

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING September 5, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, September 5, 2018, 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:

Nina Lanci, President  
Wendy Gargiulo, Vice President  
Edward Corona  
John Ferrara  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Gina Piskin

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

Marion Blane

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  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 p.m. Mrs. Lanci, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Lanci asked for a moment of silence in memory of Norbert Billig, a long time CHSD and North Merrick Board of Education member.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the August 1, 2018 meeting. Ms. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated July 31, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso began by welcoming everyone back. He said it is good to see everyone and next month the students will be back at our Board of Education meeting but noted Juliana Tirino was present from Calhoun. He stated that the Board of Education meetings were not only about the business that we do in the district but also about celebrations. He congratulated Dr. Dennis Urban of Kennedy High School on his NYS History Teacher of the year award.

Dr. Kaplan presented Dr. Urban with a proclamation and congratulated him. In addition to earning this prestigious recognition, the John F. Kennedy High School library will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials.

Mr. DeTommaso continued to say that it was a smooth opening day of school. He thanked the entire staff and everyone involved in the district as we get ready for the upcoming year. He stated that the buildings look better than ever and he thanked the Board of Education for investing seventy-five million dollars in our buildings over the past five years which puts the students and staff in a position to succeed for generations to come. This year's theme is "Where Wellness Matters" which is a reflection on all of our past year themes. At Bellmore-Merrick CHSD we do wellness in all shapes and forms, emotional, mental, physical, social, spiritual or even digital. We need to make sure we recognize the kids that need support. We can be counted on to recognize when one's well-being has changed, and we must keep improving on being able to recognize when someone is struggling and then provide the resources to bring someone to a better place. It is critical that we get better at making kids and families well. We now have more guidance counselors, social worker and psychologists than ever before. More after-school therapists. Community Cupboard has over 45 families struggling that come here bi-weekly and get support from the rest of the community. He is very proud of this district and how the school year started. We will continue to talk about wellness and we will also do something about it. We opened school the right way and will continue to do the right things. He thanked the entire staff, Board of Education and the community.

Ms. Kaplan complimented Mr. DeTommaso for his opening and stated that she read all of the letters from the principals to the families and felt that the letters were heartfelt and thanked the principals.

**DATA PRESENTATION**

Mr. Harrington gave a presentation on the exam results for the 2017-2018 school year. He thanked the staff and Board of Education and stated that the middle schools made changes in curriculum and succeeded. He stated that Regents and Advanced Regents diplomas have increased over the past three years. One of the biggest highlights this year was the result from the Safe Harmless policy. The Safe Harmless policy was implemented and places emphasis on the entire school year rather than the one-day

assessment. If a student takes a Regent exam and the exam helps their GPA it will count. If the Regent exam hurts their GPA it is removed from the overall average. This year's theme, "Where Wellness Matters" makes sense. In terms of academics, we are talking to the teachers about how they spend their forty-one minutes. We are asking about the class tone, are the kids passionate, are the learning opportunities engaging? The teacher is on the front line and have to have the eyes and ears. Counseling and wellness centers have been added and teachers should spend their forty-one minutes fostering connections and engaging the students.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Ms. Ellinghaus gave a presentation on Summer School and thanked Merrick Avenue MS. Four programs were held in the building: Summer School, Bridge Program, Extended Theatre and Driver's Ed. Students from fourteen districts came here. Ten (10) additional graduates were added to the Bellmore-Merrick Class of 2018. 152 students took traditional summer school which was a reduced class size due to the Safe Harmless policy. There were 20 Bridge students, 144 Driver's Ed students and 40 Extended Theatre students. 432 students took Regents exams in 2 days. She showed a video clip from the Extended Theatre group and she thanked and the Board of Education and Superintendents.

Ms. Lanci said this summer, as Board members, they saw a lot of literature, correspondence and videos. She saw Mr. DeTommaso's opening day video and was happy to see all of the staff in all of the schools were involved. She said the Board is reading and reviewing all of the opening day letters. We received multiple emails regarding days of religious observance. Parents and staff should be reminded about the work policies on those days. She said if you are not receiving emails with weekly updates from your principals please contact the school's principal's office.

Ms. Lanci thanked Mr. Simpkins for doing a great job getting the schools ready on the inside and outside. She thanked all of the staff for doing a great job preparing for opening day. She advised everyone to look at the future dates.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none on agenda items only.

## **POLICY**

The Board of Education accepted the following policies for a first reading:  
Policy No. 0110 - Sexual Harassment (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading)  
Policy No. 0115 - Bullying and Harassment (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading)  
Policy No. 1400 - Public Complaints (1<sup>st</sup> reading)  
Policy No. 2340 – Notice of Meetings (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading)  
Policy No. 4311.1 – Display of the Flag (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

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Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Committee on Special Education recommended placements: 000011490, 091800000, 201600003, 201600057, 201700008, 201800115, 370001265

**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
VENDORS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2018-2019.

**PERSONNEL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated September 5, 2018 as stated in the agenda.

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BILLS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated September 5, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS**

Ms. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Ms. Piskin seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated September 5, 2018.

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

**DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-adopt the District-wide School Safety and Building-level Emergency Response Plans. Ref: Ed Law §§ 2801-a and 807.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a budget transfer for 2017-18 year end salary cleanup. (see attached)

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the following 2018-19 budget transfers to reclassify Special Education Salaries, which will be paid under the IDEA Grant, to Special Education Contractual:

- a. \$281,945 From A2250 150 02 (Grand Special Ed Salary)
- b. \$120,560 From A2250 150 04 (Merrick Special Ed Salary)
- c. \$14,601 From A2250 150 05 (Calhoun Special Ed Salary)
- d. \$203,073 From A2250 150 06 (Kennedy Special Ed Salary)
- e. \$299,135 From A2250 150 07 (Mepham Special Ed Salary)
- f. \$919,314 To A2250 400 (Contractual)

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, having reviewed an Agreement involving a member of the instructional staff in executive session, hereby approves such Agreement and authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education President to execute such Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**BROOKSIDE INSURANCE  
SETTEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company insurance settlement of the July 2, 2018 Brookside electrical power outage in the amount of \$73,239 and increase the 2018-19 appropriations budget by same amount.

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Ms. Lanci thanked Mr. Simpkins and Ms. Freeman for getting the District reimbursed from the insurance company.

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

**REVISED EMERGENCY  
DECLARATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education on August 1, 2018 declared the July 2, 2018 Brookside loss of electrical power an emergency situation posing health, welfare and operational concerns for students, staff and building occupants; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, on August 1, 2018 declared that monies from the 2018-19 Inter-fund Transfer to Capital, not to exceed \$75,000, be utilized for the July 2, 2018 Brookside electrical repair; and

WHEREAS, Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company shall cover the cost of the Brookside electrical power repairs in the amount of \$73,239;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declares that the use of Inter-fund Transfer to Capital monies to repair the Brookside electrical power to be unneeded and rescinded.

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**CONSTRUCTION  
CHANGE ORDER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Flooring, Tennis Court & Parking Lot Reconstruction Change Orders at John F. Kennedy High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-041: Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$3,900 for Graci Paving Associates, Inc., the Site Work Contract.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum – Phase 4 Change Orders: Calhoun High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-051, Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$10,400 for Crossroads Construction.

**SEQRA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the proposed 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Projects for Sanford H. Calhoun High School and Wellington C. Mephram High School (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole, listed in attachment A hereto, is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and, therefore, requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this resolution to the New York State (NYS) Education Department together with a copy of the final Project acceptance, upon receipt, from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, in connection with its request for approval of said Project from the New York State Education Department.

Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Lanci said we did receive Board correspondence, thank you.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chris Barbarino was told by Ms. Lanci that we received your request and you will get correspondence in the mail by the end of the week.

Sabana Oza said she has been requesting Eid holidays and wants to know if there is anything she can do this year to change the Board's mind, or is there anything she can provide the Board with. Mr. DeTommaso said we will discuss it with the Board and we will look at the calendar again and coordinate with the four elementary districts. We look at all of our days of religious observance and coordinate with tests and homework and such to

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ensure that the staff and parents are following the Board of Education's policy.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mrs. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:13p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk