



# Re-Cap!

September 13, 2017  
Woodmere Education  
Center

## 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 Hewlett High School students, Shelby Love and Daniel Foster.

### Professional Recognitions

- Mrs. Barbara McNiff welcomed the District's new staff members and wished them long and successful careers at Hewlett-Woodmere.



### Presentations



- Dr. Brian Terry introduced Dr. David Rifkind, who recognized the students who participated in Camp Snowball this summer. The students spoke about systems thinking tools and how they can be integrated into the classroom and everyday life.



- Mr. John Wimmer, Chairperson of P-12 Social Studies, introduced the Woodmere Middle School students who participated in the History Fair in spring 2017.
- Mr. Jack Lenson, Interim Principal of HHS, introduced the high school students who participated in the History Fair in spring 2017.

## Administrator Reports

- Superintendent's Report was given by Dr. Ralph Marino. Dr. Marino discussed the successful opening of schools. He visited each building during the first few days and students and staff were excited for the new year ahead. He announced that both Dr. Secaur and Dr. Terry were accepted to the 2017-2018 Education Policy Fellowship Program Cohort at Teachers College. He has attended many events since school opened including the Principal's Picnic, Pre-K Orientation, Back-to-School night, and Family Picnic at FECC; the Patriots Day Commemorations and Back-to-School nights at HES and OES; the Freshman Focus, Athletic Information Night, and Senior Planning Night at HHS. He will also attend the WMS PTA meeting and Back-to-School night this week. In addition, the Staff Welcome Back event took place on August 31 at HHS. Dr. Marino held a Superintendent's Roundtable on August 22 at the Hewlett Fire Department and will host his next roundtable on September 19 at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment. Finally, Dr. Marino provided an update on HW 2025. This year, the new Stakeholder Planning Team will select the Strategic Plan Facilitators from the RFPs that have been received and construct the plan that will guide the District for the upcoming years.
- Dr. Mark Secaur presented the Curriculum and Instruction update. Superintendent's Conference Day was held on August 31. The day was devoted to professional development, with teachers, administrators, and several outside resources providing training on a wide array of topics, including the elementary math program, makerspaces, Google apps, poetic possibilities, and many others. In total, 76 different workshops were offered to staff, who were able to attend three sessions throughout the day. Dr. Secaur also discussed the smooth opening of all District schools. Upcoming events include Arts Below Sunrise on September 17 and the LIASCD Fall Conference on September 29.
- Mr. Louis Frontario provided the Business Department update. The Transportation Department is off to a smooth start. The District is currently servicing 75 non-public schools, in addition to the five District schools. The re-registration process is underway for students in grades 2 and 9. This initiative requires the confirmation of residency, which allows the District to ensure that all students attending our schools are residing within HW #14. Mr. Frontario also discussed the refunding of the 2009 bonds. The official statement is being prepared and will be reviewed by Moody's prior to the 9/26 sale date. In addition, Mr. Frontario reported that five of the District funds are closed relative to the year-end audit.
- Mrs. Barbara McNiff provided an update from Human Resources. She thanked her staff for all of their hard work in filling many positions this summer. The New Employee Reception was held prior to the Board meeting and was well attended. She concluded by announcing that flu shots will be given at WEC on September 27.
- Dr. Debra Lo Verde provided a Special Education report. She welcomed everyone back for the new school year. The HHS job coaching program is being enhanced to prepare students for post-high school life. The PAES lab, which provides students with simulated work environments, will be expanded to include WMS students. Our partnership with Molloy College will continue, which allows students to experience programs such as nursing and education.

- Brandon Fisher from the HHS Student Council reported that they had a good turnout at their first meeting of elected officers. The theme for Homecoming is cities.
- Mr. Ric Stark, from the Hewlett-Woodmere Faculty Association, welcomed new employees to the District.
- Central Council PTA co-presidents Mrs. Susette Preziosi and Mrs. Debi Sheinin congratulated new staff on their employment in the District. All PTA units had a great beginning of the school year. The PTA is partnering with the District to sponsor a district in Texas who suffered severe damage from Hurricane Harvey. Digital PTA membership is in effect this year.

### **Board Committee Reports**

- Mr. Mitchell Greebel reported on behalf of the Special Education committee. The Committee recommends the approval of the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

### **Board Member Reports**

- Mrs. Melissa Gates attended SCOPE's annual dinner meeting on August 10 in Oakdale. A joint keynote address was given by Mary Ellen Elia, NYS Commissioner of Education, and Roger Tilles, member of the NYS Board of Regents. They encouraged all to continue advocating for students in the state of New York. Mrs. Gates also attended the NYSSBA Board Officers Academy on August 19 in Huntington, which was enjoyable and informative. A highlight was a mock board meeting, with different difficult scenarios acted out. They discussed various ways to conduct a successful board meeting. Mrs. Gates participated in the Narcan training provided by the District on September 11.

At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, HHS senior Daniel Tzach spoke to the BOE about a proposal for his Eagle Scout project, which includes picnic benches and other items at the site of the Community Garden. The proposal requires approval by the BOE. Mr. Scott McInnes congratulated the student, and asked Mrs. Kim Parahus, Director of Facilities & Operations, to assist.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, October 4: Budget session at 6:30 PM at WEC. Work meeting at 7:30 PM at WEC.

Wednesday, October 18: Tour of Facilities at FECC at 7:00 PM. Regular Meeting at 8:00 PM FECC.

### **NOTE:**

All agendas and supporting documentation for the September 13 can be found by clicking [HERE!](#)