



Re-Cap!

January 20, 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.
- Mr. David Viegas, District Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, recognized the 2020 New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year from George W. Hewlett High School: Alessandra Borsellino and Nathaniel Redillo.
- Dr. Marino provided the Superintendent's Report. He attended many live and virtual events, including the Thanksgiving celebrations, the Puffball tradition, the HHS Interview Day, the HHS Business Advisory Board meeting, and staff chats. The District's focus is to keep our school buildings open. He thanked the students, parents, and staff for their patience and hard work over the past months. Dr. Marino reported that we recently closed both HES and WMS for short periods of time. The District continues to monitor the infection rates in our area. As of now, we do not need to enact student testing. Dr. Marino provided an update on HW 2025. We have completed three surveys, the Alumni Survey, the Student Engagement Survey, and the Curriculum and Instruction Survey. We are working with our partners at K12 Insight to provide each school with a Making Feedback Matter meeting. At these meetings, the survey results are analyzed. The HW 2025 Implementation Team will also be meeting soon to review survey data. A meeting of the Public and Private School Council was held on January 14, where Mrs. Kavanagh presented on technology. He held a Superintendent's Roundtable at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment on January 14. The next roundtable is scheduled for March. The Happy New Year Newsletter has been sent to all District residents. Dr. Marino provided an update on the status of extracurricular, co-curricular, after-school activities and interscholastic athletics. Co-curricular activities will be reevaluated on February 1. Low-risk sports began on January 4.
- Mr. Flatley provided the Curriculum Report. He maintains ongoing communication with both the Nassau County and New York City Departments of Health on COVID-19 cases. He completes the daily COVID-19 School Report Card for each of the District's buildings. Mr. Flatley recently completed training in Principal Observation/Evaluation. He also completed NARCAN training for opioid overdoses. He continues to perform classroom teacher observations. Recently, Mr. Flatley participated in the Social Emotional Learning Think Tank, the Tri-State Curriculum Study Group, and the meetings of the Nassau Association of District Curriculum Officials (NADCO). He is assisting in the development of the 2021-2022 school budget and will begin performing principal observations.
- Mrs. Donnelly provided the report from the Business Office. The District has completed the process of the Federal Single Audit. The focus of this year's audit is the IDEA grants. The business

office staff has worked with Ms. Laura Peterson to provide the necessary data. The review from the auditors was received and there are no financial statements or federal award findings. The audit committee met on January 13 to review the corrective action plan for the external audit, the corrective action plan for the internal audit, the revived corrective action plan for the internal audit/risk assessment update, and the draft report of the internal audit. On December 10, Mrs. Donnelly attended the Nassau Association of School Business Officials meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Robert Dillon, District Superintendent of Nassau BOCES. On December 16, the District was notified that the Town of Hempstead would be offering grant funds in the amount of \$150,000 per school district for COVID-19 related expenses. The completed application was submitted on time on December 21. The application has been approved. Mrs. Donnelly provided an update on the development of the 2021-2022 budget. The District is awaiting formal approval from the State Education Department on our request to change the budget date to May 11, 2021 to respect religious observances on May 18, 2021. A draft budget will be prepared for the Board's review shortly. The next budget development presentation will be on January 28 at 7:00 PM.

- Ms. Peterson provided the Special Education report. She was thrilled to participate in the FECC Puffball Ceremony in December and be welcomed to the District with this wonderful tradition. Prior to the holidays, all District buildings, including the Woodmere Education Center, purchased, wrapped, and distributed gifts for families in need to ensure that all children were able to enjoy the holidays. The District also provided holiday meals to several families through Rock and Wrap it Up. Ms. Peterson also participated in the recent NARCAN training. Her office is very busy preparing for annual reviews and ensuring that all schedules are ready. Ms. Peterson has participated in the SEL Think Tank, the HW 2025 meetings, and the Public and Private Schools Council meetings.
- Dr. Edward Fale provided an update from the Human Resources office. The Nassau County Diversity Recruitment Fair will take place on January 28. The District will provide a live presentation where Dr. Marino will introduce the District and then each principal will report on their schools and why HWPS is such a great place to work. Dr. Fale is also participating in the Cornell Diversity and Inclusion program to learn more about increasing diversity within the HWPS staff. On-site COVID-19 testing continues for employees. The District is working diligently to try to provide a vaccine center for staff. He has reached out to many of our state legislators for assistance. Dr. Fale is currently in negotiations with two bargaining units. He meets monthly with the county's human resources association. The District has hired an Interim Director of Health, Safety, and Security.
- Mrs. Milillo and Mrs. Honig provided the PTA report. The Central Council Fundraiser earned more than \$1000 for the scholarship fund. A photograph with Dr. Marino and Mrs. Braverman will be taken and shared with the community to thank them for their support. FECC: The Thanksgiving Feast was a tremendous success. Students received individually wrapped meals and enjoyed a staff performance. The Be Kind signs are available for purchase. Other fundraisers include the pasta sale, happy birthday lawn signs, and spirit wear. OES: OES had a great holiday season. The Thanksgiving parade was a great success. The Holiday Light Show was spectacular, with families driving through the OES campus. They completed their dessert fundraiser. Toys and clothing were collected for Rock and Wrap It Up. Virtual family yoga and a paint night are upcoming. HES: They recently completed the Thanksgiving Bake Sale, a holiday photo shoot, and a raffle to win tickets to the Jones Beach Light Show. They had a toy drive for children in hospitals, and a food drive for Rock and Wrap It Up. The PTA is planning to provide a stress ball for each student. WMS: On February 21, they will host a virtual author visit. Charles R. Smith, Jr. will kick off Black History Month and discuss his book, "28 Days." The PTA has decided to purchase a

brick in honor of Mrs. Anthony Cardinale and has provided a breakfast for the WMS staff during this difficult time. They will also support the HHS seniors with the 2021 mask and bulldog apparel sale. HHS: The high school has been quiet due to a large number of students participating in online instruction. The PTA provided chocolate gifts to all building staff before the holidays. Senior committee fundraisers include valentine candles, pretzels and new spirit wear. SEPTA: The next SEPTA PTA meeting is on January 25. Ms. Michelle Kinhackl will be the guest speaker to discuss transition with parents. The raffle for members will be drawn at the March meeting. SEPTA purchased masks for the OES Bulldog Buddies to wear at events. The chocolate fundraiser was a success and raised \$731.

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.
- Mrs. May reported on behalf of the Audit Committee. They recommend the approval of the independent auditor's report. Mrs. May also reported on behalf of the Policy Committee. One policy is under final review and two are about to be sent to constituent groups for review.
- Mrs. Gates reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. The committee met in early December and discussed the pandemic notifications and upcoming projects.

Board Reports

- Mr. Greebel thanked the District staff for all of their hard work during the pandemic. It is much appreciated.
- Mrs. Gates reported that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has been meeting regularly and discussing their legislative goals for the coming year.
- The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
- The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:36 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday, January 28, 7:00 PM Budget Development Session, Hewlett High School

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

Wednesday, February 24, 8:00 PM Board of Education Regular Meeting, Hewlett High School

NOTE:

All agendas and supporting documentation for the January 20 meeting can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

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