

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING September 7, 2016

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 7, 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:

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

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
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
Helen Kanellopoulos, Assistant Director of Special Education
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. Mrs. Goller, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Goller welcomed everyone back after a hopefully restful summer. She thanked Mr. Jon Simpkins, the custodial staff, Mr. DeTommaso, the assistant superintendents, principals and all the staff stating we appreciate all the hard work that was done.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the August 3, 2016 and August 12, 2016 meetings. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso stated it was good to see everyone and that he is happy to be back and starting the 2016-2017 school year. He stated this summer he watched the district team come together to do \$22 million worth of work and open these new beautiful buildings on time. The entire team made it happen for our kids' benefit. Our themes are our goals and they have transformed this district. It all

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

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began with "One Voice, One Message." The entire Bellmore-Merrick community has embraced that theme. It is "for kids and about kids." We have "reinvested in kids and families." "By putting kids first and always, results will follow." At the end of the day, everyone should ask themselves "What have I done for a kid today?" "They need us now more than ever" certainly holds true. Now is a very turbulent time and we need to work harder. The Bellmore-Merrick educational community embraces these themes each and every day to make our kids responsible citizens of the world.

Opening day went very smoothly. The work performed over the summer has improved the student's ability to learn and grow. He thanked everyone for their help over the summer to get where we are now and added there is still work to be completed. He stated he is looking forward to the school year.

DATA PRESENTATION

Mr. David Seinfeld, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, gave a powerpoint presentation on the results of the Math and ELA assessment test, Regent exams and Advanced Placement (AP) exams. He began by stating those middle school students who took the Math and ELA assessment test did better than previous years. The results of Regents exams shows that there is improvement in almost every Regents exam. He does not yet have comparison data for other Long Island schools. The English Regents exam was given in January with very good results. FLACS, a regional exam for languages, results also displayed an increase in mastery in almost all languages. There was an increase in the number of students taking AP exams because students other than advanced students were given the opportunity to take these exams. The data does highlight areas that need improvement but overall, the results were good. The district is very excited to offer Mandarin this year. He noted that while there has been a decrease in enrollment numbers, there has been an increase in the number of students sitting for these exams.

Mrs. Rosemary Garofolo asked a question concerning Special Education students being included in the graduation exercise and a comment on the Calhoun HS results in the geometry exams. Mr. Seinfeld advised her that the district will look into the difference between Calhoun HS' results and the other district high schools' results. Mr. DeTommaso stated the district is not interested in making a list. He wants students to experience a college level class and test before they graduate. He believes in academic rigor for the experience. The difference in Calhoun's results could be based on three or four students.

BOND

Mr. DeTommaso stated a tremendous amount of work took place in district schools this summer. It has been a process of adjustment. Photographs will be posted on the district website and in our newsletter. We want the community to see where their money went.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned some important future dates. Mr. Seinfeld mentioned the Financial Aid presentation on September 29th is given by Jackie Nealan.

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There were none on agenda items only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

POLICIES

Policy No. 5124.3 Final Grade Computation, Course Completion and Credit (Revised) (1st reading)

Policy No. 5205 Eligibility for Extracurricular, Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities (Revised) (Renumbered from 5115.2)(1st reading)

Policy No. 5300 Code of Conduct (Revised)(1st reading)

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following placements recommended by the Committee on Special Education 000010236, 000010721, 000011313, 000011326, 000511682, 030420010, 051940001, 052870000, 060810006, 061310001, 070020000, 120810000, 131262249, 370000433, 370001081, 370001119 and 999011364. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,954 from the Class of 1954 to be used for instructional materials for the Mepham library and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Class of 1954 for their gift.

DONATIONS

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5,000 from Tequipment to Mepham HS' Broadcast Program and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. (Previous resolution accepting donation approved at the 7/12/16 Board of Education meeting.) Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept the Superintendent of Schools Personnel Report, dated September 7, 2016, as amended. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

PERSONNEL

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated July 12, 2016, and the corresponding warrants.

BILLS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BIDS

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

BUDGET SUMMARY

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2B – Grand Avenue Middle School Construction Change Order No. 1, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-001-032, in the add amount of \$8,842.50.

**CONSTRUCTION
CHANGE ORDER**

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- GO ACCOUNT** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the addition of an Extraclassroom Activity organization, *AMBASSADOR PROGRAM*, for the purpose of fundraising and to assist in running the Brookside Food Pantry.
- TEMPO** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with TEMPO for the use of space in the Brookside building from 9/1/16 – 8/31/16.
- MY SCHOOL BUCKS** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Merchant Processing Agreement with Heartland Payment Systems to facilitate an online payment system, My School Bucks, for the school lunch program, at no cost to the District.
- SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the amended District-wide School Safety Plan and Building-level Emergency Response Plans. Ref: Ed Law §§ 2801-a and 807.
- BROADCAST JOURNALISM PROGRAM** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Agreement with AVID Learning Partner to provide Certified Avid Instructor Training and software maintenance of AVID products for the Broadcast Journalism Program, at a cost of \$7,000 and \$1,000, respectively.
- JOHNSON CONTROLS** WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District entered into an Energy Performance Agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. on March 11, 2015, as amended on or about October 17, 2015, as further amended on or about August 3, 2016 (the “Agreement”); and,
- WHEREAS, the School District and Johnson Controls, Inc. desire to further amend the Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Third Contract Amendment annexed hereto;
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby approves the Third Contract Amendment to the Agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. in the form attached hereto; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute such Third Contract Amendment between the Board of Education and Johnson Controls, Inc. on behalf of the Board of Education.
- Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- CORRESPONDENCE** There was none.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** Ms. Rona Baruch commented on changing the starting time for high school. Mr. DeTommaso advised he has been looking into this issue. Our transportation is a consortium and that presents difficulties with re-scheduling. He has been given an estimated cost of approximately \$973,000 for 80 buses. He is currently discussing this issue with the component districts.

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Ms. Baruch asked if the cafeteria could be opened earlier for students who arrive early to school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Michelle Pugliano asked a question about accelerated curriculum for future middle school students and was advised teachers have recommended students whom they think would be successful and those students are offered the option.

Mrs. Lanci has noticed an exceptionally large number of late transportation requests and wanted to know if there is some lack of communication. Mr. Volpe, Director of Transportation, advised parents receive a notice advising them to apply before the April 1st deadline but some of the requests are due to late acceptances into a private school. Mrs. DeLauter asked if the district could send e-mails to the parents. Mr. Christopher Powers, School Attorney, advised he does not know of a school district that does that and that the responsibility is on the parents.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kaplan was advised the high school libraries are open until 3:30 p.m. but the learning center is open late. Dr. Kaplan announced Chipotle Night is Tuesday, September 13, 2016, and customers will receive 50% off.

Mrs. Goller advised the next Board of Education meeting is October 5, 2016.

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk