

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 11, 2015

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 11, 2015, 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 8:30 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 February 4, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated January 31, 2015. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso acknowledged Mr. Simpkins and his crew for the work they did this trying winter. He stated Mr. Innaco is the voice of Bellmore-Merrick on the Connect Ed messages. He welcomed everyone stating it is hard to believe we are in March and ready to discuss the school budget. Before that happens, we have presentations, as we do at each and every meeting. He appreciates the fact that we have legitimate reasons to recognize students and staff at all our monthly meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

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**NASSAU COUNTY  
CHAMPION –  
WRESTLING**

Mr. Haile presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun HS senior Anthony Fitzsimmons for having captured the 2015 Nassau County Wrestling Championship Division I title at Hofstra University. Anthony is in the 170 pound weight class who was 4-0 in the tournament. This was Anthony's first county title which extended his unbeaten record to 35-0. He has been on the Varsity team for four years. Anthony is joined with the All-County honors recipients by his twin brother, Thomas Fitzsimmons, who took third place in the 182 pound weight class. Anthony is a tremendous athlete, not only excelling in wrestling, but also in football. He is the Captain of the football team and last year he won the Unsung Hero Award for football along with the MVP Award. He is a three time All Conference player and a onetime Conference Champ. Anthony also plays Lacrosse. Academically, Anthony has challenged himself with AP and college level courses and looks forward to attending college in the fall. Mr. Haile added that he has watched all the district's wrestlers from the three high schools, and was impressed by their sportsmanship and their outstanding dedication. Mr. Haile, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Anthony and Coaches Romano and Bennett. Mrs. Gargiulo added she has watched Anthony wrestle and he just dominates. She stated it has been a pleasure to watch him.

**2015 HARVARD CLUB  
CLUB OF LONG  
ISLAND  
DISTINGUISHED  
TEACHER AWARD**

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham High School teacher Mrs. Lorrilee Geraci for having been named a Distinguished Teacher of 2015 by the Harvard Club of Long Island. She has been an esteemed member of the W. C. Mepham Science Department for the past twenty-two years. She is a wonderful teacher who has always gone the extra mile to assure the best education and success for her students. Mrs. Geraci is an integral and collegial member of the science department who is ready at all times to share her experience and expertise while always being open to trying new approaches and techniques. Her efforts on behalf of her research students are noteworthy, spending many hours after school and on weekends working with them to fine tune projects and meet submission deadlines. Mrs. Geraci teaches AP Psychology, Living Environment Advanced and Advanced Science Research. Mrs. Geraci is one out of twelve teachers from across Long Island to receive this award which seeks to recognize extraordinary people who expend uncounted hours and vast amounts of energy to transform the lives of our Long Island teens. She will be honored at a special brunch on April 26th. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Mrs. Geraci on this well-deserved honor.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Derek Baumann from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) stated MAP students participated in the Rock and Wrap by bringing untouched food to the Rosa Parks Center. Students also celebrated and learned about the Chinese New Year. Six students in Key Club cooked for the homeless and served a little over 200 people. MAP students also made terrariums. They will participate in the One Voice, One Message, One Run to benefit Memorial Sloan Kettering pediatric cancer research. Principal Ms. Ellinghaus and Dr. Netto will be running. A MAP student has been accepted to his first choice school, SUNY Plattsburg. Derek added his enrollment in MAP changed his life and thanked all those involved stating he went from the kid who never showed up to the kid who is always there.

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Griffin Miller stated that at the NYS DECA competition, a Calhoun student was voted president and Calhoun won 16 medals. Model UN participated in a NYC competition. 43 Calhoun students participated in the American Mathematics Competition. Class Night was memorable. The Whip Out Cancer challenge raised \$1,500. He congratulated all the scholar athlete teams and the Wrestling champion. Students ran in the NYS Meet and an FBI agent gave an assembly for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. There is a new Calhoun HS app. 36 students were inducted into the Art Honor Society. He thanked Mr. Haile for signing up for the St. Baldrick's event and stated they are hoping to raise over \$500,000 this year. He is looking forward to the One Voice, One Message, One Run and On-Tour has performances scheduled for March 27 and 28, 2015 with a meet the cast event.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(Continued)**

Mara Friedman stated that the proceeds from the Annual Talent Show were donated to the Community Parent Center. Kennedy Choir's performance was favorably critiqued by a professional. Class Night was held on February 26, 2015 and won by the Sophomore class. On the Move placed first in the Virtual Enterprise competition and will move on to the national competition. Two Kennedy teams participated in the Science Olympiad. Kennedy's Intel finalist was honored at a dinner and Mara congratulated the winter varsity teams for being designated Scholar Athlete teams. The third Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony was successful. Two seniors competed and won awards in the Long Island History Day competition. Dancing with the Teachers was enjoyed by all and student government raised \$6,500 for Pennies for Patients. Kennedy's spring production is "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*." She is looking forward to the St. Baldrick's event and the One Voice, One Message, One Run.

Kara Ognibene stated Mepham HS held P.S. I Love You Day last month. It is based on the Give Kindness program that can be found on college campuses. She congratulated Ms. Geraci. The Chop Your Locks event is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> and a video of the Whip Out Cancer event is available. 13 students were inducted into the Tri M Music Honor Society. Mepham has a semifinalist in the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. The Mr. Mepham Night was enjoyable as always. It was run by the senior class and there were great performances and lots of laughter. This event raises money for the senior prom. She congratulated Mepham's winter teams for being designated Scholar Athlete teams. A sports boosters blitz is scheduled for Saturday. A Mepham teacher has been nominated for Teacher of the Month on K98.3. A Mepham student is advancing to the NYS Championship in the Poetry Out Loud competition. Foreign Language Week is this week. Mepham ambassadors are registering students for One Voice, One Message, One Run.

Mrs. Gargiulo stated this is her favorite part of the Board meetings and added she was very moved by Derek's comments. Students are what fuels her and she is glad to have students be a part of the Board meetings.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
COMMENTS**

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all the Scholar Athlete teams in the three high schools adding that he hopes this streak continues. He thanked Dr. Mannion and Coach Romano for their support and instilling pride. He is infuriated by the public assault on education. More people should be made to understand what happens in our schools, the accomplishments and generosity of students and teachers, the community caring and support, it should silence those others. We think about what we are doing for kids each and every day. It is frustrating and disgraceful that the Governor has not given school districts the information needed to prepare the 2015-2016 budget and is putting conditions on the state aid a district might receive. The Governor is not responding to invitations from school districts throughout NY. Our Governor could come any day, any time to walk the hallways and see what is happening every day in our schools. Mr. DeTommaso stated the 2015-2016 School Budget has the potential to be the best budget Bellmore-Merrick has seen in years, depending upon whether or not we get the typical state aid and Gap Elimination monies owed us and the actions of the Governor, State Senate and State Assembly.

**BUDGET  
PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent, and Mrs. Freeman, School Business Administrator, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2015-2016 School Budget. Mrs. Strait Régal explained the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate and that Nassau County determines the final number based on property assessments. Mrs. Freeman stated this is the fourth year of the Tax Cap. Bellmore-Merrick will not pierce the tax cap this year. Once again, Bellmore-Merrick is one of the lower spending per student districts on Long Island. A drop in ERS and TRS payments means a significant difference in a large district like Bellmore-Merrick and is a benefit. Enrollment has been shrinking since 2006-2007. All current programs are remaining and the district is anticipating two new programs, Culinary Arts and Broadcast Media, along with additional staff. A Special Education chair position was eliminated through attrition. The District is adding the position of Assistant Director of Special Education.

Mrs. Schwartz asked Mr. DeTommaso to explain that ENL is an unfunded mandate. Mr. DeTommaso advised that a recent survey estimates the Part 154 ENL change to a Collaborative Model will cost NY school districts approximately 15 million dollars. The Board of Regents will be discussing this issue at their next meeting. Staff for this program will be required to have specific certification. Mr. DeTommaso added Smart Bond Act money would mean about 2.1 million dollars could be used toward BMCHSD technology but the State does not know how to access these funds. If the district receives the Smart Bond Act money, the District would be able to remove over \$600,000 from the 2015-2016 School Budget.

**FUTURE DATES**

Mrs. DeLauter advised members of the audience to consult the school calendar for important upcoming events.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

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Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education change the order of the agenda and move to the Personnel Report. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CHANGE IN ORDER  
OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report with revisions, dated March 11, 2015. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Dr. Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, announced that with that motion, the Board approved the appointment of Helen Kanellopoulos as the Assistant Director of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Services, Kate Caporusso as Social Studies chairperson and Vincent Pisano as Assistant Principal. Mr. DeTommaso added his congratulations and welcome.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Lanci moved to return to the agenda. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the 2015 Registration and Voting Information. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**REGISTRATION AND  
VOTING INFORMATION**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010025, 000010677, 000011336, 000011377, 000011938, 000013138, 000510949, 000510953, 000511023, 000511119, 000511176, 000512108, 000512134, 000512204, 000512255, 000512307, 000512990, 030003179, 043570000, 050480012, 050540001, 070011772, 070011775, 072330000, 072330010, 131261293, 370000818, 370001793, 992450105 and 992450190. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve North Shore Speech Language Associates as a 2014-2015 school year Special Education vendor. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

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

**POLICIES**

Policy No. 5150 – School Admissions (revised)

Policy No. 8520 – Free and Reduced Price Meal Services (revised)  
(renumbered from 3546.1)

Policy No. 3545 – Transportation (revised)

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

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of a Mac mini server, USB Super drive, keyboard and flat panel television, valued at \$3,027.44, from the On Tour Company Drama Boosters to Calhoun High School. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked the Booster for their generous gift.

**DONATION**

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<b>BILLS</b>	The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated March 11, 2015, and the corresponding warrants.
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.
<b>BUDGET TRANSFER</b>	Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve a budget transfer of \$37,000 from A5581 490 00 0000 (BOCES Transportation) to A1310 400 08 0000 to be used to reimburse the elementary districts for 2013-2014 transportation. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
<b>BOCES</b>	Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Nassau BOCES Department of Instructional Programs and Alternative Schools wherein the District may participate in the Nassau BOCES Regional Summer School Program from 7/1/15 – 8/30/15. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. DeTommaso announced that obviously the district will have summer school.
<b>RECYCLE SERVICES</b>	Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with AHRC Nassau to provide processing of the District's computer hardware and related devices. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
<b>BURTON, BEHRENDT AND SMITH, P.C. (BBS)</b>	Mrs. Goller moved the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement between the Board of Education BBS Architects, Landscape Architects, & Engineers P.C. for the Energy Performance Project in accordance with the terms of the agreement attached hereto;  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education to effectuate said Agreement. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
<b>SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS (SCC)</b>	Mrs. Schwartz moved the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints School Construction Consultants, as the School District's Construction Manager for the Energy Performance Project, subject to the terms and conditions of an agreement to be approved by District legal counsel;  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education to effectuate said Agreement. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
<b>STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)</b>	Mrs. Schwartz moved the following resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District desires to embark upon energy related capital improvements at the District's facilities, including: (1) Lighting Fixture Retrofits (Interior Lighting); (2) Lighting Fixture Controls; (3) Exterior Lighting Improvements; (4) Building

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Envelope Improvements-Weatherization; (5) Energy Management Systems; (6) Steam Traps-Replacements; (7) Heating Distribution System- Pipe and Valve Insulation; (8) Boiler Replacement and Re-tubing; (9) Domestic Hot Water System- Energy Efficient DHW Replacement; (10) Window and Door Replacements; (11) Windows and Window Film; (12) Building Envelope Improvements- Roof Replacements; (13) Motor Replacements; (14) Kitchen Hood – Exhaust Fan Controls; (15) Computers- Power Management; (16) Vending Machine Controllers; (17) Renewable Energy – Photovoltaic Electric Generation; (18) Air Conditioning Compressor Controllers; (19) Replacement of Transformers; and (20) Refrigeration Compressor Controllers (hereinafter referred to as the “Energy Performance Project”); and

**SEQRA  
(Continued)**

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

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.5(c)(8)); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the Energy Performance Project and has determined that, based upon recommendation from the School District’s Architect/Engineer, BBS Architects, Landscape Architects, & Engineers P.C., through its consultant, Envirosience Consultants, Inc., in connection with its review and examination of the Energy Performance Project, that such Energy Performance Project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Energy Performance Project is a Type II Action, which requires no further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

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 correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed Energy Performance Project from

the New York State Education Department. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**ENERGY  
PERFORMANCE  
CONTRACT (EPC)**

Mrs. Lanci moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District publicly requested proposals for a "District-wide Energy Project" (the "Project") on January 15, 2014,

WHEREAS, the School District received proposals from energy performance contracting firms in response to its request for proposals, which were opened by the School District on January 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, the School District Administration and the School District's Architect/Engineer, BBS Architects, Landscape Architects, & Engineers P.C. ("BBS") reviewed and evaluated the proposals submitted by the energy performance contracting firms in connection with the Project;

WHEREAS, based upon said review and evaluation of the proposals, Johnson Controls, Inc. ("JCI") was requested to perform a detailed Energy Performance Audit of the School District's facilities;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education authorized JCI to perform a detailed Energy Performance Audit at no cost to the District at its public Board meeting held on August 18, 2014;

WHEREAS, JCI subsequently performed a Detailed Energy Performance Audit for the proposed energy performance project at the School District;

WHEREAS, JCI submitted said Energy Audit to the School District in or about February of 2015;

WHEREAS, based upon the School District Administration's review of the Energy Performance Project, the Detailed Energy Audit submitted by JCI and the recommendation of BBS, in connection with its review and examination of the Energy Performance Project and the Detailed Energy Audit, the School District Administration recommends that the Board of Education enter into the energy performance contract with JCI in accordance with the terms and conditions of the energy performance contract attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the School District to enter into an energy performance contract with JCI.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District authorizes the Board of Education to enter into an energy performance contract with JCI, for the purpose of improving the efficiency of the School District's energy systems in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the attached energy performance contract; and,



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said energy performance contract between the Board of Education and JCI. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**ENERGY  
PERFORMANCE  
CONTRACT (EPC)**

Mr. DeTommaso stated these resolutions solidify 73 million dollars' worth of improvements at no cost to district taxpayers. The resolutions will be sent to State for review and approval. Work will probably begin in about one year.

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Lisa Katz invited the Board to attend an education forum to be held on March 30, 2015 at 7:30 PM in the Merrick Clubhouse. She also stated she would like a partnership between the district and parents.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pam Banks congratulated Susan Schwartz for having been recognized at the Founders Day Dinner. She stated she feels Health should be part of the curriculum and not aligned with Physical Education. Mr. DeTommaso advised it is connected with the Director of Physical Education and Health and is treated no differently than any other subject. It is not short-changed.

Pam Banks feels there is not enough training in the district in the areas of prevention of sports injuries and nutrition. She was advised that all coaches and teachers are certified and that BMCHSD staff receives training from a variety of professional organizations. Mr. DeTommaso stated the district can look into additional services from North Shore/Long Island Jewish.

There was none.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. DeLauter wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and asked the audience to participate in the up-coming district events if possible.

On a motion by Mrs. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Schwartz, and carried 8-0, the Board entered into Executive Session to review a retainer agreement at 10:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Haile, and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened into Public Session at 10:47 p.m.

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education hereby appoints Harvey B. Besunder P.C. as Special Counsel for the purpose of representing the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District in certain real estate matters and authorizes the Board President to execute a Retainer Agreement with Mr. Besunder on behalf of the Board of Education. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SPECIAL COUNSEL**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Schwartz, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk