

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 2, 2016

Page 1

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

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 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Goller, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Goller welcomed everyone.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the October 5, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated September 30, 2016. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and stated it's traditional that this month we recognize the Board of Education. In his four years, it has been absolutely wonderful and no one represents the district better. The Board has been very supportive to the entire Bellmore-Merrick educational community. They do the right thing by our kids and are a symbol of One Voice, One Message. On behalf of himself and the entire Bellmore-Merrick educational team, he thanked the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITIONS**

Ms. Fontana stated it has become a tradition to present the Board with gifts from Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District students. Art students from Grand Avenue Middle School presented each Board member with a drawing depicting the district's themes.

Calhoun Prep Program students in Art I and Art II classes presented each Board member with a stress relieving gift, adult coloring books and colored pencils. The first page was specifically designed for each Board member.

Merrick Avenue Middle School's *Word of Mouth* a cappella group, led by Dana Brandwein, performed "Stitches" by Shawn Mendez.

Dominique Torino of PTA Coordinating Council thanked the Board for all they do and stated the PTAs are pleased to make a donation to the six school libraries in recognition of the Board of Ed.

Mrs. Goller thanked everyone. She stated the children's accomplishments are gift enough. She added it is really a partnership with the Superintendent, the three Assistant Superintendents, staff and PTAs that makes Bellmore-Merrick great.

**SIEMANS
COMPETITION
SEMI-FINALIST**

Mrs. Piskin presented an Award of Honor certificate to Kennedy senior Perri Zilberman in recognition of having been chosen as a 2016 Siemens Competition Semi-finalist. This talented Advanced Science Research student submitted "The Correlation between Debris Disks and Hot Jupiters." Hot Jupiters are giant gas planets with an orbital period of less than 10 days. Perri's study attempts to determine whether there is a correlation between the occurrence of hot Jupiters and the occurrence of debris disks formed by parent body collisions. The results indicate there is a positive correlation between the two. Perri is a member of Kennedy's Varsity Swim team, Orchestra program and the New York State Science Honor Society. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Piskin congratulated Perri.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF TEACHERS OF
ENGLISH – AWARD IN
WRITING**

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun senior David Bekore for having been chosen as the recipient of the 2016 National Council of Teacher of English (NCTE) Award in Writing. Judges from NCTE evaluated writing from 533 juniors around the country. David was selected by the English Department from over 30 submissions. David submitted two pieces of writing to be judged by English teachers nationwide. David is a true leader amongst his peers as a member of the Varsity Football team, President of the National Honor Society, a student leader within Athletes Helping Athletes, a math team member, a writer for the school newspaper, and a shot-put thrower. Outside of school, David's leadership extends to his youth group. Ms. Gargiulo congratulated David on behalf of the Board of Education.

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

Page 3

Mrs. Goller stated that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is proud to announce that English teachers Brett Schwartz and Laura Sheridan-Carbone have been recognized as New York State English Council Educators of Excellence. The application process included a letter of nomination and letters of recommendation from supervisors and colleagues. Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Sheridan-Carbone were formally honored at an awards ceremony at the New York State English Council's annual conference held in Albany on October 21st and will be honored again by the Long Island Language Arts Council in May of 2017.

**2016 NYS ENGLISH
COUNCIL EDUCATORS
OF EXCELLENCE**

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Ms. Sheridan-Carbone stating she has been teaching at Bellmore-Merrick for the past 17 years. Starting her career at Kennedy HS, she answered the call to teach at MAP after year six and has never looked back. She has taught every single English class there at some point, including AP Language and AP Literature. She is also responsible for the organization and orchestration of the multi-faceted Shakespeare Festival. As MAP principal, Susan Ellinghaus proudly shared, "Ms. Sheridan-Carbone sees possibilities where others see stumbling blocks. She sees capabilities in every student. They grow as she nurtures them and they leave her capable hands far stronger students than when they entered her realm." Mrs. Goller congratulated Ms. Sheridan-Carbone on behalf of the Board of Education.

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mr. Schwartz stating he is a product of Bellmore-Merrick CHSD. A graduate of Kennedy HS, Mr. Schwartz completed his student teaching at Mepham HS and has been teaching Reading at Merrick Avenue MS for the past seven years. Mr. Schwartz has also made it a priority to engage with the entire school population. Each year, he functions as Master of Ceremonies of the Scripps Spelling Bee school-wide competition and is the school's literary magazine adviser. He can also be counted on to support students by attending school events such as the musical and various sport competitions. English chairperson, Ms. Kim Serpe states, "A staple in the English Department as well as the entire MAMS school community, Mr. Brett Schwartz so richly deserves this award." On behalf of the Board, Dr. Kaplan congratulated Mr. Schwartz.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated everyone. He asked Dr. Bollettieri to give a brief update on the Community Cupboard.

Ambassadors named the food pantry Community Cupboard. The Bellmore Lions Club made the very first donation. Since then there have been many donations including eight food carts. This weekend the pantry will be decorated, organized and inventoried. It should be up and running in the next two weeks. Mr. DeTommaso added it is located at Brookside. Mrs. Blane was advised events are planned to stock the pantry. Sara Samir stated the high schools are preparing quick and easy meals in a bag. MAP students are collecting baby food. There are future plans to include the component districts. Mrs. Goller suggested BMCHSD ambassadors grooming elementary students to become ambassadors.

**COMMUNITY
CUPBOARD**

AUDIT REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso introduced Alan Yu from Cullen and Danowski.

Mr. Yu gave a brief summary of his company's audit of the District for School Year 2015-2016. He stated he met earlier with BMCHSD's Audit Committee. He advised his company is issuing an Unqualified Opinion of financial statements which is the highest rating given. The District's financial statements are free of material mistakes. Prior year's recommendations have been implemented. The District is in a healthy financial condition. The Fund balance increased with additional state aid and expenditures were up less than 1%. Contribution rates for retirement systems came down and the District realized some savings. The District earned an impressive Double A1 rating from Mooneys. He thanked Mrs. Freeman and her staff along with Mr. DeTommaso.

Mr. DeTommaso added the District was not eligible for a Triple A rating. The highest the District could earn, and did earn, was a Double A1 rating. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mr. Yu.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Sara Samir of Calhoun HS congratulated David Bekore and the Art I and Art II Prep students. Coltfest and homecoming were successful. Spirits are high because the football team beat Massapequa 1-0 at Hofstra in overtime at the County finals. The team is headed to the Long Island Championship. *Romeo and Juliet* is having a good run. Halloween fest was also very successful. A Dinner Theatre will be held this Saturday. Students raised money for "The Music Never Stops." Calhoun's Virtual Enterprise class placed in the top 10%.

Abigail Jellinek advised Kennedy HS is celebrating it's 50th anniversary. An alumni celebration is planned. Students raised \$9,000 for scholarships. Oral history research projects have begun. Boys and Girls Varsity Volleyball teams made the play-offs. Football also made the play-offs. Lad Sharks continue to compete and the Cross Country team has made the state qualifiers. Fall Letter Night was held. Senior community service project adopted a battalion and are collecting items. Much of the proceeds from numerous fundraisers has been designated for cancer research. Student government organized a Safe Halloween event. A lecturer for AP World History class inspired students.

Derek Baumann stated MAP students attended a fitness walk at Jones Beach. Student ambassadors discussed the Community Cupboard and are collecting baby food. Key Club has raised money with a Bagels for Babies fundraiser. November 18th is Crazy Socks Day. A genocide survivor addressed MAP students in October. A street artist worked with MAP students. Students toured ACDS, a school for special needs students. He congratulated Ms. Sheridan.

Madison Uzwy stated spirit and pride were evident at Mephram's homecoming weekend. Football team is playing Elmont this weekend. Piratefest was very successful along with a food drive at the homecoming game. She welcomed the new Fine and Performing Arts Parents organization. Students worked at Bethany House. Wise Financial honored two Mephram teachers. Mephram teachers hosted a Presidential Issues Forum. Proceeds from Battle of the Classes will go to

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

Page 5

Tuesday's Children. College admission interviews for local schools are scheduled to be held at Mephram HS. Mephram will again have a Field of Honor and Mephram HS is now on Instagram.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso encouraged everyone to participate and drive by to see Mephram's Field of Honor. He mentioned the Professional Development Day on November 8th and several other important upcoming events for parents and students.

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Budget Calendar. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**2017-2018 SCHOOL
BUDGET PROCESS**

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2017-2018 School Year be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District sharing budget voter registration and voting costs with each component district when the budget vote for the Central High School District and the component districts are held on the same day. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

The Board of Education accepts that the BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The Board of Education accepts the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's Annual Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 110010635, 110010701, 000511653, 040500017, 071220003, 370000965, 050390008, 000011006, 000011042, 000511560, 062400006, 040540006, 000011185, 000011361, 370000893, 000011285, 101680001, 040700005, 370001190, 000011596, 000011446, 000011483, 131261655, 370001380, 370001265, 080420000, 000512112, 000512135, 201600042, 050550011, 370001277, 000511597, 061310001, 052870000, 201600036, 201600053, 072620001, 201600052, 999011370, 999011419, 370000403 and 201600078. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$4,500 from the Mephram Alumni Association for Mephram's ELITE Program and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. DeTommaso and Mrs. Goller thanked the Mephram Alumni Association for their generosity.

DONATION

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 2, 2016

Page 6

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- BULLET AID** Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept a NYSED Grant-in-Aid as additional support of general expenses in the amount of \$30,000 and increase appropriations accordingly. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- POLICY** The Board of Education accepted Policy No. 4750 – Promotion and Retention of Students for a first reading.
- PERSONNEL** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated November 2, 2016, as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Lanci seconded, Ms. Gargiulo recused herself, and the motion was carried 7-0-1.
- BILLS** The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated November 2, 2016, and the corresponding warrants.
- BUDGET SUMMARY** The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.
- CONSULTANT** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education hire a consultant, Kevin L. Herbst, KLH Fire Safety Consultants, LLC, for inspection of kitchen exhaust system, air conditioning units and fire suppression installed through bond work for fiscal year ending 6/30/2016 at a cost of \$10,000. Mrs. Piskin seconded. Mrs. Lanci was advised the inspection of newly installed equipment is mandated by the state. The motion was carried 8-0.
- WAIVER** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve waiving all facility use fees for the Senior Pops Orchestra's use of Brookside's auditorium on Sunday, 12/18/16, for a concert. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY** Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of 16 low magnification/narrow field microscopes and 19 compound light microscopes at Grand Avenue MS. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- AUDIT REPORT** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education accept the Audit Report of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, including the accountant's opinion, financial statements and management letters, for the school year ended June 30, 2016. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects Phase 2B Construction Change Orders:
1. J.F. Kennedy High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-037 – Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$6,943 for Stalco
 2. Grand Avenue Middle School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-001-032 – Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$33,180 for Web Construction Corp.
 3. SH Calhoun High School, SED NO. 28-02-53-07-0-004-048 – Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$25,324 for JNS Heating Services,

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

Page 7

Inc.

Ms. Gargiulo seconded. Mrs. Lanci was advised the soffit construction was to accommodate new equipment, the enlarged masonry openings are needed to support new equipment and the louvers are due to unforeseen issues discovered when the walls were opened. The motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Goller told Mr. Simpkins all of his hard work is appreciated.

**CONSTRUCTION
CHANGE ORDERS
(Continued)**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK (THE "SCHOOL DISTRICT") DECLARING THE FINDINGS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC. AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER DETERMINATIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

**TAX EXEMPT
FINANCING**

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (the "School District") has received three (3) proposals from firms to provide financing under the Energy Performance Contract that the School District has heretofore entered into with Johnson Controls, Inc. (the "Agreement") with respect to the \$24,716,008 cost of the energy conservation measures to be implemented (the "Equipment").

Section 2. Following a discussion of the Board of Education of the School District, and based upon the written recommendation received from Munistat Services, Inc., the School District's Financial Advisor, it is hereby determined that the proposal of Banc of America Public Capital Corp, or one of its affiliates (the "Lessor"), reflecting tax-exempt financing at an interest rate of 2.0150%, is the lowest responsible proposal in the best interest of the School District, and such proposal is hereby accepted subject to the negotiation of a lease purchase agreement(s) approved by counsel.

Section 3. The President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Assistant Superintendent for Business (collectively the "Authorized Representatives" and individually, the "Authorized Representative") acting on behalf of the School District and with the advice of counsel, are hereby authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver one or more lease purchase agreements (collectively, the "Equipment Lease") with the Lessor. The Authorized Representatives are hereby further authorized with the advice of counsel to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver such other documents relating to the Equipment Lease (including, but not limited to, escrow agreements) as the Authorized Representatives deem necessary and appropriate.

**TAX EXEMPT
FINANCING
(Continued)**

All other related contracts and agreements necessary and incidental to the Equipment Lease are hereby authorized, and such documents shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk and made available for public inspection.

Section 4. The aggregate original principal amount of the Equipment Lease with respect to the Equipment shall not exceed \$24,716,008 and shall bear interest as set forth in the Equipment Lease and shall contain such options for prepayment as set forth therein.

Section 5. The School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall be subject to annual appropriation or renewal by the Board of Education of the School District as set forth in each Equipment Lease and the School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall not constitute a general obligation of the School District or indebtedness under the Constitution or laws of the State of New York.

Section 6. The proceeds of the Equipment Lease may be applied to reimburse the School District for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said proceeds are authorized, or on or prior to such date if the Board of Education of the School District has adopted a prior statement of intent to issue bonds for such purpose. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

Section 7. The Authorized Representatives are hereby authorized to take any and all other actions necessary in connection with the Agreement, the Equipment Lease, and all matters related thereto.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

**SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to enter into an Agreement resolving a due process complaint for Student #201600043. Mrs. Piskin seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

ALPHABETLAND

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes Ingerman Smith, LLP to commence a lawsuit against Patco Corporation, dba Alphabetland, for the recovery of damages related to Patco Corporation's, dba Alphabetland, breach of its contract with the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District's counsel be authorized and directed to take such actions as shall be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above-described objectives.

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

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 2, 2016

Page 9

CORRESPONDENCE There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS There were none.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS Ms. Gargiulo stated at the NYSSBA Convention in Buffalo she attended a Crisis and Communication Class. She advised attendees that the Bellmore-Merrick schools have lights on the outside of the buildings to let people know when there is a lock-out or lock-down in progress. Many other school districts were unaware of this method of notification and Bellmore-Merrick is in the forefront.

Calhoun Principal Ms. Hollings noted the light system is included in the procedures for Emergency Preparedness Day.

Mrs. Goller advised the next Board of Education meeting is December 7, 2016 and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:30 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 9:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT On a motion by Mrs. Katz, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk