

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, November 5, 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
Janet Goller
Nina Lanci
Susan Schwartz

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

Wendy Gargiulo
Dr. Nancy Kaplan

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 8:10 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. DeLauter stated Mrs. Gargiulo and Dr. Kaplan were absent due to business obligations.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the September 3, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 6-0. Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 15, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 5-0-1 with Mr. Haile abstaining.

MINUTES

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2014. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone stating our meetings are a celebration of what we do here in Bellmore-Merrick. Tonight we celebrate and recognize our Board of Education. He stated it has been a pleasure and privilege to work with this Board. The team is outstanding, share ideas and works together to make things happen. Our gift to each member of the Board is a smaller version of the Bellmore-Merrick flag.

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION**

The Board was treated to a musical presentation by Merrick Avenue Middle School's "Word of Mouth" choral group under the direction of Mrs. Dana Brandwein. They performed "Signed, Sealed and Delivered" by Stevie Wonder.

Grand Avenue Middle school art students, under the direction of art teachers Mr. Nicholas Giordano, Mrs. Barbara Hirten and Mrs. Melissa Williams, presented Board members with flowers in hand-painted vases.

Also, there was a very special presentation by the Calhoun Prep Art students under the direction of teacher Mrs. Nancy Scott and the guidance of Special Education Department Chair Mrs. Emily Paluseo. Calhoun Prep presented Board members with artwork. The students learned about a botanist, collected leaves, pressed them and then use sun-sensitive paper to produce their artwork.

Mr. DeTommaso stated each month there is a different display in Brookside's corridor. He asked everyone to take a few minutes tonight to view Mephram students' artwork this month.

Mrs. Marcia Eisenmesser, President of the PTA Coordinating Council, presented a check to the Board of Education stating that a \$50 donation is given to each of the District's five school libraries in grateful recognition of the Board members' service to the students in Bellmore-Merrick.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone and added he is very proud of this Board of Education. Mr. DeTommaso then introduced the student representatives.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Griffin Miller, Calhoun's Board of Education student representative, advised Spirit Week led up to a very successful; homecoming. Coltfest included the jazz band and the school clubs. Calhoun defeated Westbury with a score of 13-0. He stated all teams made the play-offs and were eliminated but football. The Cross Country team, and the Sharks will go on to further competition. The Halloween Prep Night Dance was a great success with the ENL classroom transformed into a haunted house. Money was raised through Costumes for a Cause and a children's funfest was held. The drama production, "All's Well that Ends Well" is this weekend. Kennedy students will receive CPR training. SEPTA will hold a Career Fair tomorrow. He wished everyone a good Thanksgiving. Saul Lerner added for the last 2-3 years, every middle school student has been trained in CPR. Kennedy and Mephram will receive training after Calhoun. 6,200 children will have been certified in CPR and thanked the Robbie Levine Foundation for funding and sponsoring this program. He added that middle school students have already saved two lives.

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Mara Friedman, representing Kennedy High School, thanked the Board of Education for their service. Fall sports teams are done and the winter sports season has begun. Both boys and girls soccer had strong seasons. Girls Soccer will receive the Sportsmanship Award. Boys and girls volleyball teams advanced to the play-offs. The girls swim team went undefeated. The Alumni Association held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the brick walkway and will hold a fundraiser on 11/13/14 at the Brokerage to raise money for student athletic scholarships. A bone marrow donor program was held. A World War II veteran spoke with Kennedy students and a professional photographer was a guest speaker. 33 students were inducted into honor societies. Tri-M's induction ceremony is up-coming. The drama production is "Twelve Angry Men". Seniors are looking forward to the alumni visit to discuss colleges.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

Kara Ognibene, Mephram's representative to the Board of Ed, advised Spirit Week was successful. Many events were held leading up to the Pep Rally and parade before Saturday's game against Westbury. Boys and girls soccer teams made the play-offs. Students on the Cross Country team are competing at States. The girls swim team had a successful season. Varsity football has a 6 and 2 record. She thanked the district and Wendy Tepfer for providing the National Teen Driver Safety Week program. Students met with alumni on 10/28/14 and made the conversation part of the oral archives in Mephram's library. Mrs. Parlagreco has been nominated to be KJOY's Teacher of the Month and organized a scavenger hunt. Honor society inductions were held. Kara is looking forward to the Battle of the Classes. The next drama production is "Auntie Mame".

Mr. DeTommaso stated he is happy to hear the students highlighting the many incredible and important programs, i.e. texting and driving, CPR, in the BMCHSD.

Mr. Alan Yu of Cullen and Danowski presented the annual audit summary report. He stated he has met with the Audit Committee and presented them with a summary report. He stated the District received an Unmodified Opinion which is the highest level given in an audit. Based on testing, there were no material weaknesses. He did have some suggestions, mostly in the policy area. The District ended the fiscal year in a stable condition. He also added that the District is not in fiscal stress.

**ANNUAL EXTERNAL
AUDIT REVIEW**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mr. Yu for his presentation.

Mr. David Seinfeld, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, was very pleased to have a full day of conferences. Up to 70 workshops, including BOYD, SMART Boards, and a variety of guest speakers, were offered over four 80 minute sessions. Teachers worked with teachers. Everyone was involved in a wide range of activities.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
CONFERENCE DAY**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mr. Seinfeld and the administrative team for the full day of professional development. It was an ambitious plan that worked well.

**BRING YOUR OWN
DEVICE (BYOD)
STRATEGIES**

Mr. Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services, stated the District has been upgrading technology. The District has a secure, wireless network for students and teachers to use. He stated the BYOD policy enhances learning. He added technology integration is imbedded in Common Core, college and career readiness, and our students are learning to use the tools they need to become responsible cyber citizens. He introduced six of the District's Technology Integration Mentors. They are: Shari Stack, Kelly Schiulaz, Joseph Polley, Catherine Azzara, Dan Stiglitz and Jennifer Verwys. These teachers spoke of and some demonstrated how BYOD/MLD is implemented in the classroom through the use of Powtoon, Kahoot, google drive, Edmodo, Remind, etc. The student representatives gave examples of how they have benefited from the technology upgrades.

Mrs. DeLauter was advised that apps similar to what she saw at the NYSSBA convention are being used by the District.

Mrs. Schwartz was advised students have a g-mail account and sign in using a District username and password.

Mr. Haile was advised there are apps for Kindergarten through twelfth grade students to use.

Mr. Seinfeld stated in discussions with college representatives concerning transitioning, our students are better prepared and more comfortable with these types of tools. Colleges expect students to be digitally savvy.

Mr. Haile was concerned that students may spend too much time on their devices.

Mr. DeTommaso stated there are a lot of tools teachers use and we want this to be used as another powerful tool. It is part of the high quality education experience.

Mr. Innaco advised there are numerous security measures that block gaming sites and monitor where students go.

FUTURE DATES

Mrs. DeLauter mentioned some of the future events and advised attendees to check the school calendar and website for upcoming events.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Banks asked how teachers are being encouraged to use technology in their classrooms.

Mr. DeTommaso advised the District is holding more professional development than ever before and the District's Professional Development Academy conducts technology workshops. There are twelve districtwide technology mentors that give presentations. Different teachers will use technology in different ways.

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Joseph Ambrosio stated he lives next door to Mephram HS and he has noticed outside people using Mephram's field on Sunday mornings. He also stated he feels there have been too many instances of lighted night games and noisy crowds in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. DeTommaso stated the District wants to be a good neighbor and stated he will look into both issues.

The Board of Education reviewed the 2014-2015 Budget Calendar as presented in the agenda.

BUDGET CALENDAR

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2015-2016 school year be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, the third Tuesday in May, as required by law. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

BUDGET VOTE DATE

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to share the budget voter registration and voting costs with each component district when the budget vote for the Central High School District and the component districts are held on the same day. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

BUDGET COSTS

The Board of Education noted that the BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2015.

BOCES BUDGET VOTE

The Board of Education noted that the BMCHSD's Annual Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015.

ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010260, 000010736, 000011186, 000011311, 000011312, 000011393, 000011464, 000011488, 000011590, 000512001, 030140001, 032310000, 041110002, 042680000, 052230001, 070011517, 070011562, 070011706, 070011708, 110011000, 112360002, 370001119, 992450124 and 992450312. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Lanci moved the following resolution:

HEALTH INSURANCE

“WHEREAS, Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District recognizes that employees may be first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need to offer health insurance to its employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the School District administration reviewed several health insurance plans; and

**HEALTH INSURANCE
(Continued)**

WHEREAS, upon said review and evaluation, the District administration identified the HIP Emblem plan for enrollment by employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to offer the HIP Emblem plan to those employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any offering of the HIP Emblem plan to employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall be made in accordance with collective bargaining and/or employment agreements, if applicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to enter into an agreement with Emblem to provide such HIP Emblem plan to School District employees first eligible for health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

WHEREAS, Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District currently offers health insurance coverage to certain eligible employees under the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) and HIP; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need to offer health insurance to its eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the School District administration reviewed several health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, upon said review and evaluation the District administration identified the HIP Emblem plan for enrollment by employees, currently eligible for other insurance plans offered by the district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to offer the HIP Emblem plan as an alternative to those health insurance plans currently offered by the District to eligible employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any offering of the HIP Emblem plan to eligible employees shall be made in accordance with collective bargaining and/or employment agreements, if applicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to enter into an agreement with Emblem to provide such HIP Emblem plan to eligible School District employees.”

Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

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Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500 from the US Army through Scholastic Sports Marketing, LLC, to Calhoun HS and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

DONATION

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated November 5, 2014. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

PERSONNEL

The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated November 5, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.

BILLS

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education accept the Audit Report of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, including the accountant's opinion, financial statements and management letters, for the school year ended June 30, 2014. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

AUDIT REPORT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve waiving the custodial /room fee for the annual Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast in Calhoun HS on Sunday, 11/23/14, hosted by Kiwanis Club in conjunction with the Calhoun Key Club and Merrick Avenue Builders Club and the holiday concert in Calhoun HS on Sunday 11/23/14, given by the Merrick Brotherhood Council.

WAIVERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve waiving the custodial/room fee for the annual, free Senior Pops Orchestra holiday concert held in the Brookside auditorium on Sunday, 12/21/14.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with TEMPO for the use of space in the Brookside building from 9/1/14 – 8/31/15.

TEMPO

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with TEMPO to provide the services of five (5) social workers to BMCHSD for School Year 2014-2015 at an annual cost not to exceed \$105,408.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with the Jewish Association Serving the Aging for the use of space in the Brookside School as a senior citizen community center from 10/1/14 through 9/30/19, at an annual cost of \$93,600 for the first two years and the annual cost increased by the CPI for the remaining three years of the contract.

SENIOR CENTER

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

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- CORRESPONDENCE** There was none.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were none.
- OLD/NEW BUSINESS** Mrs. Schwartz stated that the Music Therapy Room, funded by the Tyler Seaman Foundation, is open and in use.
- Mr. Haile thanked Deputy Superintendent Cynthia Strait Régal and her staff for their work regarding the audit report.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Blane, and carried 6-0, the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 10:00 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Mrs. Goller, seconded by Mrs. Schwartz and carried 6-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk