

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 1, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, November 1, 2017, 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:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, President
Nina Lanci, Vice President
Marion Blane
Steve Enella
John Ferrara
Wendy Gargiulo
Janet Goller
Gina Piskin

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
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
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
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 8:08 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence to recognize those lost in yesterday's terrorist attack after which she welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. The world could learn a lot from our theme of caring and kindness.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the October 4, 2017 meeting. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-1-0 with Mrs. Goller abstaining.

MINUTES

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended September 30, 2017. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso stated at times like this, we should reflect on the things that we are doing here in Bellmore-Merrick for and about kids. It starts in our community. There may be honest disagreement in our community but every month we celebrate all that is great about and in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Every day it is about how to make life better and safer for our kids and

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (Continued)**

community. Tonight we recognize the Board of Education for their very important volunteer work. We feel their support and appreciate it. He thanked the Board.

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION**

Mr. DeTommaso introduced Cheryl Fontana. She introduced Ms. Amanda Cantwell and "Grand Voices." The 8th grade students from "Grand Voices" performed "*Give Us Hope.*" Three students from Merrick Avenue teachers Sarah Ritchie and Danielle Steiding classes presented each Board member with kindness rocks. Calhoun Prep students gave each Board member part of an Art II class collaborative project with requests on the back. Heather Lohr, Art II teacher at Calhoun, asked the Board to please send photos of themselves performing these small acts of kindness.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso read an e-mail he received from Garden City parents. At a recent football game between Merrick Avenue Middle School (MAMS) and Garden City Middle School, these parents were impressed by the MAMS football players actions toward a Garden City special needs athlete. The parents stated it was a kind and beautiful gesture from the MAMS Football team. Mr. DeTommaso stated the Board will recognize the MAMS Football team at a future meeting. He wants the MAMS Football team to know what an impact they had on another team.

Dr. Kaplan stated that recently our community lost a former student to suicide and she wanted to thank the administration for their quick response and support provided to our students. It was a great source of comfort to the parents and students.

**NEW YORK STATE
(NYS) ART TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION
2017 ART EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR –
REGION 9**

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor to Grand Avenue Art teacher Barbara Hirten stating she has been selected as the 2017 Art Educator of the Year from Region 9 by the NYS Art Teachers Association. Ms. Hirten has been a middle school Art teacher in the district for the past 31 years. She is a mentor and role-model for her colleagues and is always quick to come up with ideas for new and exciting ways to get students thinking creatively. A strong proponent of the Art program in her school and district, Ms. Hirten finds the potential in all students. She is Grand Avenue's Kickline coach, supervises the Art and Book Clubs, and is a judge for the Cultural Arts Awards. She is an Executive Board member, Corresponding Secretary, and Publicity Chair for the Arts Supervisors Association of Nassau County. She participates in many Nassau County and NYSATA exhibits. She has received the Ann Crowley Outstanding Professional, the BMUST Outstanding Professional and PTA Founders' Day awards. She recently opened an Art School in Nassau County with her daughter. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Kaplan congratulated Ms. Hirten.

**NYS ENGLISH
COUNCIL EDUCATORS
OF THE YEAR**

Ms. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Michael Dlugozima for being a recipient of the 2017 Educator of Year award from the NYS English Council. Mr. Dlugozima has taught 7th and 8th grade English honors, regular, and collaborative classes for 29 years at BMCHSD. He is a pioneer of 21st-centruy teaching and learning. He is always the first to experiment with and implement

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new strategies, techniques, and technologies. He is known for teaching in a virtually paperless environment and often engages his students in lessons by flipping his classroom, utilizing Google Apps and maintaining an interactive teacher website and blog. He is the driving force behind the new inquiry-based research class titled “RISE” (Research-Based Independent Student Centered Explorations) where students learn how to conduct research. Mr. D has been instrumental in mapping out our Humanities curriculum in which English and Social Studies teachers periodically co-teach and make cross-curricular connections. A Literary Magazine and After-School club advisor for years, he is also widely known for his unique and celebratory birthday calls, as well as his musical chops showcased in last year’s “Faculty Follies.” Ms. Gargiulo congratulated Mr. Dlugozima on behalf of the Board of Ed.

**NYS ENGLISH COUNCIL
2017 EDUCATORS OF
THE YEAR
(Continued)**

Mrs. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham teacher Erica Wagner for having been chosen as a 2017 Educator of Excellence by the NYS English Council. In her 15 years teaching in Mepham, Ms. Wagner is a ubiquitous presence in the school. As a teacher of 11th grade English and College Public Speaking, Ms. Wagner works closely with students to help them establish their voice as writers and speakers. Many “at risk” 11th grade students flourish in her care. As Internship Coordinator for Mepham’s Senior Experience Program, Ms. Wagner established Mepham’s first Senior Experience Internship Fair. As class advisor, she builds relationships with students that extend beyond the classroom. Ms. Wagner also continuously plays an integral role in the success of Mepham’s beloved traditions such as homecoming, Battle of the Classes, Poetry Out Loud, Pirate’s Treasure Awards, Mr. Mepham, and St. Baldrick’s/Chop Your Locks for Charity. She is a team player who is well-respected by students, colleagues, and members of the community. She approaches new challenges with positive attitude, and her collegial nature makes her an ideal role model for teachers entering the profession. On behalf of the Board of Ed, Mrs. Lanci congratulated Ms. Wagner.

Mrs. Dominique Tirino, President of the PTAs Coordinating Council, presented a donation to each of the district’s school libraries in recognition of the Board of Education and their work promoting and enhancing the experiences for our students.

Dr. Bollettieri, on behalf of the One Voice, One Message Ambassador Program, presented each Board of Ed member with a book chronicling the Program’s activities and accomplishments during the past year. The program’s first anniversary is Saturday, November 5, 2017. The Community Cupboard has been a huge success. Shoprite has chosen to support the Community Cupboard this year.

Mr. DeTommaso announced that Jordan Ladd of the Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) could not make tonight’s meeting. He mentioned

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

the connection between MAP and the Community Cupboard and added that Prep students and CORE students recently worked with MAP students stocking the shelves. Mr. Arlin gave all the credit to MAP stating they organized the entire event with Calhoun HS.

Daniel O'Keefe of Calhoun HS stated Calhoun's Homecoming was successful and Calhoun won the game against New Hyde Park. A Halloween event raised money for the Tyler Seaman Foundation. On Tour hosted a Halloween Fest for kids. The Girls Soccer team is in the County Finals. Girls Volleyball played today and the Boys Volleyball play-off game is up-coming. He is proud to announce that all teams made play-offs. There will be a dinner theatre held on Saturday. On Tour will perform "*The Merry Wives of Windsor*." A Home Run Derby raised over \$10,000 for a sick student who is now officially in remission. World Language Honor Society inductions were held. Mississippi students visited Calhoun during the month of October and Calhoun students will soon travel to Mississippi. The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 17, 2017.

Rachel Katz of Kennedy HS advised last week was Spirit Week. Kennedy won their homecoming game against Great Neck North. Student Government raffled off lounge seating at the game and CHAMP provided amazing food. Freshmen parents were invited to an informational night on October 12, 2017. Students practiced emergency drills and signed up for notifications. World Language Honor Society inductions were held. Boys and Girls Soccer made finals. Athletes on Cross Country qualified for States. Boys Badminton made the semi-finals. Kickline raised \$1,800 for cancer research. The Boys Volleyball team is No. 1 in Nassau County. Kennedy students attended a Health Conference and a Zumba-a-thon raised \$3,200 for hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

Gina Connors of Mepham HS stated Mepham held its 80th Anniversary and homecoming events. World Language Honor Society inductions were held. A gift basket raffle raised \$700 for hurricane relief. Student Government collected non-perishable items to donate. ELITE Program provided an opportunity for students to explore topics of interest. Various health professions were discussed in classes. The proceeds from the third annual Field of Honor, which will have 300 flags, are designated for senior services. Students sent over 200 positive messages through the "Give Kindness" Program. Girls Soccer made semi-finals and Cross Country team members qualified for States. A Mepham Science teacher has been recognized as a Master Teacher. Home Run Derby raised money for a student with lymphoma. "Battle of the Classes" is next week and the drama production is "*The Laramie Project*". Students continue to make donations to the Community Cupboard.

**ANNUAL EXTERNAL
AUDIT**

Alan Yu of Cullen and Danowski gave a brief presentation on their audit of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's finances ending June 30, 2017. They found no material deficiencies and are issuing an Unmodified opinion. The district is in good financial shape. Revenues and expenses have increased since

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last year. Salaries and health insurance costs have also increased. He thanked Mrs. Freeman and her staff and Mr. DeTommaso.

**ANNUAL EXTERNAL
AUDIT (Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the important up-coming dates listed on the agenda and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The Jerusalem Avenue Property Sale Vote is December 5, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the usual elementary district polling locations. A pamphlet will be posted on the district website and mailed to residents outlining the details of the sale.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso made a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Safe Harmless Practice for Regents exams stating this practice has been used in the past for the Algebra and Geometry regents. He feels the district should have an overall Safe Harmless policy. The 40 weeks of work during the school year is just as valuable if not more valuable than a single exam. He displayed the new grade distribution percentages. A few districts are already doing this and advised, after more research, he will bring this issued back to the Board at the December meeting. Mr. Harrington added the district will analyze data at the end of the each year. Mr. DeTommaso stated the exam grade will appear on the student's transcript as required.

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Budget Calendar.

**2018-2019 SCHOOL
BUDGET PROCESS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2018-2019 School Year be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, 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.

The Board of Cooperative Education (BOCES) Nassau County has advised that the 2018 BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election will be held Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will hold its Annual Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010756, 000011517, 000011683, 000511682, 000512016,

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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SPECIAL EDUCATION 000512106, 000512716, 000512756, 000513166, 033450001, 040720003,
(Continued) 043000000, 053410000, 060940002, 070011770, 070940008, 071910002,
090790000, 102730000, 131261691, 201600042, 201600057, 201600075,
201700034, 370000554, 370000577, 370000592, 370001431, 992450072,
992450148 and 999011197.

POLICIES The Board of Education accepted revised Policy No.0110 – Sexual Harassment for a first reading.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Policy No. 9460 – Incidental Teaching (2nd reading) (New).

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

DONATIONS Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept the following \$15,000 in donations to Mepham High School for the purpose of building a utility and storage building. The labor is being donated by Mr. George Proios, a community member and owner of AllCon Contracting.

Mepham Football Parents Club	\$5,000
Mepham PTA	\$5,000
Mepham Sports Boosters	\$5,000

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

Dr. Kaplan mentioned each donation and thanked the contributors. Mr. DeTommaso also thanked everyone for their donations.

PERSONNEL Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated November 1, 2017, as stated in the agenda. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0 with Ms. Gargiulo abstaining from Item J.

BILLS The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated November 1, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.

BIDS Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BUDGET SUMMARY The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated November 1, 2017.

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

EAC, INC. LEASE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with EAC, Inc. for the lease of space in the Brookside School Building for use as a senior citizen community center for the period 7/1/2017 through 6/30/2019.

AUDIT REPORT BE IT RESOLVED, 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, 2017.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the waiver of the Town required \$500 bond for the Bellmore Lions and Kiwanis Strawberry Festival and Carnival on May 30 – June 4, 2018 at the Jerusalem Avenue school inasmuch as both the carnival operator, Blue Sky Show, and the Bellmore Lions and Kiwanis have liability insurance.

WAIVER

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Owner-Contractor agreement (BB-1) with AFL General Construction, Inc. for interior and running track reconstruction at Calhoun High School.

**OWNER-
CONTRACTOR
AGREEMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an Owner-Contractor agreement (BB-2) with Pioneer Landscaping and Asphalt Paving, Inc. for interior and running track reconstruction at Calhoun High School.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Nassau County Board of Elections for the rental of voting machines for the Special District Meeting on December 5, 2017 and authorize the Board President to execute this agreement.

**SPECIAL DISTRICT
MEETING -
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with the North Merrick Public Library as a location for the Special District Meeting on December 5, 2017 and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an inter-municipal cooperative agreement with the North Merrick Union Free School District for shared services of the Food Services Director for the term 10/16/2017 through 6/30/18 and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

**INTER-MUNICIPAL
AGREEMENT**

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

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Lanci mentioned that the Board of Ed recently toured the buildings and was very impressed by what they saw. Everyone is doing a great job and you could see the pride in the buildings by the staff.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk