



Re-Cap!

September 11, 2019
Woodmere
Education Center

A summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Board Members: Mitchell Greebel, *President*; Melissa Gates, *Vice President*; Cheryl May, Scott McInnes, Judy Menashe, Debra Sheinin, Daniella R. Simon

Work Meeting

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mitchell A. Greebel.
- Mr. Greebel read the following statement:

Good evening. On this day, September 11, we remember the almost 3,000 Americans who died simply because they were Americans. The rest of us are charged with remembering these people and the loss of their lives now and forever. May their blessed memories forever be enshrined in our hearts and may we have the strength as a nation to carry on their legacy of freedom and liberty.

Last week, the H-W community suffered a devastating tragedy ...the loss of a child....a young and vibrant member of our Hewlett-Woodmere family.

The devastation and heartbreak that has rippled through our small town has been both immeasurable and omnipresent. Rightly so, the emotions felt by all of us, from his fellow students to the entire administration, run the gamut...from profound sadness to utter disbelief.

Regardless of myriad rumors circulating throughout the community, in the end, the specifics will not change the fact that a young life is gone far too soon. They will not assuage the heartbreak of his family, his friends, his teachers, and all of us. Speculation and "what-ifs" will not return him to our Hewlett-Woodmere family.

Our immediate focus is to honor John's memory...to rise up and offer our heartfelt support and love to his family and friends...to provide counseling and assistance and compassion to students and staff who need it though the ongoing work of our counseling and PPS staff...to grieve...and to be truly there for one another.

This tragedy reinforces our District goal to strengthen the social, emotional, and intellectual well-being of our students. Our HW 2025 initiative has identified this as a priority for students, staff, parents, and the community. Our implementation team is already hard at work examining the efficacy of the vast social and emotional programs at all of our schools. This vital and important work will continue to develop throughout the school year.

Together, we CAN and WILL grow stronger...and continue to sustain one another throughout the aftermath of this devastating loss, and long into the future.

- The Treasurer’s Report was made available to the Board of Education. There were no questions for Mrs. SanPhillipo.
- Mr. Frontario introduced the Internal Claims Auditor, Ms. Shari Diamond, Director of Internal Audit at Cerini & Associates. There were no questions for Ms. Diamond.
- Mr. John A. Grillo, architect, presented initial ideas for the renovation of the Hewlett High School auditorium. Mr. Grillo presented results of an acoustical study indicating that the background noise in the auditorium is challenging. The goal would be to improve the overall aesthetics, increase storage, relocate doors, replace lighting and rigging systems, and more. Questions from the Board of Education included increased seating inquiry and cost projection. The plan would include the addition of 10-12 seats. Mr. Walter Lastowski spoke about the current condition of the auditorium and the need for renovation. Mr. Grillo presented two design options, art deco and modern. Please click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.
- Mr. Frontario reviewed the following: Schedule of Contracts, Schedule of Bids and RFPs, Budget Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Surplus Equipment, and the Applications for Club Charters.
- Mr. Warren Glimpse of ProximityOne presented the results of his demographic study. The study focused on two areas: public school enrollment projections and the mapping of public school and non-public school households. Enrollment across all grades through 2025 appears relatively stable. Please click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.
- Dr. Secaur presented the 3-8 testing data from the 2018-2019 school year. As in past years, it is challenging to draw accurate conclusions from the data due to the large number of students who decide not to take the tests. That said, overall results in both English Language Arts and mathematics generally show an upward trajectory. The ability to analyze our students’ performance on test questions we deem appropriate is extremely helpful in determining the effectiveness of our curriculum and instruction.
- Dr. Marino discussed the HW 2025 Implementation Team for the 2019-2020 school year. The Board of Education member representative will be Mrs. Menashe and the alternate will be Mrs. Sheinin.
- Dr. Marino discussed the possibility of establishing a Public and Private School Parent/District Partnership. This idea surfaced in May 2019. We currently have a Public and Private Schools Council that meets four times a year. We would ask non-public school administrators who participate if they would be interested in inviting a parent from their schools to join the meetings. Central Council PTA will also be asked for parent volunteers. Dr. Marino will begin this inquiry at the first meeting of the Council in October.
- Dr. Marino discussed the need for a Board of Education member to serve on a committee to discuss a standardized state-wide student data system. Dr. Secaur is also participating in this meeting, which will be held on November 6. It was determined that Mrs. Gates will participate.
- Dr. Marino reviewed the District’s organizational chart. Revisions from last year include the addition of a Director of Health, Safety, and Security and the state-mandated revisions to the Chairperson of Guidance to include Pre-K—12.
- Dr. Marino informed the Board about two upcoming National Schools Boards Conferences, one in February and one in April. Mrs. Gates will attend both conferences.
- Mrs. Gates reviewed the 2019 Proposed By-Law Amendments and Resolutions booklet from the New York State School Boards Association. She will represent the Board of Education at the Nasau Suffolk Dinner Resolutions Meeting on September 26.

- Dr. Secaur reviewed the Academic Intervention Services Plan and the APPR Training Plan for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Dr. Secaur reviewed the three policies that will be presented for final approval on September 18:
 - Policy #2390 Board Hearings
 - Policy #2351 Quorum
 - Policy #1332.1 Use of Principal's Mailboxes
- Dr. Secaur reviewed the one policy up for abolishment:
 - Policy #6190 Public Complaints Regarding Instruction
- Mr. Greebel opened the meeting to questions from the public. Several community members discussed concerns about the mental health of Hewlett High School students in the wake of a tragic student passing. Questions were raised about the programs currently in place and any additional programs being considered to allow student voices to be heard. Mr. Galati's letter to HHS parents outlines the District's outreach to date. Additional programs will be beginning shortly.
- Additional questions were raised about consequences of bullying, vaping, and unacceptable behavior. The Code of Conduct clearly outlines consequences.
- The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 8:00 PM Regular Meeting, Woodmere Education Center
- Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 6:30 PM Budget Development Meeting, Woodmere Education Center
- Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7:30 PM Work Meeting, Woodmere Education Center

NOTE: All agendas and supporting documentation for the September 11, 2019 Work Meeting can be found by clicking [HERE](#).