

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING December 6, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, December 6, 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  
Ken Zisel, Assistant Principal of Districtwide Services  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting. Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0..

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended October 31, 2017. Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned Merrick Avenue MS artwork on display in Brookside's corridor. He congratulated and welcomed the JFK Boys Volleyball team on becoming the Nassau County Champions. He advised there was an award presentation for the team prior to this meeting. (See below) He thanked the community for the Jerusalem Avenue vote. It passed 759 to 278. BOCES now will conduct a county-wide vote on February 8, 2018. As mentioned

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

in previous Board of Education meetings, a safe harmless policy will be reviewed by the Board tonight. The Board will compose a letter to NYSED regarding Special Education students earning Regents diplomas. Mr. Arlin explained without a diploma, students are eliminated from many employment options. The district will work with PTAs and SEPTA on this issue. Ms. Gargiulo was advised the safe harmless policy will be in effect for June of 2018. Also tonight, the Board will review a policy regarding opioid overdose prevention. Mr. Powers advised the district will have a standing doctor's order in all buildings to allow the emergency use of Naloxone (NARCAN). Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates and urged everyone to attend the concerts. He wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. Happy New Year too.

**LONG ISLAND  
BOYS VOLLEYBALL  
CHAMPIONS**

Dr. Kaplan presented certificates of honor to the members of the Kennedy Boys Volleyball team or being the Long Island champions for their third consecutive year stating they had an exceptional 2017 season. The team compiled a 14-3 regular season record. Post season, the Cougars kicked things into overdrive sweeping all three teams in the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals to become Nassau County Champs. In the Long Island Championships, JFK defeated Suffolk champion, Hauppauge, in four sets which vaulted them into the State Championship tournament. At States, the Cougars played at an incredibly high level against the top teams in the state. After splitting sets with both Burnt Hills and Eden, all three teams were tied at 2-2. The Cougars advanced after an emotional tie breaker and headed to the final match. In the finals, the Cougars took a 2-1 set advantage before ultimately losing in 5 tough sets. They ended their season second place in New York State. This was JFK's 8<sup>th</sup> Nassau County Championship in the past 10 years and their 3<sup>rd</sup> time as NYS finalists, winning the state title in 2012. Most importantly, this year the team was awarded the NYS Tournament Sportsmanship Award. She listed individual accomplishments. She congratulated the team and stated it was a great year to be a Cougar!

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Daniel O'Keefe of Calhoun High School congratulated Kennedy's Boys Volleyball team and added all Calhoun's teams are Scholar Athlete teams. Teams have made county finals. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was a great success. There have been several fundraising events. Calhoun hosted the Merrick Brotherhood concert, District Choral Show and the SEPTA Resources and Transition Fair. Model Congress attended Yale University Model Congress. Battle of the Bands raised money for trip to Model UN.

Rachel Katz of Kennedy High School stated the drama production, *Charlotte's Web*, added a matinee performance. Leadership class is partnering with the Bellmore Lions to plan a holiday party and are collecting toys. Two Research Science projects have advanced in the Long Island Science Competition. Beta testing participants included teachers and students. Kickline is starting a toy drive. Proceeds from the 12/18/2017 Ladders of Love event will benefit families in need. Key Club is conducting a pajama drive and collecting teddy bears for Nassau County Medical Center's Pediatric Unit. Kennedy teams have been designated Scholar Athlete teams. A number of sports teams advanced to finals and she congratulated the Boys Volleyball team.

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000010212, 000011047, 000011311, 000011442, 000011517, 000011688, 000012423, 000012460, 000013137, 000512001, 000512063, 000512244, 000512331, 000513376, 000513599, 030140001, 030410009, 050550009, 063110000, 080440002, 081910000, 090910002, 091380007, 131261312, 131261658, 171810790, 201600028, 201600073, 01600130, 201600286, 201700008, 201700040, 201700070, 201700114, 370000415, 370000736, 370001247, 370001380, 370001549, 370001996, 992450105, 992450190, 998450002 and 998460000.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Board accepted the following policies for a first reading:

**POLICIES**

Policy No. 5124.3 Final Grade Computation, Course Completion and Credit (revised)

Policy No. 5425.1 Opioid Overdoes Prevention (new)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve revised Policy No. 0110 – Sexual Harassment (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)(revised).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,000 from Mephram Alumni Association to be used for the Elite Program.

**DONATIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300 from the Council of PTAs to be used by the district libraries and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300 from Nicole Hollings to be used for the MAP – Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5,000 to be used for the MAP – Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500 form the staff at Brookside to Kennedy’s CHAMP Program and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools’ Personnel Report, dated December 6, 2017, as stated in the agenda.

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

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Dr. Kaplan mentioned each of the donations approved by the Board tonight and thanked those people for their generosity.

**BILLS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated December 6, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS**

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

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated December 6, 2017.

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

**SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the results reported by the four component districts in the December 5, 2017 Special District Meeting for the Sale of Jerusalem Avenue.

**GRADUATION VENUE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Live Nation Worldwide, Inc. for the use of the NYCB Theatre at Westbury as the site for the S.H. Calhoun, J.F. Kennedy and W.C. Mephram High Schools Commencement Exercises on June 24, 2018 at a cost of \$23,200.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Annual External Audit for the School Year 2016-2017.

**CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects – Phase 3 Construction Change Orders:

1. Merrick Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-003-040, Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$2,945.00 for Roland.
2. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-038, Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$5,572.00 for Roland.
3. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-049, Change Order No. 4, in the deduct amount of \$1,500.00 for Roland.

**WAIVER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education waive the facility use fees for the Senior Pops Orchestra of Long Island's use of the Brookside Auditorium on 12/17/17 to perform a free concert.

Mr. Enella seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sabana Oza asked the status of the district considering including additional holidays/holy days in the 2018-2019 school calendar and was advised the district is awaiting the Regents exam schedule from NYSED.

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There were none.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:25 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mr. Enella and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 8:59 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Gargiulo and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk