

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING September 3, 2014

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 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  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Susan Schwartz

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 8:20 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 6, 2014 Board of Ed regular meeting. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 7-1-0 with Mrs. Schwartz abstaining.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Board of Ed special meeting. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-2-0 with Mrs. DeLauter and Mr. Haile abstaining.

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated July 31, 2014. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone back. He and the Board appreciate the staff's attendance at tonight's meeting especially since this is the opening week of school. He also thanked the PTA and various community groups for attending. He stated this was a wonderful opening of school and added the passion and energy was tremendous. He spoke about the District theme of "One Voice, One Message," continues to ask "What have we done for a kid

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

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today” and hopes the District will continue reinvesting in kids. This year’s theme is “By putting kids first and always, results will follow.” He believes when you put kids first, they will rise to your expectations.

Mr. DeTommaso stated a Newsweek website called the *Daily Beast* published a list of the top national high schools. JFK ranked 68<sup>th</sup> in the country, 19<sup>th</sup> in the northeast and third on Long Island. Calhoun was ranked 140<sup>th</sup> in the country and tenth on Long Island. Mephram was ranked 187<sup>th</sup> nationally and 14<sup>th</sup> on Long Island. He is very proud of our students and staff.

Mr. DeTommaso displayed his new ID badge. This security upgrade will provide access to our buildings. Access will be limited depending upon need. Also, there are 30 cameras in each building. The District has newly trained security staff and visitors must be buzzed into our buildings.

Mr. DeTommaso noted some important dates such as the Middle Schools Back-To-School Night on 9/18/14, the Fall Guidance Program for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents on 9/23/14, High Schools Back-To-School Night on 10/2/14 and the District College and Career Night on 10/6/14.

Each of the schools’ principals spoke briefly about the opening day of school. All stated it went smoothly. Mephram students are very excited for the new school year. Kennedy students have been wowed by the new gym floor. JFK’s homecoming has been changed from 9/27/14 to 10/9/14. Calhoun students are responding well to the new security measures. Grand Avenue’s new 7<sup>th</sup> graders have adjusted well within 24 hours. Merrick Avenue’s students are also doing well and figuring out their buses, lockers, etc. Mr. DeTommaso stated MAP also had a wonderful start. This year, for the first time, MAP students will take an AP Language course.

**NATIONAL ASSN. OF  
MUSIC EDUCATION**

Mrs. Schwartz presented an Award of Honor certificate to JFK senior Beatrice Brown for having been selected to participate in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National High School Concert Band. Beatrice, who plays the flute, is the first student from Kennedy High School to be selected for this honor and the first instrumental student selected in the District’s history. Beatrice has performed at Carnegie Hall and was a member of the All-State ensemble last year. She has also performed with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, which is comprised of student musicians from all over Long Island. Beatrice plays flute for the school’s wind ensemble and is a member of the pit band, pep band and jazz ensemble. Beatrice will be performing with other selected students from across the country on October 29<sup>th</sup> when NAfME holds its annual conference at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Schwartz congratulated Beatrice.

Mr. Simpkins gave an update on the status of Bond Projects. He stated it has been a very busy summer and the District has accomplished everything we set out to do this summer. Security upgrades, gym floors and turf field work has been done. The fields are at different stages of completion but all will be ready by 9/9/14. Paul Adamo from School Construction Corporation (SCC) stated The contractors have performed the field and site work and will be working dawn to dusk this week to finish. The bounce test must meet national and state standards which is required for insurance and will be done on 9/9/14. Mr. Simpkins stated that proper, detailed maintenance will help the District achieve the maximum amount of years from the turf fields. Sprint Turf has been very responsive and upgraded the District's fill to cool fill. Mr. DeTommaso added Laser Industries has been a very accommodating and professional company throughout this process. He added the District custodial staff has also been instrumental in preparing our facilities for these upgrades with painting and "silverizing." Mr. Simpkins advised 75 classrooms were abated over the summer. Science labs, bathrooms and HVAC design phase began in January/February, 2014. Behrendt, Burton and Smith (BBS) is ready to send drawings to NYSED. The anticipated return is 4-6 months. Projects have been designated for the Summer of 2015 and bids should open in the Spring.

**BOND PROJECTS  
UPDATE**

Mr. DeTommaso stated he is proud of the District's technology initiative which is truly game changing. All six buildings are now wireless. The District added 75 SmartBoards and upgraded 335 computers, which is almost 50% of our computers. The remainder will be replaced next summer. Each building will receive 30 – 45 Chromebooks to use with the new reading initiatives. Technology is an important tool but it is not a substitute for quality teaching. Mr. Innaco stated so far, teachers may participate in six Professional Development Academies beginning next week. Five of these academies are being taught by master teachers.

Mr. Seinfeld stated that NYS released data on school accountability. All five District schools were recognized as "Schools in Good Standing." Additionally, Kennedy and Mephram were deemed "Reward Schools" meaning they may be asked to assist "Schools in Need" at a future date.

**NYS ASSESSMENTS**

Mr. Seinfeld reported on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math, ELA and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science assessment results. For a variety of reason, some students opted out and did not take the tests making it difficult to reach conclusions. Still, in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, there was an increase in students achieving Level 3. Again, students did fairly well in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science exam. In ELA exams, 7<sup>th</sup> graders increased in Level 3 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders went a little lower in Level 3 but slightly higher in Level 4 grades. With 23-25% of our students not taking the tests, it's difficult to draw conclusions but the District will continue to push forward. Common Core is here and the District will prepare students.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lisa Katz asked if students will be given IDs. Mr. DeTommaso stated this is being piloted by administrators first with the hope that students will eventually receive cards but there are some pluses and minuses to be worked out before issuing them to students.

Mrs. Katz also asked if campuses will be closed for all underclassman. Mr. DeTommaso stated it has not been discussed. Currently, only freshman have a closed campus.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following special education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000010267, 000010926, 000011047, 000011590, 000510999, 000511001, 000511219, 030420010, 030840000, 050450013 and 370000182. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve Mill Neck Interpreter Service as a 2014-2015 school year Special Education vendor. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**DONATIONS**

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of a 60" television, valued at approximately \$700, and Colt mascot costume, valued at approximately \$750, from the Calhoun Sports Boosters. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked the Calhoun Sports Boosters for their donation.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated September 3, 2014, as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**BILLS**

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

**BIDS**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following budget transfer:

	\$100,000	from	A2630 220 00 0000
	\$133,233	from	A2630 221 00 0000
For a total of	\$233,223	to	A2630 490 00 0000

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Hope for Youth, to provide case management and services from 9/2/14 through 6/30/15 at a cost not to exceed \$20,872 and fully funded by Title I.

**CONSULTANTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Regina Residence, to provide case management and services from 9/2/14 through 6/30/15 at a cost not to exceed \$4,000 and funded by Title I.

Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve a Special Education services agreement with Elwood UFSD for the education of their student in BMCHSD'S MAP program at the NYS determined special education cost. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**ELWOOD UFSD**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with AssetWORKS, Inc. to provide support of the District's Asset Inventory software from 9/1/14 – 8/31/15 at a cost not to exceed \$1,350; and

**ASSETWORKS**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Deputy Superintendent to execute an agreement with Asset Works, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with the National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education for the use of 13 classrooms from 9/21/14 to 5/10/15 for 25 sessions for a total cost of \$19,800.

**NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE FOR THE  
FURTHERANCE OF  
JEWISH EDUCATION**

Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve a venue license agreement with Live Nation Worldwide, Inc. for the use of the NYCB Theatre at Westbury on 6/28/15 at a cost not to exceed \$20,300 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign this agreement. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**GRADUATION  
VENUE LICENSE  
AGREEMENT**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an extension to a vending contract with Quick Snacks Vending for the 2014-2015 school year for the provision of vending services in the District via the BOCES contract. The District will receive a commission of 47.25% on total sales; and

**FOOD VENDING**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Food Services Director is the District's authorized representative as concerns this agreement.

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**CELL PHONE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education extend the reimbursement for personal cell phones in lieu of receipt of a District cell phone to the Director of Instructional & Technology Services effective July 1, 2014. For the 2014-15 school year, the reimbursement will be \$54.35 per month.

Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE** There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Caren Kabak stated Calhoun teachers posted their supply lists on the school's website and she asked if the other District schools could do the same in the future. She added kudos to Mr. Caballero and security at Mephram for a wonderful job organizing senior parking.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

**NYSSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION VOTING DELEGATE** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints JoAnn DeLauter as the Voting Delegate to act on behalf of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD Board of Education at the New York State School Board's convention in October of 2014.

Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

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

**CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Bond Referendum Projects – Phase 1, Athletic Field Reconstruction, Construction Change Orders for Calhoun, Kennedy and Mephram High Schools:

SED No. 23-02-53-07-0-004-047:  
Calhoun Change Order No. 3 in the add amount of \$39,658  
Calhoun Change Order No. 4 in the add amount of \$14,166

SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-036  
Kennedy Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$25,780  
Kennedy Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$29,993  
Kennedy Change Order No. 3 in the add amount of \$16,497  
Kennedy Change Order No. 4 in the add amount of \$29,860  
Kennedy Change Order No. 5 in the add amount of \$14,950

SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-047  
Mephram Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$28,070  
Mephram Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$12,894  
Mephram Change Order No. 3 in the add amount of \$28,780

Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

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Mrs. Schwartz was advised the student representatives to the Board of Ed will attend the October 15, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Goller, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Haile and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 8:15 p.m. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education having reviewed an agreement, hereby authorizes and directs the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement on behalf of the Board. **SPECIAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT**

Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

On motion by Mrs. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Haile and carried 8-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk