

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting February 12, 2014

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, in the Board of Education Conference Room at the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, Merrick, New York 11566.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

JoAnn DeLauter, Vice-President  
Marion Blane  
Janet Goller  
George Haile  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Dr. Matthew Kushner  
Nina Lanci

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Susan Schwartz, President

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel  
Caryn Blum, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services  
Saul Lerner, Director of Physical Education/Health/Athletics/Driver Education/Adult Ed  
Jon Simkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by Mrs. DeLauter. Mrs. DeLauter led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter stated Mrs. Schwartz could be here tonight because she is being honored as Teacher of the Year in the district where she works.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 8, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 22, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 6-0-1 with Mrs. Goller abstaining. Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 31, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 5-0-2 with Mrs. Goller and Mr. Haile abstaining.

**MINUTES**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated December 31, 2013. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and stated he is happy to recognize students, teachers and Board members. The District's Intel Science Research has produced incredible results with three semi-finalists this year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

Mr. Robert Soel stated the District's Science Research Program students put in over 400-500 hours with mentors in the scientific community. Over the past ten years, the District has had 53 semi-finalists, 34 from JFK. He thanked the Board for their support.

**INTEL SEMIFINALISTS**

Dr. Kushner presented an Award of Honor certificate to Kennedy High School senior Rachel Abramowitz for having been named a semifinalist in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. The title of Rachel's project is: *Why Innocent People Comply with Police Requests: The Role of Just World Beliefs and Public Self Consciousness*. Since 2005, the rate at which innocent people confess to crimes has increased significantly. Previous studies have suggested two theories to explain why people choose to falsely confess: Illusion of Transparency and Just World Hypothesis. 80 subjects completed surveys to determine whether or not they believed in these theories. Subjects were randomly placed into a scenario where they were innocent or guilty of a crime. All participants were considered suspects and asked a series of questions by police to assess cooperation. Her research indicates that for eight out of nine questions, innocent people were significantly more cooperative than guilty people. Rachel is a member of three honor societies and has received numerous academic awards, including an AP Scholar Award. She has been a member of the District Varsity Swim Team for six years and has played on the JV and Varsity Lacrosse teams. Rachel is an active fund raising participant in the B'Nai Brith Youth Organization and her community service activities include the Avon Breast Cancer Walk, Polar Bear Club for Make-A-Wish Foundation and a past captain for Relay for Life. In her spare time Rachel baby-sits and does peer tutoring. She hopes to become a Clinical Psychologist. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Kushner congratulated Rachel and the Kennedy Advanced Science Research teachers, Mrs. Barbi Frank, Mrs. Barbara Franklin, and Mr. Helmut Schleith.

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Kennedy High School senior Rebecca Jellinek for having been named a semifinalist in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. The title of Rebecca's project is: *The Effects of Barbie Dolls and Their Wardrobes on Body Dissatisfaction*. Playing with Barbie dolls has been linked to poor body image in young girls. The present study is the first to determine if doll clothing and doll familiarity affect young girls' body images. Participants completed body image surveys and played with a Barbie doll and full-figured doll of unequal familiarity. In a follow-up study, participants completed body image surveys and played with a thin doll and full-figured doll of equal unfamiliarity. The doll type affected body image the most when playing with unfamiliar dolls; however, clothing type had no effect on body image. Playing with thin dolls resulted in a great disparity between one's ideal shape and one's actual shape, which may contribute to development of eating disorders. Rebecca is a member of six honor societies and has received numerous Science and Math awards, including first place winner in the 2013 New York State Science Congress. She is president of the Drama Club, Women's Choir, Concert Choir and a member of Student Government, Variety Choir and the NYSSMA 2014 All-County Women's Choir. She is a peer tutor

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and a volunteer at Winthrop University Hospital. Rebecca plans to pursue medicine in college. Mrs. Goller congratulated Rebecca and also the Kennedy HS Advanced Science Research teachers on behalf of the Board of Education.

**INTEL SEMIFINALISTS  
(Continued)**

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Kennedy High School Salutatorian Benjamin November for having been named a semifinalist in the prestigious 2014 Intel Science Talent Search Competition. The title of Ben's project is: *Measurement Of Leaf Properties To Improve The Parameterization Used By Earth System Models To Estimate The Maximum Capacity for CO2 Uptake In the Arctic*. Earth System Models (ESMs) are used to project future climate change. These models inaccurately measure the maximum rate at which the enzyme Rubisco can fix CO<sub>2</sub> in plants ( $V_{c,max}$ ). This imprecision is especially high in the Arctic. This study analyzed the values of  $V_{c,max}$  in 11 arctic plant species across five categories. The values of  $V_{c,max}$  calculated in this study were on average 74% higher than the Community Land Model, a popular ESM. This can be attributed to the differences in the carbon to nitrogen ratio and the specific leaf area calculated in this study and in some ESMs. The projections of global climate change may be skewed and require further analysis of variables to improve their accuracy. Ben is a member of four honor societies and an AP Scholar with honors. He has been a four year member of the spring Track Team, and has played football. He is also a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Athletes Helping Athletes, the math team, and the chairperson of the Stock Market Club. He has volunteered at Winthrop University Hospital and has been a math, science and SAT tutor. Ben wants to become an engineer and hopes to obtain his Masters and PhD degrees. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Kaplan congratulated Ben and the Science Research teachers.

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham High School senior Brian Keohane for having been selected to receive the Channel 12 News Scholar Athlete of the Week Award. He was chosen for this award for his outstanding ability in athletics, scholarship, leadership, and service. Brian will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and is one of only 30 students from Long Island chosen for this prestigious honor. Brian, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2014, has received numerous awards and honors and was named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Most recently, he has been named a candidate in the prestigious 2014 US Presidential Scholars Program. His passion for science has earned him many accolades including winning the 2013 Long Island Physics Olympics. He is a successful member of the Science Olympiad Team and has earned induction to virtually every honor society. Brian is a volunteer tutor for his classmates through the Peer Tutors program and makes presentations at the elementary schools with Athletes Helping Athletes. He is a three season varsity athlete on the track, cross country, and basketball teams. Brian's devotion of countless hours to community service throughout the school and community is limitless, and with his sense of loyalty and compassion, it is not surprising that he has been awarded the Channel 12 News Scholar Athlete of the Week Award. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Brian and his coaches on behalf of the Board of Education.

**CHANNEL 12 NEWS  
SCHOLAR/ATHLETE**

**NASSAU COUNTY  
“GOLDEN ELEVEN”  
SCHOLAR/ATHLETE**

Mr. Harrington, Principal of Mepham High School, advised Brian is now a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

Mrs. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham High School senior Christopher Durkin for having been chosen as a Nassau County “Golden Eleven” Scholar Athlete. Chris truly exemplifies the term scholar athlete and is a positive role model for all to emulate. His academic program demonstrates the height of rigor that our school district has to offer, consisting of a high concentration of honors, advanced, and Advanced Placement courses. It is no surprise that he has been inducted into several honor societies and has received countless accolades across the academic disciplines. He serves as a student representative on the site-based committee, volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, and is a constant fixture at school-wide events. Athletically, Chris capped off an outstanding football career with one of the finest seasons of any player in Nassau County. He led the Mepham team with 97 unassisted tackles and three sacks on the defensive side and offensively Chris rushed for 709 yards and seven touchdowns with seven yards per attempt average. Chris' accomplishments include being selected to the Nassau All-County Team and the Academic All-Conference Team. The "Golden Eleven" football team is comprised of the best 11 student-athletes in Nassau County who play the game of football. Chris will be recognized by the National Football Foundation and his award will be displayed in the College Football Hall of Fame. Despite all of his outstanding accomplishments, Chris remains a most humble and unassuming young man. Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education, congratulated Chris and his Coach Cracco.

Mr. DeTommaso added these kids will remember their coaches for a life time. He thanked the coaches, advisors, teachers and faculty members. He also thanked the administrative team from coming out and supporting their students. He congratulated Brian Keohane and Aaron Goldstein of Mepham High School and Max Mogul of Calhoun High School for being chosen as National Merit Scholarship finalists. He stated parents who make the time to be supportive, help students to be successful.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Rebecca Peretz advised on 1/9/14 Calhoun inducted 30 more students into the Tri M Music Honor Society. Five more students have committed to playing college athletics. A Calhoun student is the Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year and received the Americanism and Patriotism awards. Kayla Cappuzzo has been named the Gatorade Soccer Player of the Year and is a finalist in the national competition. She will travel to Spain in March. Several athletes from the Cross Country team attended the NYS meets. Calhoun's basketball team is in the play-offs. Max Mogul has also been selected as a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Upcoming events include the Art Honor Society inductions and Spirit Week. The spring musical is “*Spamalot*.”

Rohan Nagpal congratulated the Intel semi-finalists and teachers and chairperson. Student Government held another Jam the Gym. One student

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came very close to making the half-court basketball shot for \$10,000. Two Kennedy students received the quarterly Karma Awards. SADD, GSA NICE students sponsored a talent show and the proceeds were donated. JFK Varsity Cheerleaders placed fourth overall in the recent competition. Varsity Wrestling and a Rifle Team member competed in the NYS competitions. Kennedy's Science team placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 42 teams recently. Junior class experienced an assembly about good decisions while driving or as a passenger in a vehicle. Kennedy had several PTA Reflections winners. One will go on to the national competition. 9<sup>th</sup> graders attended an assembly on bullying. February 27<sup>th</sup> is Class Night.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(Continued)**

Rachel Fain congratulated the two athletes from Mepham and Mepham's two National Merit Scholarship finalists. Mepham held a Spoken Word Workshop where an author discussed the writing process and answered students' questions about poetry. There was a Afternoon of Broadway fundraiser. Varsity cheerleaders finished 18<sup>th</sup> in nationals. Diving and bowling were well-represented at States. Girls Varsity Basketball went undefeated this season and Kickline held first place. Art and Music Honor Society inductions were held this month. The Fifth Annual Mr. Mepham will be held on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. On February 27, 2014, Mepham will host a Mentor/mentee night at an Islanders' game. March 6, 2014 is Open Mic Night and the St. Baldrick's fundraising event is scheduled for March 19, 2014.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Merrick Avenue Middle Schools Art Department for the display in the central office corridor. He spoke about the NYS Regents' 18 Common Core adjustments, some of which the Governor opposes. The NYS legislature has decided to also weigh in on this topic. In Bloom has definitely been delayed for one year. He mentioned the NYS Budget and what is in store for education and Bellmore-Merrick next year. The legislature is looking into the funding for Pre-K and the implications for districts that have full and half day pre-kindergarten programs. He stated the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) in 2009 took away district money but promised to return that money. Bellmore-Merrick is down 3.6 – 3.7 million dollars. Hopefully, in this election year, the divide between the legislature and the governor will be solved. At the March 12, 2014 Board of Education meeting, BBS and SCC will give a presentation on the status of bond. Projects proposed for Phase One, those that do not involve plumbing and electrical, have been submitted to NYSED for approval. Bids for Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) will be opened on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Mrs. Susan Ellinghaus, formerly the Director of MAP, on becoming the principal of MAP.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

Mrs. DeLauter advised the audience to review the future dates section of the agenda.

Mr. Robert Kaukuras wanted to know when the bond starts, what it will cost him and the length of the bond

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso advised the cost for the average homeowner was advertised in the brochure. The last bond in 1964 was for the building of Kennedy High School. Mrs. Strait-Régal advised there will be nothing on next year's bill. NYSED approval determines when the bond will begin. State aid assessment is done on a year by year basis.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education table the resolution to approve the recommended Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's 2014-2015 School Year Calendar. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SPECIAL**  
**EDUCATION**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): BCSE cases: 000511096, 000511330, 370000785, 030430061, 992450111, 112840001, 000010965, 000010600, 902700003, 110011119, G11541, 902700031 and 000010185. Building CSE IEP Changes: 000011621, 902380000, 060620000, 030450002, 000511357, 102500000, 062480000, 370000660, 000511785, 102180000, 000010763, 992450151, 000511555, G11833, K10887, G11853, K09218, 370001792, K10277, 370000851, 061710003, 000511023, 000511120, 030770000, 000512091, 042180000, 000010949, 000010950, 362844679, 000010211, M03144, G10949, 000511023, G10938, 000511260, 112340000, M03252, 370000893, 030520042, G11598, 112280000, 030520048, 062400006, 042710000, G11870, 102140001, 031250002, 362844642, 000010808, 000011938, G11461, K10400 and 121230000. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0

**DONATIONS**

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,827.63 for the purchase of new high jump pits for the Calhoun Track Team from Calhoun Sports Boosters and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of two (2) 70' X 14' X 14', #42 treated netting, batting cage nets, valued at \$1,500 each for a total of \$3,000, to Calhoun High School from Calhoun Sports Boosters. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,100 for the purchase of an electric cart, 2009 MCV/KUDFO6402 Electric Utility Vehicle w/solar panel and storage box, to Calhoun High School's athletic department from Calhoun Sports Boosters. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$700 to Calhoun HS Prep Program from Target and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education accept a \$10,000 donation in the form of a service/materials credit from Intralogic Solutions, Inc.; credit to be applied to Phase I of the District's security upgrade. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**DONATIONS**  
**(Continued)**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the following change to the Coaches' Handbook and a revision to the document to reflect said change. (Change is proposed based on a recommendation from Counsel.)

**COACHES HANDBOOK**

Change –

**12. Transportation to Events:** *All team members are to travel to and from an away practice or contest on school designated transportation. Under NO circumstances is a student athlete allowed to drive to a contest and be permitted to play.* (Please make all players aware of this policy.) Coaches are not to transport students using their private vehicles. The only exception to this is in a medical emergency.

To-

**12. Transportation to Events:** *If the school provides transportation for a practice or contest, all team members must travel to and from the event on the designated transportation. Under these circumstances, no student athlete will be allowed to drive to the event; should an athlete violate this rule, that athlete will not be allowed to participate in the practice or contest.* (Please make all players aware of this policy.) Coaches are not to transport students using their private vehicles. The only exception to this is in a medical emergency.

Dr. Kaplan seconded. Christopher Powers, School Attorney, advised the District is required to provide transportation both ways but with a proper note submitted before the event, a student may use other means to return home. The motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated February 12, 2014, as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PERSONNEL**

The Board reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated February 12, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.

**BILLS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following budget transfers:

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

\$300,000 from A1622 400 00 0000 to A1622 490 00 0000 \$290,750  
to A2630 221 00 0000 9,250

\$30,390 from A2630 400 00 0000

\$25,000 from A1622 400 00 0000

\$10,000 from A1620 400 08 8600 to A2630 490 00 0000 \$65,390

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<b>REFUND</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District accept a refund from Lightpath in the amount of \$33,872 and increase the appropriations (A2630 490 00 0000) accordingly.
<b>ON-TOUR FUNDRAISER</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Calhoun On-Tour Company Boosters fundraiser for converting spotlight lighting instruments from incandescent to LED.
<b>CONSULTANT</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Stagelight Entertainment, to provide services for Kennedy HS' musical and concerts for 22 sessions at a cost of \$98 per session, total compensation not to exceed \$2156, to be funded by Kennedy Building Student Activities.
<b>FEE WAIVER</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the waiving of the room and cafeteria worker fees for the Mephram Alumni Association's use of Mephram HS West Cafeteria on Sunday, 5/4/14, for their Who's Who Luncheon.
<b>EDEN II SCHOOL</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve agreements with Eden II School for Autistic Children to provide "ABA" related services to designated special education students from 1/28/14 – 6/30/14.
<b>EDEN II SCHOOL PHONE SYSTEM INSTALLATION</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare an emergency purchase for items necessary to complete the network and phone system installation. Items include batteries backups, phone system software licenses and other software, at a cost of \$35,000.
<b>FEDERAL SINGLE AUDIT</b>	BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accept the Federal Single Audit Report for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the year ended June 30, 2013.
<b>OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following broken and out-dated equipment from the Kennedy High School Weight Room:           Hip sled – Leg Press (992040) Universal (005483)  Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	There was none.
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>	Dr. Pamela Banks, a member of the Health and Wellness Committee, stated if students do not buy healthy snacks from the vending machines, the District should remove the vending machines rather than sell unhealthy snacks.
<b>OLD/NEW BUSINESS</b>	There was none.
<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b>	On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 7-0, The Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a particular Personnel matter at 9:09 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Haile, seconded by Dr. Kuschner and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Dr. Kuschner moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

**CIVIL SERVICE LAW  
SECTION 75 CHARGES**

“IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District prefers charges pursuant to provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Civil Service Law Section 75 against a non-instructional employee of the District as set forth in written charges filed with the District Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Joseph Wooley is hereby designated as Hearing Officer to hear such charges and to make proposed findings of fact and a recommendation with respect to measure of discipline, if guilt be found, in accordance with the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Civil Service Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the hearing on this matter will proceed on March 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administrative Offices of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that said employee shall be suspended without pay for a period of not to exceed thirty (30) days pending determination of the charges.

Dated: North Merrick, New York  
February 12, 2014”

Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

**CELLULAR  
TELEPHONES**

”BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, in lieu of providing a cell phone as permitted in the Superintendent’s contract, approve a reimbursement of \$53.00 per month (retroactively from July 1, 2013) for the Superintendent’s use of his personal cell phone, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will discontinue the reimbursement and provide the Superintendent with a District cell phone in the future should he so request, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a reimbursement of \$53.00 per month for the Deputy Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for the use of personal cell phones.”

Dr. Kuschner seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Haile, seconded by Dr. Kushner and carried 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk