

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MAY 5, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 5, 2021, in the Auditorium 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:

Gina Piskin, President  
Edward Corona, Vice President  
Marion Blane  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Tracey Miller

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Melissa Cmar-Grote

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:23 p.m. to discuss COVID-19 related issues, the budget, moving up and graduation ceremonies, personnel matters and tenured employees.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:12 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Piskin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the April 7, 2021 and April 20, 2021 meetings.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2021.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

Nassau County Champions Calhoun Boys Cross Country

Lucas Ahrens	Logan Bader	Matthew Belmonte
Joseph Bilardello	Christopher Burke	Joseph Ciniglio
Sean Condenzio	Thomas Donohue	James Edom
John Edom	Gavin Giordano	Daniel Glassser
William Hughes	Alexander Ibrahim	Daniel Islas
Logan Koenig	Aiden Kopelman	Douglass McDonough
Daniel Pietraniello	Alexander Rosario	Logan Schaeffler
Peter John Schramm	John Schwab	Jonathan Sferratore
Matthew Siedlewicz	Ajay Singh	Jeremy Sirof
Kenan Yavuz	Mert Yolseven	

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the Calhoun Boys Cross Country on earning the title of Nassau County Champions.

Mr. Corona said that this season was magical for Calhoun Cross Country. From the closing of school last March to the beginning of the season this March, the team had only one goal and that was to win a County Championship. After many months of training, the Colt team, with no apparent races in the future, adopted a quote to train by: "Hold the vision and trust the process". This quote helped to remind them to not lose focus even through the toughest times. Their vision has come true and this was truly a magical year.

Mr. DeTommaso also congratulated the boys volleyball team who defeated Bethpage to become the Nassau County Champions, adding that we will recognize the team in June.

Mr. DeTommaso said this week is appreciation week for teachers, principals, educators and nurses. He thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the parents for their support and the kids for doing what needed to be done so that we were able to remain open with in-person classes since September. Mr. DeTommaso said that we are looking forward to a strong end of the year. He said that this has been an incredible year of leadership and he congratulated the teachers and administrators that received tenure this evening. He knows that these educators are going to continue to do amazing things in the future.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed the incredible things that have gone on in the past month such as getting through the sports seasons, arts and plays. It is unprecedented that we had five National Merit winners and six National Merit Finalists last month but what is more amazing is that earlier today, we found out that the sixth National Merit Finalist also won! Mr. DeTommaso also explained that every year the Nassau County Coalition of Superintendents gives a scholarship to a student that wants to pursue a career in education. Nicole Devlin of Calhoun High School won this scholarship by submitting the winning essay and Mr. DeTommaso is of course, very proud.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed COVID-19 and noted that we are seeing less positive cases. He said that the infection rate in Nassau County is about 1.6% and it is dropping at about .1% daily. He stressed the importance of remaining cautious because the virus is still here and we must continue with safety protocols. He said it is great to be back in person for this Board of Education meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Future Dates

May 13	Superintendent's Conference Day-No School for Students
May 18	School Budget Vote
May 31	Memorial Day-Schools Closed
June 2	Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Information Item

We will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 2, 2021 regular meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items VII.B.1 and VII.B.2.

B. Donation

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$265.00 from Bellmore Merrick United Secondary Teachers for the community cupboard.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,954.00 from Mephram High School Alumni Class of 1954 for the Mephram High School Library and increase the appropriations budget by the same amount.

Ms. Piskin and Mr. DeTommaso thanked them for the donations. He noted how special it is that the class from 1954 continues to support the district and also that the Community Cupboard has continued to feed families.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items VII.C through VIII.M.

C. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):  
000010352, 000010699, 000011683, 000011745, 000011922, 000011932, 000012026,  
000012061, 000012556, 000012615, 000012719, 000012826, 000012866, 000012938,  
000012972, 000013128, 000512131, 000512404, 000512433, 000512453, 000512891,  
000512917, 000512989, 000514076, 000514267, 131261297, 131261367, 181910091,  
192010274, 201700061, 201900155, 202000103, 202000175, 202110594, 202110663,  
370001235, 370001544, 370001585, 370001757, 370001798.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – May 5, 2021

- A. Tenure Recommendations
- B. Terminations
- C. Resignations
- D. Appointments
- E. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- F. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- G. Salary Reclassification
- H. Leave Requests
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- J. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- K. Assigned Services – Spring – Athletics - Cancellation
- L. Assigned Services – Winter – Athletics
- M. Assigned Services – Spring – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrants dated May 5, 2021  
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.

- B. Bids  
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

- C. Budget Summary dated April 30, 2021  
The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items IX.D through IX.Q.

- D. 2021-2022 Budgeted Reserves and Property Tax Report Card  
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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 school year in an amount up to \$2,500,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Teachers' Retirement Reserve Sub-Fund for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Teacher' Retirement System in the 2021-2022 school year in an amount up to \$1,000,000.

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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 school year in an amount up to \$1,700,000.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2021-2022 Property Tax Report Card.

E. 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., BOCES Transportation and Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc. for Summer 2021 beginning July 2021, and school year 2021-2022 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 extensions. The extension parameters listed include large buses, vans, matron service and field and athletic trips.

F. Textbook Distribution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2021-2022 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

G. 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 \$9,300, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$2,000 for the 2021-2022 school year.

H. 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.

I. BOCES of Nassau County

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 9/1/2021 – 6/30/2022 at a rental rate of \$7,999.00 for the ten-month period and \$1,691.00 annually per student in connection with mainstreaming.

J. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of desktops, laptops, Chromebooks, printers, iPads, projectors and other technology equipment located throughout the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal a 2001 Pick Up Truck, VIN# 3B7KF26671M283879.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of outdated Social Studies Textbooks at Calhoun High School.

K. 913 Resolution

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law Section 913, that an instructional employee, whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is directed to report for an examination in order to determine the capacity of such person to perform his/her duties. Said examination will be conducted by Dr. Randall Solomon at his office located at 55 Nesconset Highway, Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776 on June 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., and/or any subsequent days that Dr. Solomon may require.

L. Federal Single Audit

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, 2020.

M. BOCES Technology Program Contract

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District 40-78528 desires to enter into a 5 year contract with the Nassau BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 532 Instructional Technology Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$1,342,446.80 which is inclusive of related estimated borrowing fees, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period from 5-7-2021 to 5-6-2026.

N. SEQRA Resolution – Sanford H. Calhoun High School: Proposed Renovation to Cosmetology Room

RECOMMENDED ACTION: “that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education approves the following resolution:”

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Sanford H. Calhoun High School proposed full renovation of the Cosmetology Room as well as the connecting Locker and Storage Rooms (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole listed in attachment A hereto is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and therefore requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy

of the NYS Office of Park's, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Project Review Exemption Based on the Letter of Resolution.

O. Memorandum of Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby approves and ratifies the attached Memorandum of Agreement dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 by and between the negotiation representatives of the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO-Nassau Educational Local 865 Unit IV-Clerical and the negotiating representatives of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.

P. Transportation - Eastern Suffolk BOCES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Contract Modification Agreement with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for transportation services to and from Jefferson Academic Center from April 2021 to June 30, 2021 at a rate of \$2,000.00 per month for a three-month period, or \$6,000 for 1 student for the remaining of the 2020-2021 school year.

Q. VidCruiter, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a subscription agreement with VidCruiter, Inc. to provide video interviewing and tracking services at an annual cost of \$7,300.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Piskin stated the Board of Education did not receive correspondence.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tara Casimano asked about removing the plexi-glass barriers between the students and teachers. Mr. DeTommaso said that the Board of Education has been discussing this and are currently developing a plan to remove them.

Meredith Petry thanked the district for opening with in-person learning in September and asked about removing the barriers. She also wants to know if there is a plan in place for student use of lockers. Mr. DeTommaso said they have a plan. Mr. Harrington explained that the reason we have been so successful this year is our re-opening committees. He said that we already started our re-opening committees for next year. We are looking at our classrooms and realize they are not 100% conducive to learning and that we need kids to connect with their teachers and friends and the barriers stop that. The committees are also looking at bringing back lockers, perhaps grade by grade, but it is most important that kids don't congregate at the lockers. Mr. Harrington assured everyone that we are 100% committed to having things improve and we are looking forward to a more normal school year.

Kellie Shuart asked about the positivity rate of kids that have been in quarantine and if there are any new people on the re-opening committee. Mr. DeTommaso said that it is very difficult to determine the positivity rate in school but said that it is very low if any at all. Most of the student positivity is happening outside of school and from carpooling. Mr. Harrington explained that new people have joined the re-opening committees.

Kellie Shuart further asked why proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results are required to attend prom. Mr. DeTommaso explained that there have been many conversations about this

topic but that the District is only following guidance. He agrees with Ms. Shuart and doesn't understand the inconsistencies between attendance in school attendance and prom but we have to follow the regulations in place. He urged her to write to Governor Cuomo, Senator Brooks, Assemblyman David McDonough and the NYS Department of Health.

Ms. Shuart inquired about the procedures in place during a lockdown situation. Mr. Harrington said that during drills this year, students are asked to remain in their seats and of course, in a real situation they would have to react differently. Ms. Piskin said that we are hopeful that next September things will be getting back to normal. Mr. Harrington explained that the district believes in in-person instruction and that we are going to be prepared for the social/emotional needs and the instructional needs. He said we are looking into new ways for teachers to connect with kids successfully.

XIII. MOTION TO CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING – 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved into the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 School Budget.

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business thanked the Board of Education for their support every year, which allows us to put kids first. She also thanked Mr. DeTommaso for his leadership. She stated his vision to invest in our students is truly remarkable. She gave a presentation on the proposed 2021/2022 school budget of \$170,160,406. The budget goals are to maintain programs and services, support social and emotional well-being and also maintaining and improving our buildings and school grounds. She further explained that the 2021/2022 budget has a tax levy increase of 1.45%, which is under the tax cap and is the lowest tax levy increase in ten years. This budget maintains all programs and staffing and also provides resources for students such as the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative, district-wide wireless access points plus renovations and improvements in the Cosmetology classroom at Calhoun High School. Our 2021/2022 proposed school budget maintains our special programs and includes some program enhancements. In addition, the three million dollar increase in State Aid allows us to reduce the appropriation of fund balance and improves our overall financial situation. Ms. Coni projects that 2.2 million dollars will be spent this year on COVID-19 related expenditures which was not budgeted, so the increase in State Aid is very good for the district. She explained that the three-part budget is comprised of Administration, Programs and Capital components which have remained consistent year to year. Ms. Coni reminded everyone to please vote on May 18, 2021 at their elementary school district. She said all of the budget information is available online and thanked everyone for their support.

Ms. Piskin and Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Coni and her team for doing an outstanding job on this budget.

XIV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,