

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING May 4, 2016

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 4, 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

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

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  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Haile led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 6, 2016 and April 19, 2016 Board of Education meetings. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated March 31, 2016. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned that earlier this evening, there was a celebration for those Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District staff who received tenure. They are: Eric Arlin, Jessica Chilton, Carlo Conte, Kathryn Elefterion, Joseph Innaco, Erika Feldman, Jon LaRochester, Matthew Fuentes, Keri Koegel and Denise Schleith.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

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**CHANGE IN ORDER  
OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education move up the Personnel Report. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' May 4, 2016 Personnel Report as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the tenure recipients.

Ms. Gargiulo also congratulated tonight's tenure recipients.

Mr. Haile thanked the tenure recipients for taking care of our children each and every day.

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education should return to the order of the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. DeTommaso gave a brief history of DECA and then stated we begin tonight's presentations with DECA awards.

**DECA**

Ms. Gargiulo explained that Distributive Education Clubs of America, DECA, provides students with the opportunity to learn about different careers in business as well as develop various skills that they can readily utilize in any industry. Every year there is a regional competition where students test themselves.

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun senior Irene Kowalski, the current NYS DECA President, for finishing first in the category "Entrepreneurship Start-Up Business Plan" at the DECA state level and second at the International DECA Career Development Conference in Nashville, TN. Irene is a member of the National Honor Society, enrolled in AP and college level classes and will attend the Ross Business School at the University of Michigan. Ms. Gargiulo congratulated Irene on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun sophomore Jonathan Lloyd for placing fourth in DECA's state competition in the category "Franchise Business Plan" which qualified him to compete in the International Conference in Nashville, TN. Jonathan is enrolled in Honors, Advanced and AP classes and is a valued member of Calhoun's Badminton team. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Jonathan on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the teachers, student's families and support staff and especially Mr. Quatarone and Mr. Palazzo.

Mr. DeTommaso stated a few weeks ago a bus transporting Bellmore-Merrick students caught fire. Due to the bus driver's exemplary response, those students were a safe distance from the fire. We are honoring him tonight.

Mr. Haile presented an Award of Honor certificate to Guardian School Bus driver Laron McCravey for his commitment to student safety and his exemplary performance when his bus became engulfed in flames. He thought “students first” and quickly ushered them off the bus and several houses away to a safer location. We are grateful for his quick thinking and even quicker response and for being an integral part of the BMCHSD family. Mr. Haile thanked Mr. McCravey on behalf of the Board of Education.

**GUARDIAN BUS  
DRIVER**

Mr. DeTommaso also thanked Mr. McCravey.

Mr. McCravey said he just wanted to keep the students safe and thanked the District for this recognition.

Mr. DeTommaso also thanked Mr. Volpe, Principal Dr. Johnson, the Merrick Avenue MS staff and the fire department. Mr. DeTommaso complemented the students for their response and behavior during this event.

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Kennedy’s Sarah Norton for receiving the “Promising New Professional Award” from the Long Island Family and Consumer Science Educators. Mrs. Norton teaches Family Consumer Science at Merrick Avenue MS and Kennedy HS teaching Child and Human Development, Food and Nutrition and Gourmet Foods. She also teaches life skills to students in our school-based BOCES program. She is constantly developing creative lessons and activities that have real-life application and works closely with Mr. DiGiovanni to prepare for the expansion of the CHAMP program. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Goller congratulated Mrs. Norton.

**LONG ISLAND  
FAMILY & CONSUMER  
SCIENCE  
PROMISING NEW  
PROFESSIONAL  
AWARD**

Mr. DeTommaso introduced the One Voice, One Message ambassadors.

Dr. Bollettieri stated OVOM has true life applications and recognizes the individuality of our school while remembering we are one. Over the course of the last three years, there have been many events. Ties 4 Ties is listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Dr. Bollettieri thanked the committee members and the ambassadors for being the think tank.

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

The following students gave a brief overview of OVOM’s history and accomplishments during the current school year: Jillian Mayer, Kiara Stefandel, Liam Orr, Marco Hanna, Sara Samir, Alex Dobosh, Victoria Webster and Tim Tracey. They mentioned a trip to the United Nations, attending the Nassau County Human Relations Conference, Martin Luther King Day of Service and fundraisers including the 5K Walk/Run with donations given to Plan International, a global organization that promotes and safeguards children around the world. Over \$7,000 will be donated to Walk for Wells.

Dr. Bollettieri stated she is looking forward to what next year will bring.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. DeTommaso stated when there is a quality program in which kids are developing the direction of the program, it will work. Bellmore-Merrick will always be much more than the statistics in any published listing. Students will forget many things from their school years but will remember helping others. We are empowering our kids to become productive citizens.

Jacob Miller of Calhoun stated Calhoun's Senior Experience Fashion Show raised over \$10,000. The band and chorus trip was very successful as were the Blue and Grey concerts. Many members were inducted into various honor societies last month. Calhoun hosted a student from Amsterdam as part of the Make a Wish program. He congratulated Calhoun's DECA award recipients. Sports season is going well. Calhoun has raised \$65,000 for Relay for Life.

Mr. DeTommaso added this is the first time Relay for Life is a district wide event.

Derek Bauman of the Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) stated MAP students have raised money to provide clothing for newborns at Nassau County Medical Center. A trip to the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium was enjoyable. Students prepared 231 bag lunches recently using money collected from bottle returns. Students visited Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park. A second MAP basketball game was held. He congratulated a MAP student who sat for an AP exam and MAP students who made the honor roll.

McKayla Cates of Mepham stated the senior class members have posted graduate plans. She congratulated the teacher receiving tenure. A Safe Driving event was held at Mepham. The spring concerts were very energetic. The "Legally Blonde" performance was truly wonderful. She thanked all those involved. Honor societies held inductions. Mepham played Kennedy to raise money for "Hope for Warriors." The senior citizen prom was well attended and very much appreciated. Mepham students are participating in the "Relay for Life" next week and enjoyed the OVOM 5K Run/Walk.

Alex Dobosh of Kennedy HS congratulated all those who received tenure and Mrs. Norton adding that Mr. Ma received a Math Teacher's award. A Kennedy student won a writing competition and another student won a trip to Italy in an Italian competition. The highlight of the spring concerts was a combined finale. Honor societies held inductions. Over \$10,000 has been raised for Relay for Life. Student government is holding a car wash this weekend. Proceeds from the Senior Fashion Show, Spring Fling Dance and other fundraisers will go to Camp Sunshine. Artwork by a Kennedy student is on display at Heckscher Museum of Art. The track team hosted a meet with 36 teams and the spring sports season is going well. 218 students will participate in Senior Experience internships and volunteering.

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Mr. DeTommaso mentioned important dates listed on the agenda and noted that schools are closed on May 27<sup>th</sup>. He urged the audience to view the artwork on display in the Central Office corridor. He also congratulated Merrick Avenue MS principal Taryn Johnson on receiving her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mrs. Susan Schwartz wanted to congratulate everyone on tenure and give her best wishes to Mrs. Cynthia Strait Régal on her retirement. She stated it was amazing working with Mrs. Strait Régal over the years. She kept the district in a wonderful place and Mrs. Schwartz is sorry to see her leave.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: BCSE cases: 000010521, 000010721, 000011530, 000012295, 000012324, 000511561, 000511623, 033450001, 050550023, 052230001, 052720001, 053320000, 362844700, 370001175, 992450190 and 992450291. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for School Year 2016-2017. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

The Board of Education accepted new Policy No. 9120.1 – Conflict of Interest for a first reading. Ms. Gargiulo stated she has some suggestions for the Board to consider.

**POLICY**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$270 from the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers (BMUST) and Donald Smith for the “One Voice, One Message” Superhero 5K Run/Walk and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. Haile thanked them for the gift.

**DONATIONS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of photo equipment from Steven Schumach to Mepham High School. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. Haile thanked Mr. Schumach for his generosity.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of a Norberts Athletic Products Springboard, valued at \$350, from the Calhoun Sports Boosters Association. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of Weight Room equipment, valued at \$24,605, from the Calhoun Sports Boosters Association. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mr. Haile thanked the Calhoun Sports Booster for all they have done for the kids.

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<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>	Mr. Haile noted the Board of Education will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 1, 2016 regular meeting. All members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2015-2016 school year will be invited to attend this reception.
<b>BILLS</b>	The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 4, 2016, and the corresponding warrants.
<b>BIDS</b>	Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.  Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:
<b>BUDGET TRANSFER</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following transfer: \$100,000 from A 2250 471 (Sp Ed Public School Tuition) to     A 2250 400 (Sp Ed Contractual – Related Services)
<b>TEXTBOOK DISTRIBUTION</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2016-2017 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.
<b>BELLMORE-MERRICK CHILDCARE</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign a three year lease agreement with Bellmore-Merrick Child Care Program for the use of space at the Brookside School to expire on June 30, 2019.
<b>EAST MEADOW DRIVING SCHOOL</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with East Meadow Driving School for the provision of In-Car Driver Education instruction, with vehicles, for the summer, fall and spring semesters of the 2016-2017 school year. Per student cost will remain at \$560.00.
<b>TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT EXTENSION</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for a two (2) year period for School Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 at full C.P.I., and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extensions. Extension parameters listed include large bus and van contracts in all categories, athletic and charter trips to be included.
<b>EDUCATION DATA SERVICES, INC.</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Education Data Service, Inc. for software licensing and maintenance services for the NY/Island Cooperative supply bids at a cost of \$9,000, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$1,990, for the 2016-17 school year.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the New York/Island Cooperative Supply Bidding Resolution for the 2016-17 school year.

**NEW YORK/ISLAND  
COOPERATIVE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of Grand Avenue MS English textbooks and paperback novels that are no longer being used or are in poor condition.

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS  
PROPERTY**

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

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the establishment of Herbert M. Booth Achievement Award and the Virginia S. Booth Memorial Award at Kennedy High School in the amounts of \$1,000 to one art student and \$1,000 to one music student for a period of five years funded by family donations. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Gargiulo advised she is a coach on a baseball league for children with disabilities. Calhoun baseball players and cheerleaders have volunteered to be "buddies." If anyone is interested in becoming involved in any capacity, they should contact her. Games are held in Eisenhower Park.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education convene a Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 School Budget. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mrs. Strait Régal and Mrs. Kate Freeman gave a presentation on the budget. The district sets the tax levy, not the tax rate. This year's budget was affected by LIPA properties that were removed from the tax rolls. The CPI for 2015-2016 was 1.2%.

Mr. DeTommaso advised the district will not be surpassing the Tax Cap. The cost of the bond is included in this 1.5% budget increase. District residents will qualify for a rebate.

Mrs. Strait Régal compared BMCHSD per student expenditure with other surrounding districts. A dramatic increase in state aid this year covers 16.02% of the budget. This budget maintains all current programs, adds Special Ed teachers, additional security, maintenance vehicle replacement, van for pupil transportation, Chinese language at middle schools and additional technology aids. The GAP Elimination was reinstated. The district is adding money from the Appropriated Fund Balance to offset the cost of the budget. This presentation will be on the website. Mrs. Strait Régal encouraged everyone to vote adding that she has had a passed budget in every year of her career.

Mr. Haile thanked Mrs. Strait Régal for a good budget.

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**RETURN TO  
REGULAR MEETING** Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education return to the regular Board meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** Mr. Haile reminded everyone that it is important to vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** On a motion by Mrs. Goller, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo, and carried 7-0, the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:45 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter, and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened into Public Session at 10:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk