MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATIONMEETING December 3, 2014

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, December 3, 2014, in the Board of Education Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

JoAnn DeLauter, President George Haile, Vice President Marion Blane Wendy Gargiulo Dr. Nancy Kaplan Nina Lanci Susan Schwartz

The following Board member was absent:

Janet Goller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel
David Seinfeld, 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 Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Thomas Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. DeLauter advised Mrs. Goller was absent tonight due to illness.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 5, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated October 31, 2014. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for coming tonight adding that our meetings are a real celebration of our students and staff. He stated that he hoped everyone had a good holiday. He congratulated two District students, Beatrice Brown and Mara Friedman, for having been named All Eastern and that all fall sports teams have been recognized as Scholar/Athlete teams.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NEWS 12 SCHOLAR/ ATHLETE

Mr. Haile stated he is very proud to recognize Griffin Miller for having been selected to receive the Channel 12 News Scholar/Athlete award and presented Griffin with an Award of Honor certificate. Griffin, a senior at Calhoun High School, was chosen for this award based on his outstanding character, service, academics, athletic and leadership abilities. A two sport athlete, he was captain of the Colts varsity football team this fall and is a member of the lacrosse team. This will be his third year as a member of the team and he will be the goaltender for the varsity team in the spring. Griffin is an exemplary scholar who earned a 98.48 grade point average and has been inducted into the National Honor Society. He is Senior Class President and a member of Calhoun's award winning DECA club. Griffin's strength of character is driven by a sense of empathy and selflessness. He is an engaging, warm and inviting young man and a natural leader. He plans to attend Dartmouth University in the fall, and in his own words, "Loves to succeed." Mr. Haile congratulated him on behalf of the Board of Education.

NASSAU COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION

Mrs. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Grace Moore stating Grace, a junior at Calhoun High School, finished in first place for the second year in a row at the Nassau County Section VIII Girls Division 2A Cross-Country Championships on 10/25/14, with a 5k time of 19 minutes, 40.57 seconds. The following weekend, Grace competed alongside her All-Division team at the State Qualifying meet, winning the Class A race with an overall time of 19 minutes, 25.61 seconds qualifying her for the NYS Cross Country Championship meet at SUNY Canton. Grace helped Calhoun to a 13-1 regular season finish in Conference II as well a fourth place finish in Nassau Class I. A talented, energetic, artistic and determined young lady, Grace is a dedicated scholar/athlete. She has been a valued member of the track team and is a member of Athletes Helping Athletes. Grace also teaches elementary school age children about the importance of avoiding alcohol and drugs. Academically, Grace will receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Science and Math Honors and has also been inducted into the Spanish Honor Society. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Gargiulo congratulated Grace.

ALL-STATE – SWIM TEAM

Mrs. DeLauter stated we are very excited this evening to recognize our District Aquatic Team, the Bellmore-Merrick Sharks for an incredible 2014 season. The team competed in the NYS Girls Swimming and Diving Championships at Ithaca College two weeks ago. The 200 Medley Relay broke our own county record with an All-American Consideration time. The relay consisting of Liz Walsh (Mepham), Goergeanne Zimmerman (Calhoun), Paige Kaplan (Kennedy) and Jaimie Kaefer (Mepham) finished fourth. The 400 freestyle relay, consisting of Liz Walsh, Jessica Arana (Calhoun), Jaimie Kaefer, and Kerry Giovanniello (Mepham) finished 3rd and qualified as All-State with an All-American Consideration time, which broke our own county record. Kerry also finished third in the 200 freestyle and second in the 500 freestyle, qualifying as All-State and setting new school records. Paige Kaplan won the State Championship finishing first in the 100 yard Butterfly setting a new county record. She also tied for fifth in the 200 Individual Medley. Both times are new school records. Georgeanne Zimmerman (Calhoun) finished 17th in the 100 Breaststroke. Jessica Arana

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finished 11th in the 100 Butterfly. Liz Walsh finished 12th in the 200 Individual Medley. The 200 freestyle relay, comprised of Jessica Arana, Jaimie Kaefer, Paige Kaplan, and Kerry Giovanniello finished 8th. The Sharks finished second overall in the State which was the best finish ever by a Nassau County team. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated all the girls and their coaches.

ALL STATE – SWIM TEAM (Continued)

Mrs. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Grand Avenue's Science teacher Ken Abbott stating Mr. Abbott has been awarded the very prestigious Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS), 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award for the Intermediate Level. The award was presented at the 119th Annual STANYS Conference in Rochester, NY on 11/3/14. Mr. Abbott has filled several different roles in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District in his 24 year tenure. After teaching at the high school level for six years, he moved to Grand Avenue MS. At Grand, he is the veteran Regents Earth Science teacher and a leader in the department. Mr. Abbott has coached many sports and taken on a host of responsibilities. Most notably, he has taken on the role of Honor Society Advisor. Exemplifying the ideals of a lifelong learner, Mr. Abbott is a member of many professional organizations and has received numerous awards. He was the first recipient of the District's Ann Crowley Award for Excellence in Professional Development. He has served as an Earth Science Subject Area Representative for the Long Island Region and also serves as the vice president of the NYS Earth Science Teachers Association. Mr. Abbott is an exemplar for educators and this award serves as testimony to his rich contribution to science education in the District and NYS. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Lanci congratulated Mr. Abbott.

SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the artwork in the Brookside hallway is from Merrick Avenue Middle School students this month.

Griffin Miller thanked the Board for his recognition tonight. He congratulated the District swim team and also stated all fall sports are Scholar/Athlete teams. Alumni Day included panel discussions. The Thanksgiving Dinner raised almost \$2,500 and showcased great student entertainment. This month's talent show raised money for the Tyler Seaman Foundation. The National Honor Society held an induction ceremony for new members. The 8th Grade Open House was well attended. School and community talent was on display at the 11/23/14 Merrick Brotherhood concert. Winter concerts are scheduled for December 10th and 18th and he wished everyone a good holiday season.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mara Friedman stated Kennedy collected non-perishable food for baskets. Student government and alumni featured assemblies given by a former Kennedy student with a disability. She encouraged students to live life to the fullest. The three performances of "Twelve Angry Men" received standing ovations. She stated two students, Beatrice Brown and herself, have been named All Eastern; Beatrice for Band and herself for Mixed Chorus. They will be performing at the NAfME Eastern Conference in Providence,

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES (Continued)

Rhode Island. Additionally, Beatrice Brown was recognized as a Presidential Scholar. She also congratulated the Lady Sharks and all fall sports teams for being designated Scholar/Athlete teams for two consecutive years. National Honor Society inductions were held. 9th graders were introduced to the Student Connection Program and ten student leaders attended the annual State Leadership Conference in Albany. Kennedy Student Government was named to the NYS Honor Council for six consecutive years. There were numerous field trips during November and the winter concerts are scheduled for December 10th and 18th.

Kara Ognibene stated the US Marine Corps Band's performance at Mepham was wonderful. The annual Battle of the Classes was held on 11/12/14 at Brookside and the senior class won by a large margin. Approximately \$3,000 was raised that night for Autism Speaks. Skull and Bones had three performances of "Auntie Mame." Student Experience went to New York City where they shadowed the character in Catcher in the Rye and visited his haunts. They also spoke with elementary students to promote literacy. Kara participated in a scavenger hunt in Greenwich Village from which she learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed. National Honor Society held their inductions. She congratulated all the sports teams and the Sharks on their achievements. Mepham's recent blood drive had over 158 donors. Over 120 members of the Mepham Class of 2014 spoke with seniors about their transition into college. Kara wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Mr. Seinfeld gave a brief report on the APPR Transparency Report. The information can be found on the District's website. In an earlier letter, the NYS Deputy Commissioner focused on testing and evaluating. Bellmore-Merrick will be convening a committee to discuss the recommended changes. Mr. DeTommaso stated most districts have pre and post testing. When districts started opting out of tests, the State then stated they did not require testing.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN

Mr. Seinfeld presented an overview of the District's steps towards creating Personalized Learning Plans that meet a student's needs, interests and capabilities. He gave examples of programs suited to students' interests to encourage students to challenge themselves. Currently, committees are meeting to examine data gathered from meetings with colleges, students and alumni, along with various conferences, discussions and surveys. An important goal is to prepare students to not just get into a suited college, but to best prepare them for completion of college.

Mr. DeTommaso added the District will be creating a District Culinary Arts program in Kennedy and a Broadcasting Program in Mepham. He spoke of presenting students with the opportunity to explore other classes. This topic will continue to be discussed at Site-Based Committee meetings, Board of Education and PTA meetings in an effort to communicate the initiative.

Mrs. DeLauter questioned when there will be an actual format and if some portions can be immediately available. Mr. DeTommaso advised the District

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already offers the engineering initiative which can lead into many other areas. Currently, 225 students are enrolled in engineering electives. This is the beginning of the discussion. 60% of District students already take AP and/or college classes. The District's goal is to encourage the other students to enroll in courses that can prepare them for their future. He believes all students should be encouraged to take courses that interest them and help them to be college-ready. This is not about the course grade or acceleration but is about giving, not mandating, students the chance to challenge themselves. Two documents on this matter will be posted on the District's website.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN (Continued)

Mrs. DeLauter mentioned some of the future events and advised attendees to check the school calendar and website for upcoming events.

FU TURE DATES

Christine Seaman asked how this plan would work for children with IEPs and was advised this is about improving the opportunities for all students. Mr. DeTommaso does not see that there would be any difference for students with IEPs. AP and college classes are part of the discussion but not a mandate. It is about a student's strengths or interests in a specific area and encouraging them to challenge themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Francesca Jackson asked if a student would have to meet minimum qualifications to enroll in classes. Mr. DeTommaso advised there is open enrollment now and any students wishing to challenge themselves would be supported. Mr. Seinfeld added it is about strengths and interests but a student should show some level of competence.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011047, 000011139, 000011446, 000011520, 000511023, 000511891, 000512061, 031040000, 042370000, 050450007, 050480006, 050550009, 070011736, 070011774, 110010837, 110010901, 130003144, 130003251, 131261293, 370000660, 370000832, 370000837, 370000913, 370001033, 370001159, 992450231 and 992450303. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Board of Education accepted revised Policy No.4531.1 – Overnight Field Trips (revised and renumbered from 3545.1) for a first reading.

POLICIES

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve revised Policy No. 5405 - Student Wellness (formerly Policy No. 5425 - Wellness Policy). Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300 from the Council of PTAs and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked the Council of PTAs.

DONATIONS

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DONATIONS (Continued)

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board accept a donation of super vouchers to the American Museum of Natural History which include admission, Planetarium, Butterflies and any other special exhibit, for the MAMS Life Skills program class and teachers/aides from Mr. and Mrs. Schexnayder. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. Haile thanked Mr. and Mrs. Shexnayder.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,500 from the Helen Matchett DeMario Foundation, Inc. to Mepham's Science Research Program and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked the foundation.

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Mepham HS Class of 1956 toward the purchase of a science lab SMART Board and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked Mepham HS' Class of 1956.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the amended Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated December 3, 2014. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

BILLS

The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated December 3, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.

BIDS

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for 2014. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

WAIVER

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the waiver of custodial/room fees for the Mepham Alumni Association's annual Who's Who Luncheon in Mepham's library on Sunday, April 26, 2015. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mrs. Schwartz moved, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the following District property:

Flail Mower – Alamo Mott

Plow for old tractor no lines attached – beyond repair

Grass sweeper – beyond repair

Walk-behind auto scrubber; Tomato Floor Keeper 33/Model 99300

Old snow plow, cutting deck

1991 GMC pickup – VIN 1GKCT18Z7M8518261, tag #200010240009

1992 Chevy utility truck – VIN 1GBJK34K0NE232124,

tag #200010240011

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and JOINT MUNICPAL COOPERATIVE BIDDING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-0 and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

JOINT MUNICIPAL BIDDING PROGRAM COOPERATIVE (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program."

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

BOARD CONFERENCE

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Marion Blane, JoAnn DeLauter, Wendy Gargiulo, Janet Goller, Skip Haile, Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Nina Lanci, Susan Schwartz and John DeTommaso at the Council of PTAs Founders Day Dinner at the Coral House on Monday, March 9, 2015, at a cost of \$46.00 per person. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

RESCIND 11/5/14 RESOLUTION

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution: "WHEREAS, the Board of Education approved resolutions on 11/5/14 concerning the HIP Emblem Plan for first eligible employees under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and for certain eligible employees under the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) and HIP;

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Civil Service has advised that the Department of Civil Services does not object to the offering of the Emblem HIP Prime Plan to employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education rescinds the November 5, 2014 approval of the HIP Emblem Plan."

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

EMBLEM HIP PRIME HMO PLAN

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District currently offers health insurance coverage to certain eligible employees under the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) and HIP; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need to offer health insurance to its eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the School District administration reviewed several health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, upon said review and evaluation, the District administration identified the Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan for enrollment by employees currently eligible for other insurance plans offered by the District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to offer Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan as an

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alternative to those health insurance plans currently offered by the District to eligible employees; and

EMBLEM HIP PRIME HMO PLAN (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any offering of the Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan to eligible employees shall be made in accordance with collective bargaining and/or employment agreements, if applicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to enter into an agreement with Emblem HIP Prime HMO to provide such Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan to eligible School District employees.

WHEREAS, Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District recognizes that employees may be first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need to offer health insurance to its employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the School District administration reviewed several health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, upon said review and evaluation, the District administration identified the Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan for enrollment by employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to offer the Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan to those employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any offering of the Emblem HIP Emblem plan to employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be made in accordance with collective bargaining and/or employment agreements, if applicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to enter into an agreement with Emblem HIP Prime HMO to provide such Emblem HIP Prime HMO plan to School District employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."

Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeanette Deutermann asked Mr. DeTommaso to explain the difference between "AP for all" and "Acceleration for all".

Mr. DeTommaso stated the district is looking into an instructional initiative that will meet individualized learning. "AP for all" is a separate matter. Two other committees are meeting to investigate acceleration in 8th grade. This idea needs more discussion.

Mr. DeTommaso advised Rona Baruch that currently, approximately 40% of 8th grade students take Algebra and Earth Science. The District is examining the possibility of more 8th graders taking these classes and freeing up time in their HS schedules to give the students the opportunity to take other classes.

Mr. DeTommaso advised Mrs. Talarico the classes a student could choose do not have to be AP or college level classes. He stated that this is only framing the discussion and the District anticipates working with the elementary districts in the future.

Mrs. Deutermann requested that the Bellmore-Merrick Board of Education pass a resolution against the Board of Regents mandating field testing.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

Mrs. DeLauter wished everyone a happy holiday and a safe and happy New Year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Schwartz, and carried 7-0, the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:35 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Gargiulo, seconded by Mr. Haile, and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened into Public Session at 9:48 p.m.

AGREEMENT

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education, having reviewed a certain Agreement with a member of the instructional staff, whose identity is known to the Board of Education, hereby accepts the terms of such Agreement and directs the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education, having received a Change Order Proposal for the removal, disposal and/or back-filling of ten existing drainage structures and to supply, place, spread and compact select fill to subgrade elevation for a total cost of \$30,116, hereby approves such change order for Merrick Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-01-0-007-036. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Gargiulo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld District Clerk