

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 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, October 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:

Marion Blane, President
Gina Piskin, Vice President
Edward Corona
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci

The following members of the Board of Education were not present:

John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Tracey Miller

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
Mikaela Coni, Administrative Assistant for Business
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation
Ken Zisel, Brookside Assistant Principal
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Blane, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 5-0, the Board of Education reconvened into public session at 8:08 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Blane led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes from the September 4, 2019 meeting.

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2019.

V. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed the student representatives and said that tonight we will recognize students and staff for their achievements.

A. **Presentations**

2019 Broadcom MASTERS National Finalists

Tyler Bissoondial was not present to accept his Award of Honor certificate. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated him on his work.

2019 Broadcom MASTERS National Semifinalists

Mr. Corona presented Adhith Jacob and Dillon Moi with Award of Honor certificates for their research project entitled "Is It Possible to Create a More Functional Smartwatch?". For their project, they designed a smart watch that is more user friendly with more functions than watches currently on the market.

Rob Soel gave a brief explanation about the STEM Program and explained that the district now offers coding and robotics.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the students and thanked all of the teachers for their involvement.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Mr. Corona presented David Frank with an Award of Honor certificate and said that David is a bright, incredibly well rounded and intensely committed young man who has received countless awards and accolades.

Dr. Kaplan presented Madeline Jutsen with an Award of Honor certificate and said that Madeline is the rare student who can sift through all the details in order to see the big picture.

Dr. Kaplan presented Mikaela Milch with an Award of Honor certificate and said Mikaela is a focused, driven young woman who seeks out courses that will challenge her and envisions herself in the computer-programming field.

Mr. DeTommaso said that in addition to these semifinalists there were an additional fifteen commended students, five from Calhoun, Kennedy and Mepham. He congratulated all of the students for this accomplishment.

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) – All State

Ms. Piskin presented eleven students with Award of Honor certificates for being selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Music Festival in November. The All-State Performance Ensembles are honors groups comprised of the top students from school music departments across the state.

Patrick Collins from Calhoun – Symphonic Band, Bass Clarinet

Joy DelGiorno from Mepham – Treble Chorus – Soprano 2

Tara Fusillo from Kennedy – Symphony Orchestra – Viola

Adam Gokcan from Calhoun – Symphony Orchestra – Bassoon

Cooper Moran from Kennedy – Symphonic Band – Snare Drum

Kiara Stefandel from Kennedy – Treble Chorus – Alto 2

Tiffany Vu from Kennedy – Symphony Orchestra – Viola

The following students have been selected as alternates:

Andrew Brinton and Hugh Cheung from Kennedy High School - Band
Morgan Kaplan and Jack Parr from Calhoun - Vocal

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the students for this achievement. He thanked Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and the teachers for their involvement in helping these students achieve success.

B. Student Representatives

Gabriella Giobardo from Calhoun High School started by saying that she is honored to be the voice of Calhoun. During the first month of school, they had a college fair and the Kennedy culinary students provided food. She said that the school has a very positive feel and she thanked everyone for the support system in place, specifically the wellness centers. She mentioned the upcoming events and congratulated the Valedictorian Mark Edayadi and Salutatorian Adam Gokcan.

Daniel Iskols from Kennedy High School said he is honored to be the student representative for Kennedy. He said the first month of school has been very busy. The Kennedy Student Government introduced its Cougar Nation Pop Up store displaying newly designed apparel and they introduced their 2019-2020 community service initiative titled "Engage in Change". He said students are enjoying the new courtyard and thanked the alumni associations for their donations. He congratulated students for receiving National Merit Scholarships, Valedictorian Katherine St. George and Salutatorian Madeline Jutsen. He mentioned upcoming events and said he looks forward to reporting to the Board of Education monthly.

Mariana Mora from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) said that the school year has gotten off to a great start with thirteen new students and two new teachers. She added that MAP now offers new courses, an AP Art History Class and the Electrical Program. They also have a new meditation room called the Zen Den where students can go to relax and meditate. Students also have a music room that can be used during lunch and free periods. She finished by saying that students have already gone on three field trips and she looks forward to updating the Board of Education at next month's meeting.

Stefanie Simone from Mepham High School said she is proud and excited to be Mepham's student representative and said that everyone is looking forward to a productive and exciting year. She said that Mepham honored those effected by the 9/11 tragic events by holding a moment of silence. At the end of the month, they celebrated their 82nd Homecoming & Pep Rally and she congratulated the Homecoming King and Queen. Mepham will be setting up their 5th Annual Flag Field of Honor and she asked everyone to participate by honoring a family member or friend by having a flag flown. She said that Mepham was recently honored as one of 35 schools to receive a School of Distinction award. She congratulated some of her peers and the Valedictorian Alyssa Diguardi and Salutatorian Spencer Mattes. She said overall, there is a positive tone at Mepham and that everyone is looking forward to a great year ahead.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the students that were recognized for their achievements tonight. He also congratulated the student representatives on a job well done and said that it is important that everyone hears from the students.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the art teachers have hung their incredible artwork in the hallways at Brookside and asked everyone to look at it as they leave this evening. He thanked the all of the teachers district-wide for helping students succeed. He also congratulated Dr. Taryn Johnson, Principal of Merrick Avenue Middle School in her new role as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Sewanhaka Central High School District. He thanked her for her everything she has done over the past five years for students and families. Mr. DeTommaso also said that it is his pleasure to announce that Katelyn Dunn will be the new Principal at Merrick Avenue Middle School and he congratulated her on her new position.

Mr. DeTommaso reminded everyone that the Wellness Centers are open and said that the students are using them in all of the schools.

C. Future Events

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Donations

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the W.C. Mephram Class of 1969 of \$4,313.38 to be used to purchase six picnic tables for the courtyard, and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Macy's of \$2500.00 in support of an audio system for the Band at Kennedy High School, and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

B. Policy

The Board of Education reviewed the following policy for a first reading:
Policy No. 8650 – School District Compliance with Copyright Law

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2019-2020.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

D. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following recommendations for placement made by the Committee on Special Education: 000010340, 000011657, 000011866, 000012884, 000512126, 000512235, 000513134, 000514077, 041630001,

052150000, 071210000, 131261177, 181910090, 181910227, 181911361, 201600003,
201900015, 201900048, 370001073, 370001244, 370001380, 370001452, 370001757,
370001834, 370002031, 992450046, 999011164.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report as follows:

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – October 2, 2019

- A. Tenure Recommendations
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Permanent Status
- F. Salary Reclassification
- G. Leave Request
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – October 2, 2019

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary – September 30, 2019

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

D. Budget Transfers

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a budget transfer of up to \$200,000 for the 2018-19 school year:

From: A2250.490 (Special Ed BOCES)	\$200,000
To: A2250.400 (Related Services)	\$200,000
To cover Summer Special Ed Related Services	

E. Indoor Worker/Student Occupied Space

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education re-affirm the practice of maintaining heat in all indoor worker/student occupied spaces, excluding processing spaces (freezers and coolers) and gymnasiums, at 68° Fahrenheit from October 15th through April 15th, and 65° Fahrenheit from September 15th through October 14th and April 16th through May 31st.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.F through IX.I

F. Corrective Action Plan

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan of the 2018-19 Payroll Audit performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan of 2018-19 Special Education Related Services Audit performed by the Internal Auditor, Questar III.

G. Obsolete/Surplus Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of English textbooks that are no longer being used at Grand Avenue M.S.

H. Consultants

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, The Love Group, to provide professional development on 11/6/2018 at a cost of \$5,000.00, funded by the Curriculum Office.

I. Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Settlement Agreement in connection with an impartial hearing, a copy of which has been provided to and reviewed by the members of the Board of Education.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a Settlement Agreement and Release in connection with an impartial hearing and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign said Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Board.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Derwin wanted to discuss transportation for her child.

Rania Elbaz requested that EID holidays be added to the school calendar and asked if it will be placed on an upcoming agenda and discussed in public. She further questioned why the school district is closed on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the school calendar will be discussed in December and the public will be able to comment. He further explained that every year the calendar changes and that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is not guaranteed going forward.

Mr. Powers explained that NYS Education Law section 3210 states the Board of Education or trustees shall determine whether school session should not be held at an individual public school, or district-wide, on a day where, if school were in session, absenteeism may result in the waste of educational resources because a considerable proportion of the student population is unlikely to attend because of a religious or cultural day of observance. He further explained that this district's determination is not binding of another school district and that a lot has to do with the community and population in making a decision.

Arooj Iqbal requested that EID holidays be added to the school calendar so when her child attends this district EID will be an official holiday.

Aisha Umar requested that EID holidays be added to the school calendar. She said that this is not about laws; it is about accepting and including others. Mr. DeTommaso explained that Mr. Powers was asked to explain the law. Mr. DeTommaso explained to Ms. Umar that whether the Board passes this or not, the district does care about families and kids and said the Board will look at the calendar in December.

Aya Elsayed asked if there has been a survey about EID holidays. Mr. DeTommaso said did not do a survey but stated that they will look at attendance records from previous holidays, taking into consideration that some students may have chosen to attend school.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Mr. Caballero for organizing the Excellence in Performance Program attended by all the athletes and their parents. He said the program delivered an important message to the parents and athletes.

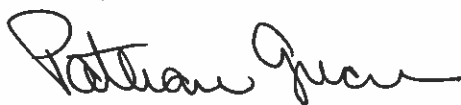
XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 5-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk