



Re-Cap!

February 24, 2021

G.W. Hewlett
High School

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Debra Sheinin, *President*; Cheryl May, *Vice President*; Melissa Gates, Mitchell A. Greebel, Judy Menashe

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Sheinin.
- Mrs. Sheinin extended thanks to the Hewlett-Woodmere community, the staff, and the administration for all their hard work keeping our students safe. Our students are resilient and are working very hard. Thank you to our school families who followed the guidance of our Re-opening Plan. We are now more than halfway through the school year.
- Dr. Terence Bissoondial recognized students who have been able to complete science research projects despite all of the obstacles related to the pandemic. Students conducted their research in the high school, at home virtually, or by attending research institutes (pre-pandemic). The following students participated in the Regeneron Science Talent Search:

Jude Tomas: "Identification and Characterization of a Cycling DNA-Binding with One Finger 2 (CDF2)-like Transcription Factor Induced During the Cold Stress Response in *Ceratopteris richardii*"

Ethan Eisenberg: "Developing Machine Learning Models to Predict the Heat Capacities of Metal Oxides at Finite Temperatures"

Alex Breslav: "Evaluating the Specificity of Novel Monoclonal Antibodies for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma." Selected as a semifinalist"

The following students participated in the Junior Humanities Science Symposium and were selected as Regional Semifinalists:

Alex Kesin: "Evaluating the effects of perinatal fluoxetine in mice in response to fear stimuli.

Blake Lippman: "Lipopolysaccharide and Galactose Induce Cell Death in Prothallial Cells of Gametophytes of *Ceratopteris richardii*"

Ethan Eisenberg: "Developing Machine Learning Models to Predict the Heat Capacities of Metal Oxides at Finite Temperatures"

- Mentored by Dr. Patricia Nardi, the following Social Science Research Students completed research papers for the 2020-21 Regeneron Science Talent Search Competition:
 - Alicia Hsu: "The Challenging Nature of Maternal Empathy: An Investigation of Maternal Empathy and Its Relationship to Self- Esteem"
 - Belle Nahoom: "The Paradoxical Nature of Social Media Use among Mothers: Does Social Media Use Influence Maternal Stress and Relationships with Children?"

Olivia Sava: “An Investigation of Resilience and Inspiration: Examining the Sources of Resilience among Adolescent Cancer Patients and Survivors”

Elizabeth Son: “New Insight into the Incidence of Adolescent Procrastination: The Relationship of Adolescent Procrastination to FOMO and Social Media Use”

Emma Van Steertegem: “Coronavirus, Consciousness and Change: An Examination of Quarantine’s Effect on Political Awareness”

Regeneron STS Semifinalist:

Alicia Hsu: “The Challenging Nature of Maternal Empathy: An Investigation of Maternal Empathy and Its Relationship to Self- Esteem”

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Semifinalists:

Elizabeth Son: “New Insight into the Incidence of Adolescent Procrastination: The Relationship of Adolescent Procrastination to FOMO and Social Media Use”

Emma Van Steertegem: “Coronavirus, Consciousness and Change: An Examination of Quarantine’s Effect on Political Awareness”

- Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent’s Report. He attended many live and virtual events, including college signings, the Senior Drive Thru, ice skating event at Grant Park, and staff chats. District staff have been working hard to keep schools open. Voluntary student COVID-19 testing is being offered to all students on March 2 and 3 at FECC from 6:00 PM—8:00 PM. An updated FAQ document will be sent this week to all staff and parents. Dr. Marino provided an update on HW 2025. K12 Insight has completed six Making Feedback Matter workshops to review and analyze survey responses. Superintendent Roundtables took place at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment and the Woodmere Education Center. Athletics is continuing following the new schedules established by Section VIII. The District has offered voluntary COVID-19 testing to student athletes.
- Mr. Flatley provided the Curriculum Report. He remains in ongoing contact with the Nassau County, New York City, and New York State Departments of Health regarding positive COVID-19 cases. Information is updated daily on the COVID-19 School Report Card. Mr. Flatley recently met with the Tri-States Consortium and the Nassau Association of District Curriculum Officials. He has been working with Mrs. Donnelly and the Superintendency on budget development. Mr. Flatley will begin principal evaluations shortly.
- Mrs. Donnelly provided the report from the Business Office. There is a resolution on the agenda for approval to accept the single audit report. There were no findings so a corrective action plan is not necessary. Mrs. Donnelly recently met with the Nassau Association of School Business Officials to discuss budgetary needs for the future and staffing due to the pandemic. The budget date change request has been approved. The budget vote and school board elections will be held on May 11, 2021 to allow members of the community to observe the religious holiday of Shavuot. The next budget development meeting will be on March 10.
- Ms. Peterson provided the Special Education report. She has continued to participate in virtual meetings with the Tri-State Consortium, South Shore Consortium, Northwell Health, and BOCES. Ms. Peterson participated in all of the District’s Making Feedback Matter workshops. The recent SEPTA meeting featured Mrs. Michelle Kinhackl, who reported on the transition process at WMS and HHS. Ms. Peterson is a member of the Saving Lives Five Towns Coalition. The group is working on campaigns to raise awareness of holidays where families may engage in more drinking and encouraging parents to be more aware of their children’s activities. Ms. Peterson also reported that the NYS Special Education Data was submitted. She continues to observe teachers and

hold meetings with her staff.

- Dr. Edward Fale provided an update from the Human Resources office. He congratulated Mr. Denis Brazil, Supervisor of School Facilities and Operations, who will retire after 35 years of service to the District. Dr. Fale reported that the District participated in the Nassau County Diversity Fair, where Dr. Marino and the principals all presented live. He is also participating in the Cornell Diversity Seminar and programs. He continues to coordinate weekly COVID-19 testing for staff. Dr. Fale also continues to participate in the state and county human resources meetings. Negotiations are ongoing with two bargaining units.
- Mrs. Milillo and Mrs. Findling provided the PTA report. FECC: Kindness month concluded with a virtual assembly with author, Amy Logan. Their three recent fundraisers were very successful. They are still delivering "Be Kind" signs due to weather delays. A first grade parent meeting was held to discuss end-of-year events. One World will be held virtually this year. HES: The PTA decorated the school for Valentine's Day and hosted a bake sale. There is an ongoing fundraiser with Little Shoppers. Many of the items are party supplies. They have started a Label Daddy fundraiser, we well. OES: Virtual Paint Night with Mr. Finn was a great success. Students also participated in Virtual Cake Wars and made valentine themed "pup" cakes. In January, fifth graders received a custom mouse and stylus pen for Chromebooks. They also received graduation t-shirts with the theme "Virtually Unstoppable." Fifth graders also enjoyed ice skating at Grant Park. WMS: Winter 2 Sports have begun. On February 8, all students enjoyed a virtual visit from author, Charles R. Smith, Jr. Information about the 8th grade yearbook has been sent home. The PTA is hopeful that the 8th grade trip to Adventureland will still take place. Adventureland has increased prices and minimum attendees. The committee is discussing other ideas. HHS: The PTA distributed chocolate bars to all students. The first Senior Drive Thru was held on February 24 where seniors were given a t-shirt and a cupcake. They are discussing the gift for the school this year. Currently seeking board and committee positions. Parent Teacher conferences will be held on March 12. SEPTA: At the January SEPTA meeting, they received approval to gift \$300 to each school for the purchase of Boom cards and other resources for classrooms. A \$200 donation was approved for art supplies for the special classes senior art project, which will be a painting in the learning center hallway. On March 8, an Executive Functioning Forum will be hosted through Beyond Boundaries.

Board Committee Reports

- Mr. Greebel reported on behalf of the Special Education Committee. The Committee recommends the approval of both the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-school Special Education.

Board Reports

- Mrs. Gates attended the New York State School Boards Association's Equity Online Symposium. The event was very inspirational. Several students from New York discussed their experiences.
- The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
- The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 PM Budget Development Session; 7:30 PM Board of Education Work Meeting, Hewlett High School

Wednesday, March 17, 8:00 PM Board of Education Regular Meeting, Hewlett High School

Thursday, March 18, 7:00 PM, Budget Development Session, Hewlett High School

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 PM Public Budget Forum, Hewlett High School

NOTE:

All agendas and supporting documentation for the February 24 meeting can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

The February Construction Update can be found [HERE](#).