

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 15, 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  
Marion Blane  
Wendy Gargiulo  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Susan Schwartz

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

George Haile, Vice President

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 8:14 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. DeLauter advised that Skip Haile is absent tonight due to a business commitment.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated February 28, 2015. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated he appreciates everyone coming out tonight. He is happy to celebrate so many wonderful things that happen in Bellmore-Merrick. He added the final push for educators begins now.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE** Mrs. Goller stated Kennedy HS' Virtual Enterprise team "On the Move" garnered first place at the Long Island Region Business Plan Competition. With the guidance of their teacher-facilitator Ms. Damato, Evan Golodner, Mark Fleissig, Robert Freed, Edward Koton, Jake Silverman and Amanda Taormina created and managed a virtual company, conducting business with other "firms" nationally and internationally. The students are involved in every aspect of running a business, including human resources, accounting, product development, production, distribution, marketing and sales. "On the Move" sells customized luggage and a built in tracking device with a "Find My Luggage" app. Nationally, "On the Move" team placed in the top 15 teams. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Goller congratulated the team and presented them with Award of Honor certificates.

"On the Move" team members gave a presentation on all aspects of their business plan that took first place at the Long Island Region Business Plan Competition.

Mr. DeTommaso stated he is rarely speechless, but their presentation was amazing. Mrs. Lanci added they are very professional and Mrs. Gargiulo said they are better than people on the television show *Shark Tank*. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the students and their teacher, Ms. Damato.

#### **POETRY OUT LOUD**

Mrs. Lanci presented Mepham senior Jamie Marvin with an Award of Honor certificate for having won the 2015 Poetry Out Loud Regional Competition. Jamie recited e.e. cummings' "[I carry your heart with me (I carry it in)," John Keats' "To Autumn," and Liesl Mueller's "The End of Science Fiction." On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Jamie represented Mepham HS at the NYS Poetry Out Loud Competition in Syracuse. Jaime is an excellent student and participates in Cross Country, winter and spring track and SADD. She serves as one of the editors-in-chief for *Fragments*, Mepham's Literary and Art magazine. Jaime's interests include reading and writing, mythology and blogging. She wants to be an author. Mrs. Lanci congratulated Jamie on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. DeTommaso stated people need to see and experience the wonderful things that happen in our buildings.

#### **ONE VOICE, ONE MESSAGE (OVOM)**

Mr. DeTommaso stated that over the last year, students have brainstormed ideas to put into action the district's theme of One Voice, One Message. The recent One Voice, One Message, One Run was put together by students and staff and he displayed a Town of Hempstead citation signed by Kate Murray acknowledging this event. Despite it being a snowy day, it was an incredible day and fundraiser.

Dr. Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration, gave a brief history and introduced the ambassadors from the district's six schools in attendance tonight. Sara Samir from Calhoun stated the idea began approximately two years ago with student centered programs. Spencer Mattes from Grand Avenue said his talk with sixth graders inspired him to be involved. Marco Hanna of Grand Avenue added that after an assembly at his school, he spoke with Kennedy students and that talk inspired him to become involved and be a part of

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 3

OVOM. Alex Dobosh of Kennedy stated he is happy to see the program grow. Peter Banas of MAP was glad to be a part of the tremendously successful One Voice, One Message, One Run. The Run/Walk raised approximately \$10,000 for pediatric cancer research. Haley Morales of Mephram attended the first Hofstra workshops that addressed a variety of issues and stated if you want to see a change, we have to be the change. Cory Epstein is launching a program, "Ties for Ties," hoping to tie together the district's schools and break a *Guinness Book of World Records* record. Later, the ties will be donated to a program that offers business attire to job seekers. Dr. Bollettieri stated she looks forward to where we go from here.

**ONE VOICE, ONE  
MESSAGE  
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso was moved and donated his favorite, Johns Hopkins alumnie tie to Cory. Other administrators and principals in attendance also donated their ties.

Derek Baumann from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) stated Rock and Wrap is still on-going. He thanked the participants and volunteers involved with the One Voice, One Message, One Run/Walk. MAP students were recently visited by a Holocaust survivor. MAP students volunteered at Family Project and held a College and Career Day. The Town of Hempstead presented an assembly on the town's recycling and sanitation program. A clothing and shoe drive is up-coming.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Griffin Miller stated he was sorry he didn't have a tie to give. Calhoun's St. Baldrick's event raised \$48,000 this year. The Relay for Life fundraiser is scheduled for April 24-25, 2015. "*Mary Poppins*" became the most successful play in the history of Calhoun. On-Tour student won awards at the recent Hofstra competition. He congratulated Calhoun's Cultural Arts recipients and sports teams receiving conference honors. A Calhoun Long Island Language Arts Council (LILAC) Gambone writing contest participant is moving on to the Long Island final rounds. Students participated in the Italian Poetry Contest recently held at SUNY Old Westbury. The annual health fair was once again very successful.

Mr. DeTommaso commented that all the schools' performances are spectacular and encouraged everyone to go see the performances adding that Mara Friedman was a thoroughly enjoyable modern Millie.

Mara Friedman congratulated Kennedy's Virtual Enterprise team for their win. The drama club presented "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*" and the St. Baldrick's event helped raise over \$11,000. Kennedy students participated and volunteered at the recent One Voice, One Message, One Run and raised funds for pediatric cancer research. She encouraged support for the "Ties for Ties" event. A charity baseball game raised over \$2,000 for Hope for Warriors. Kennedy hosted the Cougar Invite Track and Field and a Science and Careers event was well attended. \$1,420 was raised for Cohen's Children's Medical Center of New York. A Kennedy student is a national winner of a Young Naturalist Award. A Kennedy team at a recent STEM competition won best

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 4

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

presentation. The Blood Drive raised 78 pints of blood. Student artwork is on display in the Heckscher Museum of Art. National Honor, Art and Language Society inductions are scheduled for next week. Five JFK students will be performing at the Cultural Arts luncheon. A Kennedy student was a Reflections Contest winner and a Day of Silence will be held next week.

Kara Ognibene congratulated Mepham's Poetry Out Loud regional winner. Mepham's St. Baldrick's event raised approximately \$44,000. Mepham students were happy to participate and volunteer for the recent One Voice, One Message, One Run. The annual Open Mike Night performances were better than ever before. A Mepham student took first place at SUNY Old Westbury's Italian Poetry Competition. She congratulated Mepham's All Long Island athlete. She congratulated Kennedy for their win in the charity baseball game against Mepham benefitting Wounded Warriors. The Senior Citizens' prom is this Thursday. Mepham will also observe a Day of Silence. The Paul Limmer track meet is next week and three honor societies will hold inductions next week. Mepham student will present a production of "*Pippin*" later this month.

**CHANGE IN THE  
ORDER OF THE  
AGENDA**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve a change in the order of the agenda and move to the Personnel Report. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's Personnel Report, dated April 15, 2015. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Dr. Bollettieri announced that the Board of Education just approved the appointment of Enrique Montes as the District-wide Chairperson for the Department of World Languages/ENL. Dr. Bollettieri and Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Mr. Montes.

**RETURN TO THE  
ORDER OF THE  
AGENDA**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education return to the order of the agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORTS**

Mr. DeTommaso stated most everyone is aware that there was a significant number of opt outs for the recent ELA exams, approximately 64% district-wide. He verified the appropriateness of the testing environment and spaces for those children not taking the test. Everyone appeared to be working and focused. Our opt out percentage last year was 50-55% and increased to 64-68% this year. The implications are tricky. Some federal (Title I) money may be lost but not state aid. Math exams begin next week. This opt out movement was originally underestimated but it is now all across the state. Our two middle schools will fail to make Annual Yearly Performance (AYP) because we did not test 95% of our students. The district will deal with the ramifications. *Newsday* will publish the statistics. Mrs. DeLauter was advised that districts throughout the state are in

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 5

similar circumstances. Mr. DeTommaso stated the district's budget has changed somewhat since last month's presentation. The Board is presenting a budget with a cap of 2.050% which is less than the maximum allowable cap of 2.073%. This budget restores and adds a lot of programs, clubs, special education teachers, administrative positions and lowers class sizes. The NYS Legislature returned money that was owed to the district (GEA). NYS still owes Bellmore-Merrick 1.9 million dollars. This budget will fund a Director of Fine Arts, three new Mac labs in the high schools, additional ipads and chromebooks, weekend security, lab supplies, broadcast and culinary arts programs and lunchlabs will become full labs at the middle schools. This budget benefits students and balances the needs of taxpayers. He thanked Deputy Superintendent Cynthia Strait Régal and her team.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

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

**FUTURE DATES**

Pamela Banks asked if the district will add more money to its reserves. Mrs. Strait Régal advised the district has restored some money to its reserves and recognizes the need to maintain a certain level.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010198, 000010211, 000011326, 000511223, 000511282, 000511333, 000512001, 000512021, 000512106, 023020002, 030160000, 030240006, 040120000, 041270001, 050110005, 050390008, 050450007, 052350008, 063110000, 070011537, 070011666, 070011754, 070011769, 070011773, 092470002, 110009525, 110010705, 110010851, 112300002, 112450003, 121160000, 121520001, 370000577, 370000660, 370000818, 370000965, 370001058, 902700021, 992450189, 992450318, 992450326 and 999011181. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve Dr. Kimberly S. Williams, Psy.D. as a Special Education vendor for the remainder of school year 2014-2015. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated April 15, 2015, and the corresponding warrants.

**BILLS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BIDS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the transfer of \$40,300 from A2250 480 08 4000 (SpEd textbooks) to A2250 160 00 3600 (SpEd Paras). Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 6

**BUDGET TRANSFERS  
(Continued)**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the transfer of \$98,000 from A2250 150 00 0000 (Sp Ed salaries) to A2250 472 000000 (Sp Ed Private Schools). Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS  
PROPERTY**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the following Mephram HS items:

Hewlett Packard Copy Machine, Model #C9661A, Serial #JAPKC04397  
Epson Perfection 1650, Model #G850A, Serial # DR7X0G1498  
Microteck Scan Maker, Serial #S/NZ0484001248

Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of Mephram's Clarke Automatic Floor machine, Model #05193A, Serial #FF3686. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of Brookside's auditorium piano, tag #005903, inasmuch as it cannot be repaired. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**EFFICIENCY PLAN**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education enter into an agreement with Bellmore UFSD, Merrick UFSD, North Bellmore UFSD, and North Merrick UFSD to develop and file a multi-district efficiency plan in order that our District residents qualify for the "Property Tax Freeze Credit" established in State Law in 2014. Bellmore-Merrick CHSD will assume the role of Lead agency for the purposes of this Plan. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. DeTommaso advised this plan enables district residents to receive a check and he thanked Mrs. Strait Régal and the component districts for making this happen.

**OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Thomas M. Doxsee OT PC to provide occupational therapy services from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, at the rates stated in the contract. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MEDICAID BILLING**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Zycron Industries, Highland, New York, for the provision of Medicaid Billing Services, commencing July 1, 2015 and expiring June 30, 2016, at a cost of 15% of monies received and retained by the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Special Education will represent the District with respect to this agreement. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**COOPERATIVE BID -  
2015-2016 – NASSAU  
COUNTY DIRECTORS  
OF SCHOOL  
FACILITIES  
PURCHASING  
CONSORTIUM**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Nassau County Directors of School Facilities Purchasing Consortium Cooperative Bidding resolution for the 2015-2016 school year:

**"WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS, during the 2015-2016 school year, to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the

“Commodities”); and

“**WHEREAS**, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (“the School District”) is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

“**WHEREAS**, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“Procedures”) governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities; and

“**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby appoints the superintendent or designee to represent it in all matters related above; and

“**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.”

Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

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

“**WHEREAS**, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2015-16 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

**WHEREAS**, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

**WHEREAS**, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.”

Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**COOPERATIVE BID -  
2015-2016- NASSAU  
COUNTY DIRECTORS  
OF SCHOOL  
FACILITIES  
PURCHASING  
CONSORTIUM  
(Continued)**

**INTER-MUNICIPAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
COOPERATIVE**

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 8

**INTER-MUNICIPAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the that the Board of Education approve an Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator effective May 1, 2015. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. DeTommaso advised this too was part of everyone's plan and stated he appreciated all the work in this regard.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. DeLauter stated the Board did receive correspondence.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**OLD BUSINESS –  
ATTENDANCE  
FUNCTION**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Attendance Function of Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Dr. Nancy Kaplan and Susan Schwartz at the John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and Cougar Nation Wall of Honor dinner/induction ceremony on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Coral House at a cost of \$90.00 per person. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS –  
ATTENDANCE  
FUNCTIONS**

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Attendance Function of John DeTommaso, JoAnn DeLauter and Janet Goller at the Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts luncheon on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the LI Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at a cost of \$45.00 per person. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education approve the Attendance Function of John DeTommaso, JoAnn DeLauter, Wendy Gargiulo, George "Skip" Haile, Dr. Nancy Kaplan and Susan Schwartz at the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers' 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Dance on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at the Woodbury Country Club, at a cost of \$60 per person. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. DeLauter advised the next Board of Education meeting is a special BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election on April 21, 2015 and the next regular meeting with the Public Hearing on the Budget is May 6, 2015.

**PROPOSITION**

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

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred forty two million, eight hundred and two thousand, three hundred and thirty three dollars



MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING April 15, 2015

Page 9

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(\$142,802,333) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included within the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

**PROPOSITION  
(Continued)**

Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Dr. Kaplan introduced a coworker of hers, Kyle, who attended tonight's meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Schwartz, seconded by Mrs. Gargiulo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk