the Board of Education members, expressing appreciation for their partnership and recognizing them as a “key” part of the PTA team. The PTA Monthly Report, outlining building highlights and upcoming events, can be found linked at the end of this re-cap.



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Menashe 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, urged the community to come out and support the Arts Below Sunrise event.
- Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Policy Committee, which has no policies for approval this month but will have several next month.
- Mr. Tenenbaum reported on behalf of the Legislative Committee regarding a recent meeting with the Nassau County Police Department Fourth Precinct and the District's ongoing efforts to strengthen the relationship and collaboration.
- Mrs. Jeter reported on behalf of the Health, Safety & Wellness Committee, discussing the fire drill and lockdown drill schedule. She also reported that the District-Wide School Safety Plan will be presented to the Board of Education next month for approval.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NON-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Jeter attended the Social Science Research Symposium and expressed appreciation to Mr. Van Wie and Mrs. Yi. She also thanked Ms. Thompson for spearheading the Mathways event and Dr. Anzalone, and recognized the induction of nine new members into the Art Honor Society.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD, AGENDA ITEMS

None

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Minutes of the March 18, 2026 and April 1, 2026 Board of Education meetings were accepted and approved.

Consent Agenda approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD, NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

The newly appointed Directors were introduced and congratulated: Ms. Kimberly M. Thompson, Director of STEM; Mr. Joseph Virgilio, Director of Business and P-12 College and Career Pathways; Dr. Becky Kim, Director of Humanities; and Ms. Krista M. Albrecht, Director of Technology.

Mrs. May stated that the Board of Education and Library Board of Education trustees are running unopposed, but emphasized that community members should still come out and vote.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:02 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Woodmere Education Center
Work Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Woodmere Education Center
Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM

NOTE:

Click [HERE](#) for the agenda and supporting documentation for the April 22 meeting.

Click [HERE](#) for the NY Islanders Power Play for Education Grant Presentation.

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