



Re-Cap!

October 12, 2022

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Debra Sheinin, President; Cheryl May, Vice President; Judy Menashe, Francois Tenenbaum, Shari L. Amitrano, Jonathan D. Altus, Chana Jeter

BUDGET MEETING

Mrs. Sheinin made the following statement:

Good evening and welcome to the October 12 BOE Budget meeting.

Our responsibility is to educate the community on our budget and to garner a consensus of the Board. We start to look at the Budget from a 30,000 foot view and don't present a final budget until April.

Approximately 75% of our budget is made up of personnel expenses. Today we will have a little preview of the unionized workers, and down the road we will look at the non unionized workers.

We are so proud of our district being's ranked number six in the current niche report. We attribute this to the hard work of our entire staff. That being said, last year, our budget did not pass by as comfortable of a margin as we would have liked. So this year we want to ensure that the community gets all the information necessary to see that we genuinely want to create a budget that people understand and are able to support! Thank you again to our staff for making our district a great place to educate our children.

Normally I would mention this at the Board meeting, however being I have the opportunity to say this while in person, we are so elated to hear of the esteemed news of Beth Wagner being selected as a 2022 Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council. Congratulations and thank you for being such a loyal educator.

Mrs. Donnelly explained fund balance, the schedule of reserves, staffing changes, and sample salaries and benefits for bargaining units. Please click [HERE](#) for Mrs. Donnelly's presentation.

WORK MEETING

The work meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The treasurer's report was presented by Mrs. Donnelly. There were no questions.

Ms. Shari Diamond, the Internal Claims Auditor, presented a year-end update. The District has an extremely low error rate. The Business Office is cooperative and helpful.

Mr. Brendan Nelson presented from R.S. Abrams regarding the external audit. The District has no material weaknesses and has the best rating possible. He thanked the business office for their hard work and cooperation. Please click [HERE](#) for the presentation.

Dr. Marino introduced Mr. John Grillo, the District's architect, to present updated information on the proposed May 2023 Capital Project. This presentation addressed the questions and requests from the BOE at the September Work Meeting. Mr. Grillo discussed the athletics projects, including the addition of a walkway on the HHS field and possible options for additional tennis courts. The option for an additional tennis court at HHS may cause challenges for the track team, as it would be located where the current shotput resides. The option for an additional court at WMS was also discussed. Dr. Bauer indicated that losing the handball court would affect recess for WMS students.

Next, Mr. Grillo discussed options for the pool at HHS. The pool will already be unavailable next summer. New bleachers must be considered. The work previously approved for the pool does not include temperature control. The diving area was discussed. A legal opinion is needed to determine if we will meet the code for diving depth. The insurance company must be contacted, as well.

The renovations to the HHS auditorium were discussed. The focus is on additional seating. The proposal will allow for 614 seats. It was suggested to tape off the lobby to see the impact of the lobby renovation.

The proposed work to the science laboratories at HHS and WMS had no revisions.

Mrs. Donnelly discussed financing for the Capital Project proposal. The goal is to fully fund the project using the Repair Reserve and the Capital Reserve and to not borrow any money. The proposed list of projects stands at \$26.4 million; we intend to fund \$4.2 million from the repair reserve and we have \$20.3 million available in the capital reserve. The project must be reduced.

There were several questions from the public regarding the lifespan of the projects, year-to-year savings, and project specifics. The lifespan is different on all projects.

The next step is for Mr. Grillo to return on November 9 with an update. Once the project is finalized by the BOE, Dr. Marino will begin to engage the community in conversations. Mr. Grillo's presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Dr. Greenberg presented student achievement data for Regents and AP exams at HHS. Dr. Greenberg noted that the 2020 Regents were canceled and AP exams were shortened and taken

at home. In 2021, the Regents were optional. Data for both years is unreliable. The 2022 results were reviewed. BOE members asked questions regarding the Algebra I and Geometry scores, and for the outcome after summer school. A BOE member requested that next year's presentation include the students who took Regents exams in January. The ELA and Science Regents scores were very good. Enrollment in AP and College Enrollment courses was discussed. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Ms. Kavanagh and Dr. Mattes presented an overview of the Tri-States Mathematics Review. The committee visited the District in May 2022. The visit was postponed several times due to the pandemic. Tri-States is a group of educators from NY, NJ, and CT who serve as critical friends and review academic programs through the lens of three essential questions. The committee spent three days in the District and provided recommendations in math. The District will now prioritize recommendations and develop an action plan. After 18 months, the committee returns to assess progress. Members of the audience asked questions regarding struggling students. The NWEA is used to help identify students who need assistance in math. A statement was made regarding providing additional attention to mathematically gifted students. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Ms. Kavanagh provided an update on the 2022 NYSED 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests. This presentation included student opt out numbers and scores. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Five Year Budget Projections. The presentation can be found [HERE](#).

Speakers cards were received on this topic from Anoosha Virani and Amil Virani. Questions were on the tennis courts, the Five Year Budget Projections, and the Capital Project.

The Transportation Update scheduled for this evening has been moved to the December 14 Work Meeting.

Mrs. Donnelly presented the Business Office Reports: Budget Status Report and Revenue Status Report.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the following Business Office Resolutions: Acceptance of Independent Auditor's Report FYE June 30, 2022; Funding Reserves Year Ended June 30, 2022; Acceptance of Annual Risk Assessment Update Report; Acceptance of Independent Accountant's Report on Agreed Upon Procedures.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Analysis of Reserves at Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022.

Mrs. Donnelly reviewed the Schedule of Contracts, Schedule of Gifts, Surplus Equipment, the agreement with East Rockaway School District for helmets, and the Application for Club Charters.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed upcoming Conferences and Travel for staff members.

Ms. Kavanagh reviewed Field Trip requests including the Varsity and JV Boys Basketball trip and the wrestling trip proposals.

Dr. Marino introduced the WMS Discovery program for a discussion. Mrs. Menashe requested the addition of this item to the agenda last month. She discussed the recent staffing changes for the WMS Discovery Program and requested the addition of a full-time teacher. Dr. Marino stated that we have reduced staffing throughout the District and need to be sensitive to the 10 teaching positions that were eliminated at HHS. It was further requested that the District work to make the program stronger. This item will be added to the next budget presentation and considered for the 2023-2024 school year, as the program needs to be designed and planned at the building level. It cannot be added mid-year. Several WMS parents spoke in favor of adding a full-time teacher for this program.

Dr. Marino discussed the 125th anniversary of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. He presented the composition of the committee to determine how to celebrate this milestone as a community. BOE members agreed with the proposed members.

Dr. Marino discussed the following policies for initial review: Policy #0101 Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms; Policy #2100 School Board Legal Status; Policy #2240 Board-Superintendent Relationship; Policy #3000 Goals and Objectives for Administration; Policy #9120.1 Conflict of Interest.

Mr. Tenenbaum led a discussion about the Proposed Resolutions for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association. Forty-three resolutions were discussed.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 11:40 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 7:30 PM, Woodmere Middle School, Tour of Facilities

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 8:00 PM, Woodmere Middle School, Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Budget Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 7:30 PM, Woodmere Education Center, Work Session

NOTE: Click [HERE](#) for the agenda and supporting documentation for the October 12 Work Meeting.