

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 2, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, January 2, 2019, 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
Marion Blane
Edward Corona
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan

The following Board of Education member was not present:

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
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Lanci, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Ms. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting and the revised minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He said that the schools had many wonderful winter concerts and he thanked the teachers, students and everyone involved for their hard work.

Mr. DeTommaso announced that the District will be making history next week by being the first middle schools on Long Island to open wellness centers in each school. We had great success with the wellness centers in the high schools and now there will be counselors available from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. to students and families in the middle schools. In addition, the Board will approve tonight an agreement with South Oaks/Northwell which will place a psychiatrist on staff, four hours per week. This psychiatrist will travel to all of the buildings and will be available to help families in need. There will be an array of new services available with this agreement and he thanked Eric Arlin, Emily Paluseo and everyone involved for making this agreement.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates and said that the scheduling for the 7th and 9th grade students has begun.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none on agenda items only.

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

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, having reviewed a certain Settlement Agreement concerning a contemplated request for a due process hearing in executive session, hereby approves the terms of the Settlement Agreement and authorizes and directs the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement on behalf of the Board.

DONATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$100.00 from Albert and Arlene Grand to the Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$858.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Moehringer to the Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$25.00 from Chris and Joan Edom, in recognition of Matthew Moody to the Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following donation of lacrosse equipment with an approximate value of \$800.00 from the Calhoun Sports Boosters.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a Steeplechase barrier with dropdown wheels, 4m with a value of \$2500.00 from the Calhoun Sports Boosters.

ADULT EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended new Adult Education courses for the Spring 2019 semester.

POLICIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for a first reading:

Policy No. 4770 – Graduation Requirements (Revised)

Policy No. 4772 – Graduation Ceremony (New)

Policy No. 6900 – Disposal of District Property
(Replacing 3260) (Revised)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors list for the 2018-2019 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011225, 000011313, 000011497, 000011688, 000011832, 000012210, 000012455, 000013138, 000512381, 030420022, 031430003, 050400000, 052590000, 060810006, 063210001, 070440001, 071420000, 090130000, 091740000, 131261112, 131262411, 131262415, 201600003, 201600057, 201700008, 201700135, 201800175, 201800193, 370000231, 370000801, 370001130, 370001296 and 999011249.

PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated January 2, 2019 as stated in the agenda.

Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Ms. Lanci thanked Mr. and Mrs. Grand, Mr. and Mrs. Moehringer, Mr. and Mr. Edom and the Calhoun Sports Boosters for their donations.

BILLS

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated January 2, 2019, and the corresponding warrants.

BIDS

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated December 31, 2018.

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

ATTENDANCE FUNCION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Marion Blane, Ed Corona, John Ferrara, Wendy

Gargiulo, Janet Goller, Nina Lanci and Gina Piskin at the Council of PTAs Founders Day Diner at the Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue, Baldwin NY on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:0 p.m. at a cost of \$48.00 per person.

Ms. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept the following resolution:

**CONSULTATION SERVICES
AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Long Island Home d/b/a South Oaks Hospital for the provision of psychological and behavioral health consultation services at an annual cost of \$102,000 prorated for the period January 2, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci said we did not receive Board correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mohammed Nabi, requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. He offered to provide any additional information needed. Ms. Lanci said the school district schedules the school calendar one year at a time. This year Eid does not affect the school calendar. She added that the members of the Board of Education may change next year and it would not be fair to future board members to make a decision on the holiday schedule that would affect them.

Hasrvain Aziz requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar and asked for clarification on how Eid does not affect the calendar because it is a long celebration. Mr. DeTommaso explained that for the 2019-2020 school calendar, the dates that would require a day off from school fall in May and July on days that school is not in session. It won't be for several years until Eid holidays fall on a school day.

Shaina Sheikh requested that Eid Holidays be added to the school calendar even though she no longer lives in the school district. She said that Eid is a festival and asked that the District approve the holiday now. Mr. DeTommaso explained that for next year's school calendar, one Eid holiday will fall on Memorial Day and one in July therefore both holidays are when school is not in session. The school calendar is typically scheduled in the preceding year and is planned one year at a time. Ms. Lanci added that this time next year is when the Board of Education will make a decision regarding Eid holidays on the school calendar. Mr. DeTommaso assured the audience that they don't need to come back to be heard, he said that the Board of Education understands the value of the holiday and said the Board is listening.

Lisa Katz requested that the District review its student attendance policy. Her child was out with the flu and she is concerned that her child's grade would be impacted for missing class. Mr. DeTommaso explained that having random absences will effect grades but being out of school due to illness does not have the same impact.

Raina Elbaz requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. She asked the Board of Education to make a decision now so that the Eid holidays are permanently added to the calendar as are other religious holidays. Mr. DeTommaso clarified that this has never been voted on and has not been voted down. He said that this time next year they will vote whether to include the Eid holidays or not. Mr. Gargiulo said that everyone in the community has been very informative and respectful and said the Board of Education appreciates the community. She explained that the Board is not unwilling to vote on the topic but that the process is to vote on only one year at a time. Eid Holidays potentially affect the calendar next year and will be reviewed in February of next year. On behalf of the Board, she said she appreciates all of the effort. The Board is informed and is listening. The members of Board of Education may change next year and those board members will make the decision.

Ather Tirmizi requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. He said other religions don't have to wonder if their holiday will be approved or not and encouraged the district to accommodate the holiday. He said this is about giving children the impression that they are accepted. Mr. DeTommaso said that the Board of Education will vote on this within the next year and clarified that it is not about finding the required 181 days of school. Dr. Kaplan said most districts vote on only one year at a time. The information provided has been very compelling and stressed that the community has been heard.

Reza Aziz, a student at Calhoun High School requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. He said that adding the Eid to the school calendar will help students understand what other cultures are about. He feels that adding the holiday will make children ask questions which raises awareness that will continue into adulthood.

Arooj Iqbal requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar and asked about raising awareness to teachers and students. Mr. DeTommaso said that Eid holidays are listed as Days of Religious Observance on the school calendar. As a result of last year's discussions, he sent out information to the school principals and staff stressing the importance of Days of Religious Observance and reiterated to not have quizzes or new material on those days. He understands that students take attendance very seriously and stressed that these days off do not effect attendance records.

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Hali Herman stated that Eid holidays may not be a day off from school for everyone but they are recognized on the school calendar as a Day of Religious Observance.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk