

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING May 2, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 2, 2018, 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  
Janet Goller

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Gina Piskin

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 Personnel 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  
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Tom Volpe, Director of Transportation/Security & Employee Safety Officer  
Ken Zisel, Assistant Principal of Districtwide Services  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:05p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, welcomed everyone and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the April 9, 2018 meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended March 31, 2018. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Kaplan honored a student's request to speak. Ian Kranis thanked the Superintendent, administration and the Board of Education and congratulated Dr. Kaplan's upon her appointment to the Community Council. He presented her with the framed newspaper article. He asked Board of Education student representative Rachel Katz to the prom and she accepted.

Dr. Kaplan stated a tenure reception was held earlier this evening marking this milestone in Bellmore-Merrick's teachers' and administrators' lives. They have become part of our family forever.

## **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education move up the Personnel agenda item and that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated May 2, 2018, as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was passed 7-0.

Dr. Bollettieri congratulated those receiving tenure and also the newly approved teachers.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated tonight's tenure recipients and welcomed the new teachers. He formally introduced Gerry Owenberg as Principal of Kennedy High School starting July 1, 2018. Mr. Owenberg's parents were in the audience. Mr. Owenberg stated he is happy to be a part of the Bellmore-Merrick family.

Dr. Kaplan stated she is thrilled that Mr. Owenberg will be the next principal of Kennedy High School and thanked his parents.

## **STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

Students from each of the district's schools who are involved in the Ambassador Program gave a history of the program and a review of this year's accomplishments. They meet quarterly and spread the One Voice, One Message theme throughout the district. They are involved in the Community Cupboard, participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service, attend Human Relations Conference at Adelphi, tour the United Nations to understand its goals, hold many fundraisers and help each district school to qualify to become an Anti-Defamation League "No Place for Hate" school among other endeavors. Dr. Bollettieri had the committee members stand up to be recognized. She stated these student ambassadors have motivated the community to come together making the world a better place.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Board, administrative team and the schools. He advised beginning in June, the district will open Wellness Centers at our two middle schools. These Wellness Centers will be open from 3:00-6:00 PM and staffed by psychologist, guidance counselors in partnership with hospitals. Students and parents will be able to deal with a wide variety of issues from scheduling problems and meetings with parents to counseling. The 2018-2019 School Budget provides for four new guidance counselors and three psychologists per high school. He thanked the Board, BMUST, Guidance Aps and the administrative teams for making this happen. He is looking forward to seeing this in action. Dr. Kaplan thanked Mr. DeTommaso on behalf of the Board for his leadership.

Mr. DeTommaso stated he is excited about this. It is game-changing and he appreciates the support. He mentioned some of the dates listed in the agenda and encouraged everyone to attend district activities and to view the artwork on display in the Central Office corridors tonight.

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Daniel O'Keefe of Calhoun stated April has been a busy month. There were additional National Honor Society inductees and the Blue and Gray Concerts were held. Calhoun students participated in a music competition held in Virginia Beach and were awarded many honors. Those students also performed at the Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Fashion Show is scheduled for tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM and proceeds will go to this year's charity, [www.generosity.org](http://www.generosity.org). Spring sports teams have been very successful and DECA students traveled to Atlanta where they received several recognitions.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Rachel Katz of Kennedy was flustered by Ian's promposal. She congratulated Kennedy's tenure recipients. The Spring Concert and Spring Art Show were incredible. Kennedy's Virtual Enterprise (VE) team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. A blood drive was held this past month and ten students qualified for National Merit Scholarship. She congratulated the Cultural Arts winners. A STEM Fair was held and additional students were inducted into the National Honor Society. The Cougar Invitational Track and Field event was held this past weekend. The Senior Fashion Show is scheduled for this week. She also congratulated Mr. Owenberg.

Gina Connors of Mepham also congratulated tenured recipients, stated additional students were inducted into the National Honor Society and named Mepham's Students of the Month. Sports teams are doing extremely well and four athletes competed in a Penn State University competition. Mepham's orchestra also competed at Virginia Beach and received awards. Students' work was presented at the Long Island Science Congress. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "So You Think You Can Dance" was held. Videos of these events can be found at Mepham Broadcasting. A self-defense program, health career options fair and the NYC Scavenger Hunt are upcoming. Two students competed in an Italian Poetry Recitation competition. LGBT is hosting a cultural night this month.

Mr. DeTommaso stated all six district schools have been designed as "No Place for Hate" schools by the Anti-Defamation League.

Jordan Ladd of the Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) advised students had a trip to Sagamore Hill. Students are working on the green house and food from the hydroponic garden has been given to the Community Cupboard. Students attended a live production at the Port Jefferson Theatre. Leadership class students went to the Newbridge Road School. Yesterday was College Decision Day and students and staff wore their school's clothing. She announced she is this year's Valedictorian and Chazz Opperman is the Salutatorian.

There were none on agenda items only.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011027, 000511906, 000512331, 071210000, 112200000, 121650000, 131262416, 201600043, 201600254, 201700008, 201700058, 370001160, 370001821 and 999011268.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for School Year 2018-2019.

**POLICY** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Policy No. 5440 – Drug and Alcohol Abuse (revised) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

**DONATIONS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,305.33 from Mark Mobius, Mepham alumni, Class of 1954, to be used for a reading nook in the Mepham HS Library.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,530 from H & F Athletics, Inc. dba Carefree Racquet Club to the Community Cupboard.

Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Dr. Kaplan read the donations and thanked the contributors for their generosity.

Dr. Kaplan advised we will be honoring our school district’s retirees at our June 6, 2018 regular meeting. All members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2017-2018 school year will be invited to attend this reception.

**BILLS** The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 2, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS** Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY** The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated May 2, 2018.

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

**2017-18 BUDGETED RESERVES** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the payment of sick leave for retirees in the 2017-2018 school year in an amount up to \$600,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Retirement Reserve for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Employee Retirement System in the 2017-2018 school year in an amount up to \$2,023,600.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of Funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the payment of sick leave for retirees in the 2018-2019 school year in an amount up to \$600,000.

**2018-19 BUDGETED  
RESERVES AND  
PROPERTY TAX  
REPORT CARD**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Retirement Reserve for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Employee Retirement System in the 2018-2019 school year in an amount up to \$2,142,723.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Workers Compensation Reserve for payment of Workers Compensation expense in the 2018-2019 school year in an amount up to \$250,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Reserve for Tax Reduction to reduce taxes and fund appropriations in the 2018-2019 school year in an amount up to \$2,200,000.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2018-19 Property Tax Report Card.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of April 2018 and authorizes the publication on the District website.

**RESERVE PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2018-2019 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

**TEXTBOOK  
DISTRIBUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with East Meadow Driving School for the provision of In-Car Driver Education instruction, with vehicles, for the summer, fall and spring semesters of the 2018-2019 school year. Per student cost will remain at \$560.00.

**DRIVERS'  
EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve year 1 of a 3 year extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for School Year 2018-2019 at full C.P.I., and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extension. Extension parameters listed include large bus and van contracts in all categories, athletic and charter trips to be included.

**TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with First Student, We Transport Inc., Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc., Acme Bus Corporation, Baumann Bus Company, Inc., Veterans Bus and Educational Bus Transportation, Inc. for Summer 2018 beginning July 2018 and School Year 2018-2019 at full C.P.I.,

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**TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSIONS  
(Continued)**

and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extensions. The extension parameters listed include large buses, vans, matron service and field and athletic trips.

**EDUCATION DATA  
SERVICE, INC.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Education Data Service, Inc. for software licensing and maintenance services for the NY/Island Cooperative supply bids at a cost of \$9,130, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$1,990, for the 2018-19 school year.

**NEW YORK/ISLAND  
COOPERATIVE BID**

WHEREAS, it would be in the joint interest of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and the following school districts (*SEE ATTACHED LISTING*) to participate in cooperative bids for the purchase of various supplies, services, materials and equipment, as advertised by and awarded by the Clarkstown Central School District acting as the Lead Agency, as provided by General Municipal Law Section 119-0, and,

WHEREAS, each BOARD retains the legal authority to contract with the successful Vendor(s) and shall not be bound by purchase contracts or other agreements made by the other BOARD(S),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby agrees to participate with the attached named school districts in such cooperative bids.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM  
SCREENINGS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign a renewal agreement with LIJ Medical Center, Cohen Children's Medical Center, to provide echocardiogram and EKG screenings for BMCHSD middle school students.

**CONSTRUCTION  
CHANGE ORDER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects Phase 3 Change Orders:

- a. Merrick Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-040, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$19,234.24 for Ultimate Power.
- b. Calhoun HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-049, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$5,000.00 for Ultimate Power
- c. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-038, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$14,281.65 for Ultimate Power.
- d. Mephram HS, SED. No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 4 in the deduct amount of \$20,000.00 for Ultimate Power.
- e. Merrick Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-040, Change Order No. 2 in the deduct amount of \$750 for Roland.
- f. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-038, Change Order No. 3 in the deduct amount of \$2,500 for Roland.

**CONSULTANTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Coda Event Service, LLC, to provide sound services for JFK's spring concerts for three sessions at \$98.00 per session, not to exceed \$294.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, NDA – National Dance Alliance, for summer camp, technique and choreography training with the Mephram Varsity Kickline team on 6/27/18-6/29/18, at a cost of \$205 per kickliner, not to exceed \$4,155 funded by Kickline G.O.

**CONSULTANTS  
(Continued)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for the use of one (1) classroom at Kennedy High School from 9/1/18 – 6/30/19 at a rental rate of \$7,529.13 annually and \$1,592.26 annually per student in connection with mainstreaming.

**BOCES OF NASSAU CO.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a “Twilight Alternative High School Program” at Brookside for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about 9/12/2018 through 6/30/2019 at costs listed therein.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of the following people at the Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts Luncheon at the Long Island Marriott Hotel in Uniondale on May 24, 2018 at a cost of \$48.00 per person: John DeTommaso, Mrs. Goller, Dr. Kaplan and Mrs. Piskin.

**ATTENDANCE  
FUNCTIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of the following people at the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers’ 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Dance at the Woodbury Country Club on June 13, 2018 at a cost of \$65.00 per person: John DeTommaso, Mr. Ferrara, Mrs. Goller, Ms. Gargiulo Dr. Kaplan, Mrs. Lanci and Mrs. Piskin.

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

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Rona Baruch asked about the status of changing the school start times.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sabana Oza asked about adding Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Ted Tanenbaum questioned the Superintendent’s remarks regarding previous Boards of Education. He questioned how the proceeds from the sale of Jerusalem Avenue will be used. He asked if the district would consider using the proceeds from Jerusalem Avenue to pay off the bond. He stated since all districts pay into BOCES, this district will still be paying for Jerusalem Avenue.

Mrs Goller moved that the Board of Education convene the public hearing for the 2018-2019 School Budget. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING –  
2018-19 BUDGET**

Mrs. Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent of Business, gave a brief Powerpoint presentation. The combined total of the three part 2018-2019

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budget is \$159,788,043. Benefits, debt service and retirement contributions have increased. The district will receive approximately \$1,000,000 in New York State aide. Proposition II is funded by a reserve and will have no tax impact. The tax levy is at .265 and budget to budget is 3.98. A Contingent Budget would require the removal of \$3,000,000 from the budget.

Dr. Kaplan thanked Mrs. Freeman and her staff.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

Dr. Kaplan wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and reminded everyone that the Budget Vote is May 15, 2018. She encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a confidential matter at 9:10 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk