

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING October 4, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 4, 2017, 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:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, President  
Nina Lanci, Vice President  
Marion Blane  
Steve Enella  
John Ferrara  
Wendy Gargiulo  
Gina Piskin

The following Board member was not present:

Janet Goller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education  
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Kaplan acknowledged the tragedy in Las Vegas a few days ago with a moment of silence. She welcomed everyone to the October meeting and added it is nice to have the student representatives again this year.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the September 6, 2017 meeting. Mrs. Piskin seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended August 31, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated it's always nice to see so many staff and family members here supporting our students. We do appreciate the support that happens in the district. The school year began well, the buildings look fabulous

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

and school spirit is everywhere. Tonight's first presentation is for a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. This year, the district also had 13 National Merit Commended students.

**2017 NATIONAL  
MERIT SCHOLARSHIP  
SEMI-FINALIST**

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Joy Ma for qualifying as a semi-finalist in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Joy is an engaging, highly self-motivated young woman who possesses a diverse range of interests and strengths. In her summer research program with Dr. Fortier, Joy focused on investigating the efficacy of stem cells in treating osteoarthritis in equine hock joints. She excels academically, maintaining excellent grades, while competing in fencing tournaments throughout the world and captured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2017 Junior Olympics in the Junior Team event and won the March 2017 Cadet Pan American Women's Championship in Cuba. Joy is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a member of the National, Math, Science, Social Studies, Italian and English Honor Societies. She is also an accomplished musician playing the French horn, flute, piano, and even the piccolo at times. She also plays flute for the Nassau-Suffolk Wind Symphony. Ms. Gargiulo congratulated Joy on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. DeTommaso stated we have an incredible Fine and Performing Arts program in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. The display in the Brookside corridors is the work of Kennedy Art teacher Mark Booth.

**NEW YORK STATE  
SCHOOL MUSIC  
ASSN (NYSSMA) –  
ALL STATE**

Dr. Kaplan gave a brief overview of the New York State School Music Association's All State Music Festival stating the steps for selection. Eight Bellmore-Merrick students will travel to Rochester on November 30, 2017 to participate in four days of rehearsals and performances.

Dr. Kaplan presented Award of Honor certificates to Samantha Chrichton for All State Treble Choir, John Duroseau for All State Mixed Choir and Kristina Miller for All State Treble Choir. On behalf of the Board of Education, Dr. Kaplan congratulated these students.

Ms. Gargiulo presented Award of Honor certificates to Julia Bremer for All State Mixed Choir, Maria Fazio also for All State Mix Choir, Doug Gallo for All State Vocal Alternate and Ben Shaposhnikov for All State Symphonic Orchestra. Ms. Gargiulo congratulated them on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Lanci stated our kids are more talented than those on "The Voice." She presented an Award of Honor certificate to Adriana Guarascio for All State Symphonic Orchestra and, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Adriana on her accomplishment.

Mr. DeTommaso stated we are fortunate to have our students receiving these honors every year. He congratulated the students, teachers and parents and urged everyone to attend the concerts and plays throughout the school year. He stated we have four new faces in our Student Representatives to the Board of Education.

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Daniel O'Keefe, a Calhoun HS senior, introduced himself and congratulated tonight's award recipients. He stated Calhoun's Valedictorian and Salutatorian have been announced. The incoming freshmen are eager to be involved. Freshmen and seniors exchanged analyses of the summer reading "Highly Logical Behavior". It is the author's journey through agoraphobia. Sophomores skyped with the author. Challenge Day is this week. Sports and clubs are underway and school spirit is high. Homecoming is next week. Students will hold a Home Run Derby fundraiser on October 21, 2017.

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**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Rachel Katz of Kennedy HS congratulated her fellow representatives, Kennedy's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, National Merit Commended students, Kennedy's sports teams and All State NYSSMA performers. A CHAMP student has been named a Junior Iron Chef in the sauce category. The Freshmen Orientation Program was led by JFK Leadership team. Hurricane relief collections and fundraisers have raised almost \$3,000. Assemblies were held and the Dignity Act was discussed. College and university representatives came to meet with students. The first Captain's Academy workshop was held. JFK's homecoming is later in the month. New student drop off and pick up/parking procedures are in effect.

Jordan Ladd of Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) stated MAP had 27 graduates last year. There are many new classes this year. A Moment of Silence ceremony was held at Brookside's 9/11 memorial. Students have discussed cyber bullying and the humane treatment of animals. MAP students took a trip to the Salt Marsh. Project Care began this week. MAP students are hoping to revive the basketball team. The Community Cupboard was very successful over the summer. It helps 22 families in the Bellmore-Merrick community.

Dr. Bollettieri added the Community Cupboard is currently assisting 22 families biweekly and over 30 families.

Gina Connors of Mepham HS stated she is looking forward to this school year. Freshmen Orientation in late August went well. The building is great. Policies, goal setting and expectations were discussed at assemblies. Mepham held a Moment of Silence on 9/11. Students have made donations to hurricane relief. Students are participating in Fostering Kindness events. A Senior Experience Fair was held last week along with the District College and Financial Aid night. All sporting events accept donations and collect items for the Community Cupboard. Flags for Mepham's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Field of Honor" are available for purchase. She congratulated NYSSMA students, two Student Athletes of the Month, a 2017 graduate on becoming an Eagle Scout, and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. This Spirit Week will culminate in Friday's celebration of Mepham's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a pep rally, bonfire and football game.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the student representatives.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned he has received e-mails regarding BMCHSD's Mission Statement. Our mission statements are "for kids and about kids", "what have you done for a kid today", "the power of Bellmore Merrick", and this year, "to connect with kindness and caring." The district does an excellent job on the academic level and we also do good deeds like the Community Cupboard. He'd like more local control and has discussed a Safe Harmless policy with the Board. Those students who do well on the Regents should get credit while, for those who don't, the 40 weeks of school work will count. He has received many questions about the air conditioning in the buildings and advised the district is waiting until all is ready and not trying to save money. He advised members of the audience to review the future dates listed on the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rona Baruch asked about the start time for the air conditioning in the schools and if Item IX, F on tonight's agenda has anything to do with when the air conditioning/heat will be turned on and was advised they will be turned on when it is ready.

She also asked if there has been any progress in the discussion of a later high school start time. Mr. DeTommaso advised it is still being discussed and added that BMCHSD and component district transportation schedules and cost increase make it tricky. The additional transportation cost estimate is approximately \$800,000. Ms. Gargiulo was advised there would be little impact on after school sports should the change occur.

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

**POLICIES**

BE IT RESOLVED, moved that the Board of Education rescind the resolution approving Policy No. 8110.1 – Video Surveillance on School Property (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)(New) due to an omission in the policy.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following policies:

Policy No. 4301 – Special Education Students (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) (New)

Policy No. 5425 – Automated External Defibrillator (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)  
(Renumbered) (Revised)

Policy No. 8110.1 – Video Surveillance on School Property (3<sup>rd</sup> reading)  
(New)

The Board accepted Policy No. 9460 – Incidental Teaching (1<sup>st</sup> reading) (New) for a first reading.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011047, 000511722, 000511906, 000512061, 030140001, 031190003, 040720003, 042870002, 060130001, 062400010, 082410004, 090560014, 112200000, 121650000, 131261276, 131262038, 201700040, 201700042, 201700066, 201700079, 201700135, 370000231, 370000660, 370000965, 370001129, 370001130, 370001259 and 370001277.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following donations with a total value of \$1,533 to the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard from Boy Scout Jordan Berke: two (2) IKEA Billy bookcases, one (1) Linnmon/Alex desk and seven (7) collection bins.

**DONATIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$10,000 toward the cost of a new Message Board at Kennedy High School from the Bellmore JFK Alumni, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a Goal Shot shooting trainer (SKLZ), valued at \$300, and Recognition Boards for the wrestling room valued at \$5,000, from Calhoun Sports Boosters.

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

Dr. Kaplan mentioned each donation and thanked the contributors. Mr. DeTommaso also thanked everyone for their donations.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated October 4, 2017, as stated in the agenda.

**PERSONNEL**

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

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated October 4, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.

**BILLS**

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

**BIDS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated October 4, 2017.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a budget transfer of up to \$500,000 for the 2016-17 school year:

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

From: A2250 472 00 0000 (Special Ed Tuition) \$300,000  
A2250 490 00 0000 (Special Ed BOCES) 200,000  
To: A9901 950 00 0000 (Inter-fund Transfer to Special Aid Fund) \$500,000  
Special Ed Extended Year Program

To cover Summer

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- BUDGET TRANSFERS (Continued)** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a budget transfer of up to \$500,000 for the 2017-18 school year:  
From: A2250 472 (Special Ed Tuition)  
To: A2250 400 (Contractual)  
To cover Related Services
- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a budget transfer for the 2017-18 school year:  
From: A2110 130 (Contractual) \$46,000  
To: A2110 400 (Salaries) \$46,000  
To cover Physics Consultant - physics teacher replacement
- OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of outdated Psychological and Educational Testing Tools in the Central Office Special Education Department.
- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of 680 outdated Mephram HS Global 9H, AP American History and Living Environment textbooks.
- INDOOR WORKER/STUDENT OCCUPIED SPACE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-affirm the practice of maintaining heat in all indoor worker/student occupied spaces, excluding processing spaces (freezers and coolers) and gymnasiums, at 68° Fahrenheit from October 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, and 65° Fahrenheit from September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- UNDUE BURDEN** WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District has an approved **INDEPENDENT** Annual Professional Performance Review (“APPR”) Plan in place, effective for **EVALUATOR** the 2017-2018 school year;  
**HARDSHIP WAIVER**
- WHEREAS, the District has submitted an Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department since compliance with the independent evaluator requirement would create an undue burden on the District;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies the District’s October 4, 2017 submission of the Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby ratifies the execution of the Hardship Waiver application by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President.
- CHEMICAL HYGIENE OFFICERS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the District Chemical Hygiene Officer for the 2017-2018 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Vernier Software and Technology, to provide professional development on 11/7/2017 at a cost of \$800, funded by the Curriculum Office.

**CONSULTANTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Dr. Max Banivily of PSYCH, Inc., to provide a workshop on Suicide Risk Assessment to our PPS/Guidance Departments on 11/7/2017 at a cost of \$300, funded by the Curriculum Office.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, having reviewed an Agreement involving a member of the non-instructional staff in executive session, hereby approves such Agreement and authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education President to execute such Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**SETTLEMENT AND AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Phase 3 Bond Referendum Projects' change orders:

**CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS**

1. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 1, in the add amount of \$6,100 for Roland
2. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 2, in the add amount of \$17,095 for Roland
3. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 3, in the add amount of \$14,737 for Roland
4. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 5 in the add amount of \$9,228 for Renu
5. Merrick Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-040, Change Order No. 2, in the add amount of \$9,015 for Renu\$6,100 for Roland

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

The Board of Education has received one letter and one e-mail.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Sabana Oza brought up the issue of adding an EID holiday to the school calendar. She provided a 30 year schedule of EID holidays to Mr. DeTommaso.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Kaplan introduced Mr. Caballero's powerpoint presentation regarding Mr. DeTommaso's induction into the Nassau County Hall of Fame. Mr. Caballero gave a brief summary of Mr. DeTommaso's athletic history and added he was a four time member of the USA Lacrosse team and won the gold cup. Mr. Caballero presented Mr. DeTommaso with a keepsake, a framed photograph of Mr. DeTommaso playing lacrosse.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Ms. Garguilo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk