

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 2, 2016

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 2, 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 8:07 p.m. Mr. Haile led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**MINUTES**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated January 31, 2016. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and mentioned Austin McLoughlin, who could not be here tonight, was to be recognized for performing CPR and saving a man's life in Lake Placid. He thanked Art Canestro, Jim Raucci and all the other teachers who taught our students how to perform CPR.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

Skip Haile presented Eric Immel, a Calhoun High School freshman, with an Award of Honor certificate stating at a wrestling match last month, Eric put his pride aside and allowed a weaker opponent with special needs to experience a full wrestling match. It was a feel good story that reminds us about character, grace and humanity. Eric is a giant when it comes to character and compassion. Mr. Haile stated he is very impressed by Eric's sportsmanship and congratulated Eric on behalf of the Board. Mr. DeTommaso added his congratulations and told his parents they should be very proud of him, as is the District.

**FAMILY PROJECT**

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Steve Rose for having been the Family Project Coordinator in Bellmore Merrick for the last 40 years. This special program brings together students and adults with developmental disabilities to engage in social interactions, recreation and develop independent living skills with the support of the school community. Mr. Rose founded the Family Project in 1975 working with a small group of students and volunteers. Mr. Rose retired as a social worker in 2012 but has tirelessly continued his life's work dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities through Family Project and several other local agencies. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Goller congratulated Mr. Rose. Mr. DeTommaso added his congratulations. Mr. Rose stated it has always been an honor and a pleasure to work in Bellmore-Merrick. He thanked the District for always being so supportive.

**ONE VOICE, ONE  
MESSAGE 5K  
RUNWALK**

Dr. Bollettieri introduced Robyn Einbinder, Sara Samir and Joe Netto. Ms. Einbinder stated the District has partnered with Youth America and is now focusing on Global Youth Services Day. Last year's run/walk raised over \$11,000 for pediatric cancer research. This year's proceeds will go to Walk for Wells. Sara Samir explained Walk for Wells has similar goals as UNICEF, to improve poverty stricken areas throughout the world. They build wells outside schools to improve access to water. It also has improved female students attendance in school along with lowering the disease rate in Africa. Dr. Netto stated the April 16<sup>th</sup> run/walk begins at 9:00 AM and starts and finishes at Grand Avenue MS. Registration is 7:30 AM. This year's theme is Superheroes. He thanked Mrs. Lanci and the Bellmore Lions for their \$1,000 donation and the other local business for their donations. The radio station K98.3 will broadcast this event. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Dr. Bollettieri, Ms. Einbinder, Dr. Netto, the student ambassadors and other staff members. These events are developed by the students and encouraged by the staff and are becoming a vital part of what we do.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Writer's Workshop last Friday night at Calhoun HS created by student Josh Abraham with the help of teachers and brought the schools together. Bellmore-Merrick Bulldogs ice hockey team won the Nassau County championship and will move on to New York State competition. He congratulated the team and the coaches. He also congratulated Youssef Ibrahim for becoming the Nassau County champion in Diving and wished him well at the state competition.

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 2, 2016

Page 3

Jacob Miller stated the senior class won the Battle of the Classes last Thursday. A Calhoun Rube Goldberg team will compete in nationals. Model UN competition is this weekend and DECA is next week. Calhoun has Scholar/Athlete teams. Last week's Shakespeare Festival was very successful. 30 poets and writers from around the county attended Calhoun's Writer's Workshop. A Calhoun Track and Field Relay team qualified for nationals. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Baldrick's event is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>. On-Tour's newest musical is "All Shook Up."

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Alex Dobosh stated last Thursday's Jam the Gym was exceptional. Seniors are practicing for the upcoming Fashion Show. Kennedy students attended the Writer's Workshop at Calhoun. Alexis Tillman was chosen as a News 12 Scholar/Athlete. Kennedy has a bronze medalist who will compete in the National Men's Fencing competition. All of Kennedy's teams are Scholar/Athlete teams. A fundraiser, Super Smash Brothers, raised over \$200. A 3 on 3 basketball tournament and Relay for Life fundraisers are coming up. The drama production is "Shrek the Musical." Kennedy's Science Olympiad team is competing in States next week and Mock Trial performed well. Kennedy has a new initiative, raising funds for Camp Sunshine and the Science, Health and Career Fair is next month.

McKayla Cates congratulated Mepham's sports teams for being Scholar/Athlete teams. Mepham's Culture Night was very successful. Girls Varsity Basketball advanced to Nassau County finals. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mr. Mepham Pageant was a hit. Students collected over 180 prom dresses that were later distributed to Queens County students. Mepham Kickline will compete against teachers next Thursday. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chop Your Locks event will be held in Mepham's gym.

Derek Baumann stated MAP students attended a Human Rights Conference in Adelphia recently. Syntax, US Army and Suffolk Community College came to MAP. Another presentation on the value of never giving up was given by a person who became confined to a wheelchair. MAP students attended a presentation on distracted driving entitled, "All for You Dad." Students took a seal watching trip out of Freeport and attended a play about the Underground Railroad on Long Island. Students observed a food pantry and read to children in the childcare program at Brookside.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned some of the important future dates listed on the agenda. He also gave a brief update on bond work stating Phase IIB will be done over the summer. Phase III work is under review as well as EPC. Bond work is progressing in the District and approximately \$50 million worth of work will be done in the near future. The four completed bathrooms in Grand Avenue look great. Mr. DeTommaso stated the District is awaiting budget numbers from the state. Legislators have advised that GEA will be restored. The District should see \$1.3 million. The LIPA matter continues. The judge gave back 2015/2016 money but has not made a decision on 2016/2017. The

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 2, 2016

Page 4

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**(Continued)** tax cap calculations were due March 1, 2016. The LIPA issue will be problematic in the future. Bellmore-Merrick and 57 other school districts are awaiting the judge's decision. As of now, the tax cap will be about 1.53%, well under the 2% tax cap and last year's cap as well. We will have definite numbers by the April Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were none on agenda items only.

**REGISTRATION AND VOTING INFORMATION** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the 2016 Registration and Voting Information. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: BCSE cases: 000010210, 000010308, 000010974, 000011042, 000511014, 000511214, 000511650, 000511787, 000511818, 000512021, 030420044, 030430062, 030450003, 030500011, 030520047, 030520048, 040260002, 052020000, 063110000, 070011774, 082410003, 082410004, 093090000, 370000283, 370001772, 902700025, 992450050, 992450108 and 992450231. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**POLICIES** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve revised Policy No. 1530 – Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve Policy No. 6410 – Authorized Signatures. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**DONATIONS** Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$325 from Dr. Nancy Kaplan to assist a Kennedy student who is taking a St. John's University College Advantage course. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. Haile thanked Dr. Kaplan for her generosity.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of BSN Sports baseball field foul poles, approximate value of \$1,000, and BSN Sports softball outfield fencing, approximate value of \$2,500, from the Calhoun Sports Booster. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. Haile thanked Calhoun Sports Booster for this and many other donations made by the organization.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,000 from the Helen Matchett DeMario Foundation to be used solely for Mepham's Senior Citizen Prom. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500 from Mepham Sports Boosters to be used toward the purchase of foul poles for Mepham's baseball field and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 2, 2016

Page 5

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Bellmore Lions to support the One Voice, One Message Superhero 5K Run/Walk and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. Haile thanked Mrs. Lanci and the Bellmore Lions for their support and donation.

**DONATIONS  
(Continued)**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' March 2, 2016 Personnel Report, Items A through K, as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' March 2, 2016 Personnel Report, Item L, as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kaplan seconded. Ms. Gargiulo recused herself, and the motion was carried 7-1-0.

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated March 2, 2016, 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 8-0.

**BIDS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mrs. DeLauter 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 7/1/16 – 8/30/16.

**NASSAU BOCES**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Dream Center Dance Academy, to provide choreography instruction to Mephram Varsity Kickline, at a cost of \$5.00 per athlete/per date for 5 days, total compensation not to exceed \$650, funded by the Kickline budget. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CONSULTANT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the use of AHRC Nassau to provide processing of the District's computer hardware and related devices. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**RECYCLING  
SERVICES**

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

**EMERGENCY  
REPAIR**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Brick Veneer Emergency Repair for Wellington C. Mephram High School (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

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

**EMERGENCY REPAIR  
(Continued)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole listed in attachment A hereto is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and therefore requires no further review;

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 final Project closeout from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, in connection with its request for approval of said Project from the New York State Education Department.

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

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

**STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE  
APPEAL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon reviewing the appeal of a student discipline matter, the Board of Education affirms the decision of the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools in all respects and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk shall notify the parents, in writing, of the Board's determination.

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

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

**ATTENDANCE  
FUNCTIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' and Board members Marion Blane, JoAnn DeLauter, Wendy Gargiulo, Janet Goller, Skip Haile, Dr. Nancy Kaplan and Gina Piskin's attendance at the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers' 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner/Dance at the Woodbury Country Club, 884 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, New York, on Thursday, June 16, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., at a cost of \$60.00 per person.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' and Board members JoAnn DeLauter, Janet Goller, Skip Haile and Gina Piskin's attendance at the Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts Luncheon at the Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center of Uniondale on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., at a cost of \$45.00 per person.

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

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 2, 2016

Page 7

---

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned April 1, 2016 is the due date for Transportation Requests for private school students who live in the District..

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk