



Re-Cap!

January 17, 2018

Hewlett Elementary School

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Scott McInnes, *President*; Cheryl May, *Vice President*; Jonathan Altus, M.D., Melissa Gates, Mitchell A. Greebel, Daniella R. Simon, Stephen B. Witt

Regular Meeting

- The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Shmuli Zinn, a third grade student at Hewlett Elementary School.
- HES principal, Mr. Christopher Uccellini, recognized special education teacher, Mrs. Marie Wohlmacher, and thanked her for her years of dedication and service to the District.
- Mr. Thomas Sugar, teacher of music, introduced the Hewlett Elementary Chorale Combo, who performed for the Board of Education.



- Mrs. Barbara McNiff recognized Head Custodian, Angelo Artusa, and thanked him for his many years of service to the District and for his efforts in preparing HES for the meeting.



Administrator Reports

- Superintendent's Report was given by Dr. Ralph Marino. Recent events attended include the FECC Pre-K Cookie Exchange and Puffball and New Year Celebration, the HES Expert Fair, spelling bee and Brotherhood/Sisterhood Assembly, the OES Holidays Around the World and Candy House Tradition, the WMS Geography Bee and Spelling Bee, and the HHS Virtual Enterprise practice and basketball tournament in Ballston Lake. Dr. Marino also hosted staff chats at FECC and HES and rode buses with HES and FECC students. He held a Superintendent's Roundtable on January 16 at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment. The next roundtable will be on February 15 at the Hewlett Fire Department. He also provided an update on the HW 2025 initiative. The committee met on January 8 and 9 to continue work on the District's Strategic Plan. Their next meetings will be held on February 5 and 6. Dr. Marino announced that staff members Mrs. Amanda Kavanagh, Mrs. Kristina Gallagher, and Mr. Uccellini were selected to present at the ISTE Conference in Chicago this June. Dr. Marino concluded by announcing that the District's estimated increase in state aid, based on the Governor's proposed budget, is 1.87%.
- Dr. Mark Secaur presented the Curriculum Report. The PTA Curriculum Committee will meet next week, where Mr. David Viegas will present. The Professional Development Committee is hard at work updating their plan and developing a teacher induction program. The District Leadership Team is currently discussing the budget for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Mr. Louis Frontario provided the Business Department Report. The proposed 2018-2019 budget is in development and he is preparing his presentation for the January 25 budget workshop. Harris Computer systems offers an employee self-service module, which the business department is currently looking into. He reported that the transition in the business office following the retirement of several team members has been very smooth.
- Mrs. Barbara McNiff provided an update from Human Resources. She recently served as a judge at the Long Island Business Plan Competition at Farmingdale State College. The search for a permanent high school principal is underway. An advertisement had been placed in the New York Times, and the District has surveyed students, parents, and staff regarding key characteristics for the next high school principal. Candidate screening will begin in February.
- Dr. Debra Lo Verde provided a Special Education report. She announced the success of students in the Achilles Kids Program, where students received half marathon and 20-mile certificates. She thanked Ms. Abby Samlin for her work with the students on achieving their goals. Dr. Lo Verde announced a change in law regarding the safety net for students with disabilities to ex-

pand the criteria eligible to graduate high school with a CDOS credential. She also announced an upcoming Preschool transition meeting that will be facilitated by Ms. Kim Christ, Preschool Chairperson and school psychologist.

- Miss Lauren Dori reported from the Student Advisory Council. She announced that Sports Nite will be held on March 2. The theme they are considering this year is TV channels.
- Mr. Ric Stark spoke on behalf of the Teacher's Union and many teachers attended the meeting. Mr. Stark reported that the teachers have been working without a contract for more than 200 days and encouraged a fair and equitable contract settlement.
- Central Council Co-presidents Debi Sheinin and Susette Preziosi highlighted events in all the school buildings, including the upcoming HES STEAM Night and Friendship Dance; the OES Holiday Boutique was very successful and the Mother/Son Paint Night is coming up; the New York Islanders will be visiting FECC on January 25; the WMS Holiday Boutique was also a success and the Staff Welcome Back Breakfast has been rescheduled for January 23; the HHS Senior Night Fundraiser will be at Chipotle. SEPTA Forums will be held on February 1 and February 13.

Board Committee Reports

- Mrs. Cheryl May reported on behalf of the Recreation and Athletic Facilities Committee. The committee met in January and discussed snow removal on athletic fields, which was deemed to be cost prohibitive. The committee also discussed the recruitment of additional members. Any interested persons are encouraged to contact Mrs. May or Dr. Altus.
- Mrs. Gates reported on behalf of the Legislative Committee, who met earlier in the evening. The committee is in the process of arranging meetings with Assembly, Senate, and County representatives.
- 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.
- Mrs. Gates also reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. There are two policies on the agenda for approval and one policy for abolishment. The committee is currently nearing completion on the technology policies and continues to work on the Special Education policies.
- Mr. McInnes reported on the HW 2025 committee, who met twice in early January. Two meetings scheduled for February to continue to work on the District's Strategic Plan.

Public Comments

- Mr. McInnes explained that the school calendar for 2018-2019 would be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. He invited those in attendance to complete speakers cards if they wished to address the Board. More than 40 community members exercised their right to speak to the Board of Education regarding the proposed calendar. The discussion cen-

tered on the possible addition of the Muslim holidays, Eid al-Fitr and/or Eid al-Adha to the District calendar. Mr. McInnes provided answers to questions and additional clarification relating to the addition of these holidays to the school district calendar. Public commentary on the calendar concluded at 11:40 PM.

- The Board of Education engaged in a discussion regarding the proposed calendar. After Board members expressed their opinions, the calendar was brought to a vote. The calendar without the Eid holidays was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.
- The Board then approved the following policies: #4526.1 Internet Safety and #8630 Digital Resources and Data Management. The following policy was abolished: #4126.4 Computer Resources and Data Management.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:57 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 7:00 PM: BOE Budget Session at WEC

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 6:30 PM: Budget Meeting at WEC

February 7, 2018, 7:30 PM: Work Meeting at WEC

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 7:00 PM: Tour of Facility, OES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 8:00 PM: Regular Board Meeting, OES

NOTE:

All agendas and supporting documentation for the January 17, 2018 meeting can be found by clicking [HERE!](#)