

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JULY 13, 2021

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An organizational meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, July 13, 2021, in the Auditorium of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Marion Blane  
Melissa Cmar-Grote  
Edward Corona  
Janet Goller  
Nina Lanci  
Gina Piskin  
Tracey Miller

The following member of the Board of Education was not present:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss Board of Election appointments, personnel matters and school reopening plans.

The meeting was called to order by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk at 7:17 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Guccione announced the appointments to the Board of Education for the 2021-2022 School year:

Bellmore UFSD	Marion Blane, Janet Goller
Merrick UFSD	Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Gina Piskin
North Bellmore UFSD	Melissa Cmar-Grote, Nina Lanci
North Merrick UFSD	Edward Corona, Tracey Miller

IV. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guccione asked for nominations for the position of President of the Board of Education. Ms. Lanci moved to nominate Mr. Corona and Ms. Blane seconded. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. Guccione administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Corona.

V. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guccione asked for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Corona moved to nominate Ms. Lanci and Ms. Goller seconded. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. Guccione administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lanci.

Mrs. Guccione turned the meeting over to Mr. Corona who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items VI.A through VII.D.2.

VI. APPOINTMENTS:

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointments and salaries of the following for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Appointment of School District Auditor
2. Appointment of Treasurer
3. Appointment of Data Protection Officer
4. Appointment of District Clerk
5. Appointment of Deputy Treasurer
6. Appointment of Records Access Officer
7. Appointment of Records Retention and Disposition Officer
8. Appointment of Title IX Coordinator
9. Appointment of Section 504 Coordinator
10. Appointment of Asbestos Compliance Officer
11. Appointment of Purchasing Agent
12. Appointment of Acting Purchasing Agent
13. Appointment of Property Control Manager
14. Appointment of Medicaid Compliance Officer
15. Appointment of Payroll Certification Officer
16. Appointment of 403 (b) Liaison
17. Appointment of Chief Emergency Officer
18. Appointment of Chemical Hygiene Officer
19. Appointment of Faculty Officer
20. Appointment of District Wellness Coordinators

VII. DEPOSITORIES FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following banks as depositories for school funds:

1. Chase Bank, Bellmore – Operating and Investment Accounts
2. First National Bank of Long Island – Operating and Investment Accounts
3. MBIA Class – New York – Cooperative Liquid Assets Security System – Investments
4. M&T Bank – Collateral Accounts
5. Metropolitan Commercial Bank, New York – Operating and Investment Accounts

VIII. CHECK SIGNATURES

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign all checks pertaining to school funds and that the District Clerk's signature be used as an alternate.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business to certify all payrolls for the 2021-2022 school year.

IX. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY INSURANCE

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will maintain a blanket Public Employee Dishonesty insurance policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.

X. OFFICIAL DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the designation of Bellmore Herald Life and Merrick Herald Life as official District newspapers. (Ed. Law 2004)
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the designation of Newsday as the official District newspaper only for the purposes of the Nassau County Transportation Consortium, the Nassau County Directors of Facilities Purchasing Consortium and the Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2, 2021 and June 14, 2021

XII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT - May 31, 2021

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington congratulated Mr. Corona and Ms. Lanci. He thanked Ms. Piskin for her leadership last year. He also thanked the Bellmore-Merrick community and Board of Education for the incredible opportunity he has been given by being appointed as the Superintendent of Schools and said that he is looking forward to a great year.

Mr. Harrington reflected on the graduations and moving up ceremonies last month, saying they were amazing and that it was a great end to a very challenging year. Mr. Harrington discussed the many obstacles that we faced over the past year and how we overcame all of the challenges, thanks to the support of the community and staff. He said the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD worked over the summer last year and was one of the first districts to offer in person instruction with options of three different learning models. As COVID-19 cases went up, we were still able to offer full intramural sports, clubs, concerts and events like the Hack-A-thon in cyber security because the district believes that kids need their school and need to feel connected to it. Mr. Harrington called this one of the greatest years in education history because of what we overcame.

Mr. Harrington said that the latest guidance from the NYS Governor and NYS Department of Health allows the district to treat summer school the same way that camps and daycare are treated, which allowed us to change to a mask optional policy for summer programs. Having students unmasked has been phenomenal. Mr. Harrington said that NYS has only made this decision for summer school and we are awaiting for official guidance for September.

Mr. Harrington said that the district’s re-opening committee has been in discussion for months regarding September and we are fully prepared. He said the social/emotional well-being of our kids is a top priority and that we do not know the long-term effects the past year has had on our kids but we are well prepared. The district has a partnership with Northwell/South Oaks and we will have a counselor in each school, every Wednesday for the next six weeks. Mr. Harrington also said that we must re-acclimate our home-schooled kids into coming back for in-person learning. Mr. Harrington said that he is looking forward to a more normal opening for next year and we will contact parents and families as soon as we have new guidance from NYS.

Mr. Harrington congratulated the Mepham Girls Softball team on their Long Island Championship. He also congratulated Coach Dolan, Coach Simone and Mr. Caballero. Mr. Harrington congratulated Coach Dolan who was named “NYS Coach of the Year”. He said that he is very proud of the team’s perseverance and their grit to overcome the challenges they faced this year. He also thanked the parents for their support.

Ms. Lanci congratulated the softball team and coaches. Award of Honor certificates were presented to the team by Mr. Caballero and Coach Simon.

A. Presentations

Long Island Champions – Mepham Girls Varsity Softball

Isabela Cruz	Dominique DeLutri	Giselle DeLutri
Brianna Gonzalez	Hailey Guerrero	Kerri Hatcliffe
Gianna LaSpina	Alexis LoFrese	Gia Miccio
Alanna Morse	Sera Muoio	Kylie Persampire
Gianna Rosser	Kayleigh Roth	Kristina Trupo
Lily Yopez		

Mr. Harrington mentioned the future dates.

B. Future Dates

August 4	Board of Education Meeting
August 24	7 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
August 30-31	Superintendent’s Conference Day
September 1	First Day of School
	Board of Education Meeting
September 3-6	Labor Day Weekend

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - *Agenda Items Only*

Mr. Corona stated any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, by which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items XV.A through XVII.I.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Policies

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-adopt all policies and Code of Ethics in effect during the 2020-2021 school year for the 2021-2022 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy for a first reading:  
Policy No. 6645 – Capital Assets Accounting (Revised)

Mr. Corona explained that the revision in Policy No. 6645 is to raise the amount of the threshold in furniture and equipment for accounting purposes.

- B. Impartial Hearing Officers (IHOs)  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the list of Impartial Hearing Officers (IHO) as maintained by the New York State Education Department Impartial Hearing Reporting System IHO Rotational List or the 2021-2022 school year.
- C. Standard Work Day  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reaffirm the standard workday at seven (7) hours.
- D. Treasurer  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the position of Treasurer as a Public Officer and employee and that the appointment of the Treasurer is a one (1) year term commencing July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- E. Fall 2021 New Adult Education Courses  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended new Fall 2021 Adult Education courses.
- F. Dignity Act
  1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Dignity Act upon the recommendation of the district-wide school-based planning and Shared Decision-making Committee.
  2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointments of the recommended 2021-2022 Dignity Act coordinators in each of the district schools.
- G. Days of Religious Observance (DRO) for State Aid/Average Daily Attendance-REVISION  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the exclusion of days of religious observance from the calculation of 2021-2022 average daily attendance as determined by the student attendance computer programs.
- H. Special Education
  1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended appointments to the Summer Committee on Special Education.
  2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for the 2021-2022 school year.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011333, 000011655, 000012021, 000012110, 000012195, 000012460, 000012693, 000012938, 000012972, 000013128, 000013225, 000015869, 000512127, 000512135, 000512136, 000512320, 000512411, 000512453, 000512531, 000512932, 000513372, 000513376, 060130001, 060480003, 060940002, 070440001, 070520030, 070940008, 070940019, 071700001, 071910005, 081280001, 081970002, 082140000, 090220000, 090780009, 090890000, 091340001, 091380007, 091680001, 101130001, 111010003, 131261232, 131261367, 131261650, 131261996, 131262416, 131262432, 131262857, 131263295, 131263714, 181910061, 181910157, 201600167, 201700005, 201700008, 201700017, 201700018, 201700040, 201700106, 201700156, 201800116, 201900009, 202000037, 202000148, 202111305, 370001241, 370001263, 370001623, 370001627, 370001757, 370001834, 992450184, 998010448, DEL13112-.

XVI. PERSONNEL REPORT – July 13, 2021

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Salary Reclassification
- E. Cancellation
- F. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- G. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- H. Assigned Services – Athletics – Spring 2021
- I. Assigned Services – Athletics – Fall 2021

XVII. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated July 13, 2021  
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.
- B. Bids  
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.
- C. Budget Summary dated June 30, 2021  
The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved items XVII.D through XVII.AE.

- D. District Owned Cell Phones  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the list of job titles requiring cellular phones for the 2021-2022 school year.
- E. External Auditor  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Cullen & Danowski, LLP for External Auditor services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 at an annual cost of \$48,900, and the option to renew for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 205 and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business to sign an engagement letter.

F. Internal Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal agreement with QUESTAR III to perform internal auditing services and one risk assessment from 7/1/21 through and including 6/30/22 at a cost of \$22,150.

G. Claims Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its president to sign an agreement on behalf of the Board of Education with Nawrocki Smith, LLP for the duties and responsibilities of Claims Auditor for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for fiscal year ended 6/30/22 at a cost not to exceed \$27,000.

H. Legal Services - 2021-2022 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP to provide legal counsel in the amount of \$28,650 annually for Board counsel services and \$23,725 annually for Labor counsel services and \$235 per hour for additional legal services for the period 7/1/21-6/30/22.

I. Third Party Administrators

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following as Third Party Administrators for fiscal year ending 6/30/22 at the indicated rates:

1. Wright Risk (Workers' Compensation) \$41,500.00
2. USI (unemployment cost control services) \$ 4,400.00
3. Western Suffolk BOCES (flex plan) \$ 55.00 per participant per year

J. Insurance Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following insurance services providers:

1. NYSIR Comprehensive Coverage
2. Edwards & Co. Pupil Benefits (student accident)
3. J. Flynn Insurance Agency Group life and disability; dental insurance
4. Sterling & Sterling Excess Coverages:
  - a. Excess Workers' Compensation
  - b. Excess Flood & Earthquake
  - c. Cyber Data Compromise

K. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Tri-State REACH, Inc. to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to its eligible employees.

L. Nassau BOCES Cooperative Transportation Bid

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the results of the 6/24/21 Nassau BOCES Cooperative Transportation Bid and award the contracts based on BOCES' recommendation. BOCES recommended that, based on the detail information included in the bid (item specifications and unit price), the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidders meeting specifications for Non Public and Special Education Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year.

M. Affordable Care Act Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Seneca Consulting Group from 7/1/21–6/30/22 for the provision of Affordable Care Act consulting services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

N. Bellmore-Merrick Child Care

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign a one year lease agreement with Bellmore-Merrick Child Care Program for the use of space at the Brookside School from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$14,389.98 and authorize its President to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

O. Asset Inventory Software

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with AssetWorks to provide support of the district's Asset Inventory software from 7/1/21 – 6/30/22 at an annual cost of \$1,450.00.

Reimbursement for Attendance Functions

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6830 permits school district employees, officials and members of the Board of Education to be reimbursed for reasonable, actual and necessary out of pocket expenses which are legally authorized and incurred while traveling for school related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools determined that Central Office Administrators were required to attend certain functions in the best interest of the School District, including the BMUST Retirement/Annual Dinner, Nassau BOCES Awards Dinner, PTA Founders Day, Cultural Arts Luncheon, JFK Hall of Fame Awards Dinner; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board of Education in the best interest of the School District also attended such functions; and

WHEREAS, Central Office Administrators and Board Members attended and paid for said events; and

WHEREAS, such expenses are eligible for reimbursement, pursuant to Board Policy 6830.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes reimbursement to Central Office Administration and Board members for their attendance at said events; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Business or her designee to process said reimbursement.

Q. Athletic Trainer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Professional Athletic Training Services, PLLC, to provide athletic trainer services from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$118,500.

- R. Safe Schools Training Agreement  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve and agreement with Vector Solutions, to provide Safe Schools Training from July 15, 2021 through July 14, 2022 at a cost of \$7,650.
- S. BOCES-Twilight Program  
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 September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at costs listed therein.
- T. Third Party Administrator  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Omni Group to continue as Plan Administrator for the district’s 403(b) plan for the 2021-2022 year.
- U. Facilities Use Fees  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended fees for the use of school facilities for School Year 2021-2022.
- V. Petty Cash Funds  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education establishes the following petty cash funds for the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD for the 2021-2022 school year:
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| Principal, Grand Avenue Middle School              | \$100 |
| Principal, Merrick Avenue Middle School            | \$100 |
| Principal, Calhoun High School                     | \$100 |
| Principal, Kennedy High School                     | \$100 |
| Principal, Mephram High School                     | \$100 |
| Business Office, Asst. Superintendent for Business | \$100 |
| Adult Education, Director                          | \$100 |
- W. North Merrick Public Library LIPA PILOT Settlement  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby approves the terms of the settlement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, the North Merrick Union Free School District and the North Merrick Public Library regarding certain payments to the North Merrick Public Library in connection with LIPA payments in lieu of taxes (“LIPA PILOTS”), which settlement terms were reviewed by the Board in executive session;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such approval by the Board of Education is conditioned upon, and subject to: (1) the preparation of a formal written settlement agreement by District Counsel incorporating the settlement terms; (2) the approval and execution of the formal settlement agreement by the Board of Education of the North Merrick Union Free School District; and (3) the approval and execution of the formal settlement agreement by the Board of Trustees of the North Merrick Public Library;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is herewith authorized to execute a formal settlement agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of said settlement agreement on behalf of the Board of Education, provided the conditions hereinabove are fully satisfied.

- X. Nassau County Senior Center Lease  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an amendment to the agreement with EAC, Inc. for the lease of space in the Brookside School Building for use as a senior citizen community center for the period 7/1/21 through 6/30/22.
- Y. Obsolete/Surplus Property  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of one hair dryer and two projectors at Calhoun High School.
- Z. Bus Driver Compliance Testing  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Fran Bacon to provide Bus Driver Compliance Testing required by NYS DMV under Section 19A from 7/1/21 -6/30/22 at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00.
- AA. East Meadow Driving School  
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 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$485.00 per student.
- AB. Budget Transfer  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approves the following budget transfer to cover 2020-2021 school year expenses:
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| From: A2110.130-00-0000 (Teachers' Salaries, 7-12) | \$136,536.00 |
| To: A2110.140-00-0000 (Substitutes, District)      | \$136,536.00 |
- To cover costs for substitutes.
- AC. Attendance Function  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools attendance at the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) 2021 Fall Leadership Summit from September 25 through September 28, 2021.
- AD. TEMPO
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement with TEMPO for the use of space at Brookside from 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022.
  2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with TEMPO to provide five social workers at each district school from 9/3/2021-6/30/2022.
- AE. TLC at Brookside, Inc. Lease Agreement Amendment  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an amendment to the lease agreement with TLC at Brookside, Inc. for rental of 9,485 square feet of the Brookside Administration Building, effective July 1, 2021.

XVIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business discussed.

XIX. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Corona stated the Board of Education did not receive correspondence.

XX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Silverstein discussed Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). He feels that teaching DEI in the classroom is important and he is against teaching CRT.

Mr. Corona thanked him for his thoughts and reminded the audience that there is a three-minute limit and we want to hear everyone's comments. He asked that everyone please keep things peaceful and civilized.

Max Wolfson discussed DEI and feels that all of our stories make up the tapestry of our country and inclusion of all narratives is important in education.

Mr. Corona thanked Mr. Wolfson for his comments.

Melissa Gambridella wanted to know about mask requirements, which Mr. Harrington already addressed so she did not speak.

Andrew Thomann discussed CRT and asked that the June 2, 2021 minutes be amended to include the district's statement that we do not teach CRT in our classrooms. He also asked what the district is doing to prepare our students to be critical thinkers.

Ms. Guccione said that the district's position on CRT is included throughout the June 2, 2021 minutes.

Mr. Harrington said that the district's number one goal is to have our students form their own opinions. He said that we want them all to feel safe and comfortable and said that if a child ever feels uncomfortable for any reason then the school needs to be notified. Mr. Harrington stated that we do not teach CRT.

Lori Mayo discussed DEI and she feels that teaching about diversity and racism is important and it must be talked about.

Mr. Corona thanked Ms. Mayo for her comments.

Richard Soleymanzdeh discussed CRT and DEI. He mentioned how his daughter stood up to speak at the Merrick School District's Board of Education meeting and said he was disappointed that the teachers at that Board of Education meeting did not applaud for his daughter. He also asked about professional development in the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD and wants to know what is being done to promote a safe environment for our students. He said a child should not be taught to feel guilty about their own skin color or hatred toward their own country.

Mr. Corona said that if ever a student feels guilty about their own skin color or hatred toward their own country, then it must be reported. Mr. Corona also explained to Mr. Soleymanzdeh that the events he is discussing took place at the Board of Education meeting in the Merrick School District, and did not take place in this school district. Mr. Corona asked him to address only the issues that come before this Board of Education.

Mr. Harrington added that our teachers are supportive of our kids in the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD and if at any time a student feels anything less than supported, it should be reported.

Alexis Farber discussed DEI and feels that diversity is important, especially in our schools. She feels that teaching DEI must continue in our district.

Mr. Corona thanked Ms. Farber for her comments.

Kimberly Stahl discussed CRT and asked about the requirements for students to join a club or open up new clubs. She also mentioned that her daughter had been called a racist.

Mr. Harrington explained that everyone is able to join any club. He also explained that there is a process to start a new club in any school, which includes talking to the principal and getting an advisor. Mr. Harrington said that if Ms. Stahl's daughter is being called names then it must be addressed and reported, the district has a process in place for incidents between students. He also said that the district would continue to promote inclusivity and belonging.

Mr. Corona also said that he is not aware of any exclusion in a club.

Jen Snorteland discussed DEI and said that she is happy to see changes in the district from when she attended school here. She thanked the district for their good work and asked that they continue with DEI.

Mr. Corona thanked her for her comments.

Barbara Steinberg discussed CRT and said she opposes the style used in teaching this theory. She feels that teaching of CRT in itself is racist.

Mr. Corona thanked Ms. Steinberg for her comments

Chris Mitkish congratulated Mr. Corona, Ms. Lanci and Mr. Harrington. She said that she knows that the district is not teaching CRT, it is not even being discussed. She feels that it is important that everyone listen to each other because this district is doing amazing things. She asked that parents get more involved so that they can get past their fears.

Mr. Corona said that earlier in the evening the Board of Education adopted the Dignity Act Plan. He said the Dignity Act states that as a student in the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, you have the right to learn in a safe environment, feel comfortable about your individuality, be respected for who you are and have your strengths be celebrated. Mr. Corona said that these are the things that Bellmore-Merrick CHSD is all about.

Mr. Harrington said he appreciates everyone's respectful comments. He said that the district has not adopted any policy or curriculum related to CRT and that we will continue with the work we have done to make our kids feel like they belong. Mr. Harrington said that our teachers are exceptional. He asked that if something happens in the classroom, if something is read or said, that makes someone uncomfortable to please let us know. Teaching students about diversity and making sure all students feel like they belong is exactly what the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD stands for and said it is our job to make students feel connected to the classroom and be prepared to face the world.

#### XXI. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk