

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 3, 2016

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 3, 2016, 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:

George Haile, President
Janet Goller, Vice President
Marion Blane
JoAnn DeLauter
Wendy Gargiulo
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
Gina Piskin

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 Services
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Kate Freeman, School Business Administrator
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Haile led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016 and January 20, 2016 Board of Education meetings. Mrs. Blane seconded. The January 6, 2016 Board of Education minutes were carried 7-1-0 with Mr. Haile abstaining and the January 20, 2016 Board of Education minutes were carried 8-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2015. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso stated over the course of the last month, the district has recognized many students, student groups and staff members for their accomplishments in many different areas. 5,600 students participated in One Voice, One Message Martin Luther King Day of Service event. They filled over 2,000 bags with items for needy families. Student Ambassadors, students,

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(Continued)**

administrators, staff and the One Voice, One Message committee all grew closer that day. One Voice, One Message Run/Walk is scheduled for April. He thanked Dr. Bollettieri, Robyn Einbinder and others. Mepham HS senior class raised over \$7,000 for this year's charity, Tomorrow's Children, and an additional \$1,000 was given to their charity by Optimum. He thanked Kerry Dennis, Chris Patten, Marc Achtziger and Sarah Bender. A Calhoun wrestler, Eric Immel, displayed sportsmanship and a kind nature toward a competitor in a video. Coach Schiavo is very proud of his athlete. Another student, Austin McLoughlin, saved a man's life in Lake Placid, NY, less than two weeks after completing the AED/CPR course at Calhoun HS. He thanked teachers Art Canestro and James Raucci. Earlier this evening, the Calhoun Cross Country team members, coached by David Hendler, were presented with certificates. Two district students were mentioned in *Newsday's* article entitled "Students to Watch." Kennedy senior Amanda Aronoff is the recipient of Nassau BOCES' 2016 Partnership in Education award. All BMCHSD sports teams are scholar/athlete teams. Mepham's Varsity Cheerleaders, coached by Eliza Dall, are competing in Nationals tomorrow in Orlando, Florida. All BMCHSD students took the January English Regents and 96% passed with 75% achieving mastery. He thanked chairpersons Adeline Atkins, Mary Donnelly, Kim Serpe and the entire ELA staff, and Special Education staff. He believes 100% will pass the Regents in June. Our Advanced Science Research Program, the finest in the US, produced an Intel finalist, Rachel Mashal, an Intel semi-finalist, Sarah Moussavi. Other ASR students, Cory Epstein, Evan Rothchild and Amanda Steinberg from Kennedy, Olivia Meyer at Mepham and Nicole Fegan and Paulina Fein at Calhoun received Intel badges. Kudos to Barbi Frank and Barbara Franklin at Kennedy, David Kommar at Mepham and Jeanette Spargifiore, Lorrilee Geraci and Neeru Partap at Calhoun, science chairs Robert Soel, Rochelle Battersby and Patrick Mannion, the support staff, other student participants and teachers in different fields who all worked together. To top off the month, a district parent, Natalie Malloy, presented the district with a flag, sponsored by Rep. Peter King, that has flown over the capitol in recognition of One Voice, One Message. This flag was flown outside Brookside.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

McKayla Cates stated Mepham HS has been recognized as a Charity Champion School. Students raised \$7,400 at a basketball game. A former student employed by CNN, discussed journalism with students. The Girls Basketball team is doing well and she thanked everyone for the donations to Martin Luther King Day of Service event. Varsity Cheerleaders are going to Orlando to compete in the Nationals. A PTA Reflections student is advancing to the state level. Key Club is requesting donations of formalwear and will host "A Magic Moment." Inductions were held in the Music and Art Honor Societies this week.

Derek Baumann stated MAP's first trip this year was to Levittown Bowl. MAP students participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service and delivered bags to homeless children. MAP student who took the January Regents were rewarded with great scores. MAP is now accepting donations for a food pantry. Five students graduated and nine new students began at MAP the following day. MAP

students will attend a Human Rights conference at Adelphi this month. Derek wished everyone an amazing Superbowl and a Happy Valentine's Day.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

Alex Dobosh congratulated Rachel and Sarah and those who received Intel badges and those students with projects entered in the Long Island Psychology Fair. Kennedy's Virtual Enterprise team, "On the Move", will compete on the national level. Students won 18 medals at the Science Olympiad and also had a PTA Reflections contest finalist. Last Saturday's Jam the Gym was successful. Key Club donated 500 books from the book drive and students attend a cyberbullying assembly. The senior class is having a fundraiser at Applebee's.

Jacob Miller stated Calhoun's three teams at the Science Olympiad won several awards. Midsummer Jersey was very successful. Tri-M inductions and the SEPTA Transition Fair were held. Girls Basketball has done very well and 18 musicians performed at All County. Calhoun also has a PTA Reflections contestant advancing to state. Several student athletes have committed to Division I, II and III colleges. He congratulated Art Honor Society inductees, Bellmore-Merrick Writer's Festival competitors, Boys Cross Country and those students in the Long Island Science and Psychology Fair moving on to the next round.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned MAP's ELA Regents passing rate and that Calhoun's Girls Basketball team has participated in fundraising activities. Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle School students also participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. He urged everyone to take time to view Merrick Avenue Middle School's artwork on display in the corridor at Brookside.

Mrs. Strait Régal gave an update on the budget/tax cap stating it is a challenging task. To date, the District has not received a response in regard to the issue with Nassau County and LIPA's Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOTs). The tax cap is between .36% and 1.9%. The Energy Performance Contract (EPC) is under review at State and that work may begin soon, further complicating the calculation of the tax cap. The district budget currently includes additional security at Brookside, reinvesting in MAP, starting/continuing a Twilight Program, improving computer support and updating buildings and grounds equipment. Creating this budget is a work in progress. Albany has not yet determined the amount of state aid the district can expect.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the LIPA issue with PILOTS will have a major effect on all school districts' budgets.

Mrs. Strait Régal stated after 20 years, LIPA properties were taken off the tax rolls. LIPA was to make PILOTs but those amounts are in dispute. As it stands now, homeowners may absorb a larger portion of the tax levy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso stated he will keep an eye on LIPA and State Aid. He added it is a huge positive about the EPC being under review. He stated BMCHSD will not go over the tax cap. Mr. DeTommaso stated Phase IIA of the Bond is progressing. Work is currently underway at Grand Avenue Middle School and Mephram High School. NY State is currently reviewing Phase IIB. Phase III work may be approved very soon. A tremendous amount of work will be going on this summer. He advised the first Budget Meeting is scheduled later this month.

GRADING SYSTEM

Mr. DeTommaso's presentation outlined changes in how the district calculates a student's final grade. The percentage value of a student's Regents grade will gradually decrease each year so that the district may exert more control and maintain the quality of education BMCHSD. A letter of explanation will be sent to parents.

Mr. Haile stated he was glad to see more control given back to the teachers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none on agenda items only.

POLICIES

The Board of Education accepted the following revised policies for a first reading:

- Policy 1530 Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
(1st reading) (Revised)
- Policy 6410 Authorized Signatures (1st reading) (Revised)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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, 000011482, 000511305, 000511498, 000511985, 030500041, 030730010, 030870001, 040750007, 042860002, 051310001, 052690000, 070610002, 070820000, 071210000, 071920003, 080440007, 092360003, 113080002, 122120001, 130003248, 131261667, 362844631, 362844701, 992450326 and 999011332. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

DONATION

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,090 from the Grand Avenue 8th Grade Student G.O. for the purchase of two (2) water fountains in Grand Avenue and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Goller added this is a special water fountain. It has a water bottle filling feature.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' February 3, 2016 Personnel Report, Items A through H exclusive of G, as stated in the agenda. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' February 3, 2016 Personnel Report, Item G, as stated in the agenda. Mrs. DeLauter seconded. Ms. Gargiulo recused herself, and the motion was carried 7-1-0.

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The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated February 3, 2016, **BILLS**
and the corresponding warrants.

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Budget
Transfer: \$40,000 From A 2250 471 (Special Education Tuition)
To A 2250 400 (Sp Ed Contractual)

BUDGET TRANSFER

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

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign a
Letter of Engagement for Legal Services regarding BMCHSD's challenge to
Nassau County's implementation of the LIPA Reform Act/PILOTS.

LIPA REFORM ACT

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 8-0, the
Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Haile wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk