

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 5, 2020 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, Board of Education President
Gina Piskin, Vice President
Edward Corona
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Nina Lanci
Tracey Miller

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
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 6:32 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened into public session at 8:06 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 Ms. Miller and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the January 8, 2020 minutes from Executive Session and the regular public meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2019.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone. He said tonight, once again, is a night of champions in the Central High School District. He said we recognize three students tonight for their achievements in the Regeneron Science Competition. Mr. DeTommaso explained how incredible this accomplishment is and congratulated the students, their teachers and their parents.

Regeneron Science Competition Scholars

Ms. Goller presented and Award of Honor certificate to Andrew Brinton from Kennedy High School. Ms. Goller congratulated Andrew on his research project entitled "Marsh Restoration: Ribbed Mussels (*Geukensia demissa*) as a Revival Mechanism to Rebuild the Coastal Salt Marshes of Long Island, New York" and said he is bright, inquisitive, disciplined and kind.

Kenar Gelman from Kennedy High School was not present to accept her Award of Honor certificate. Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Kenar on her research project entitled "Chondrocyte Adenosine A2A Receptor Signaling Leads to Cellular Homeostasis Through Activation of Protein Kinase A (PKA)".

Ms. Piskin presented an Award of Honor certificate to Katherine St. George from Kennedy High School. Ms. Piskin congratulated Katherine on her research project entitled "The Ketogenic Diet Ameliorates: The Effect of Caffeine in Seizure Susceptible *Drosophila melanogaster*" and said she continues to impress peers and faculty at every turn.

Mr. DeTommaso again congratulated the students, Barbi Frank and Bobby Zinke. Mr. Zinke was recognized by his former student Katherine St. George in her research project.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed the STEAM program and how it is expanding opportunities for kids. He said that Kennedy High School hosted the first Robotics competition that drew about 40 teams from Long Island and beyond. Mr. Soel said the middle schools would be competing in robotics and other science competitions.

Mr. DeTommaso said that this district does not focus on what the kids decide to take; it is about the opportunities that are offered to them. He mentioned the strong business programs in the district and how the Bellmore-Merrick Challenge was a great opportunity for the students to team up with students from our other schools. Local universities and their business programs were on hand throughout the day.

Mr. DeTommaso said the district is getting close to piloting the Prep Academy and he thanked Mr. Arlin and Ms. Paluseo. The district has partnered with three great organizations, CMA, Life's WORC and FREE for the program. He said the Prep Academy would allow students graduating from Calhoun to come to Brookside to prepare them for the next step in their development, offering students expanded opportunities for work and life after school.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Fontana for organizing the Faculty Follies. He said it really does not have many follies because every act is fantastic. He said the community came together for the Community Cupboard and raised \$3,060.00. Mr. DeTommaso also said the Faculty Follies gives students the chance to see their teachers and staff outside of how they usually see them. The students take great pride in seeing their teachers doing the things that they also like to do. Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone involved for putting together an amazing show.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Ms. Freeman on her upcoming retirement and said she has done an amazing job for the last three years. Mr. DeTommaso said he was proud to announce that Ms. Coni will be appointed as Assistant Superintendent for Business starting July 1, 2020.

Student Representatives

Gabriella Giobardo said that Calhoun High School had an eventful and successful January. She said that the On Tour program produced the comedy “Once in a Lifetime” and is currently rehearsing “The Secret Garden” for production in March. She said the Science Olympiad had medalists in six categories last Saturday. She also said the Calhoun Sports teams did very well last month, especially the basketball, bowling, wrestling, swim teams and track. Gabriella said she spoke on the coalition panel “Vapes and Vaping” to raise awareness about the vaping crisis and hopes the number of students vaping will reduce. She also spoke about the new club called COPE which stands for Cooperatively Overcoming Problems Effectively. COPE is a student-led initiative that focuses on breaking the stigma around mental health in a for-youth, by-youth environment.

Mr. DeTommaso said Gabriella did a great job speaking on the panel about the vaping problem. He said that vaping is something that needs to be focused on and that the information from police, TEMPO, NYU Langone and students who spoke on the panel was very enlightening, especially from the kids.

Daniel Iskols said he was proud to share that Kennedy High School’s Senior Cyber Patriot team placed first in NYS in the Platinum tier for the second year in a row. Kennedy hosted its annual Alumni Day and a VEX robotics competition, adding that both events were a huge success. He congratulated the Regeneron Scholars and the basketball team and said that everyone had a great time at the Jam the Gym event.

Mariana Mora from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) said since our December meeting, students enjoyed a bowling trip and a badminton tournament with faculty. They also had field trips to the NY Hall of Science, Canine Companions and the Tilles Center. MAP students also enjoyed a cultural sensitivity workshop and a discussion series called “Life After High School”. Mariana said that MAP students also participated in the “Vapes and Vaping” panel discussion.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Mariana Mora for doing a great job with the vaping panel. He feels it was very important that all of the schools were represented and participated in the event.

Stefanie Simone said Mepham High School had an exciting month. Students enjoyed the Mr. Mepham pageant and assembled 300 bags of seasonal supplies for various shelters for the MLK Day of Service. She congratulated two PTA Reflections entry winners, the Future Business Leaders of America Club Regional Conference winners. She also congratulated science teacher Mrs. Parlagreco, who received the Zagarino Outstanding Community Member of the Year award from the Bellmore Chamber of Commerce. Stefanie also congratulated the Robotics team and sports teams for their accomplishments. She said upcoming Mepham would hold the “Forever Teal Blue” event to honor 2011 graduate Kayla Donnelly-Smith who passed away in 2015. She asked everyone for their support and said all proceeds from the event will go to the Kayla Donnelly-Smith Memorial Scholarship.

Mr. DeTommaso said the MLK Day of Service was a great success, every school participated and many supplies were donated. Dr. Bollettieri said hundreds of bags were donated to eight different shelters.

Future Dates

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates pointing out that all of the schools would be closed for Winter Recess.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS– *Agenda Items Only*

There were no comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Donations

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$50.00 from BMUST towards the Community Cupboard, in memory of Charles Reed.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,000.00 from Barbara Ross for the Calhoun Robotics Club.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the Calhoun Sports Boosters of the following items: one IOgrapher Kit with an approximate value of \$200.00, one Ipad 7th Generation with an approximate value of \$350.00, one LG 70” TV and wall mounting kit with an approximate value of \$750.00, one ShotSled wrestling trainer with an approximate value of \$1,650.00 and one Storage Shed and foundation with an approximate value of \$2,500.00.

Mr. Corona asked where the storage shed was going. Mr. Caballero said that it would be placed on the softball field behind home plate. Mr. Simpkins explained that the Calhoun Sports Boosters consults with Mr. Caballero and himself before purchasing any equipment.

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$50.00 from the North Bellmore Union Free School District’s Board of Education towards the Community Cupboard in memory of Joan Testa.

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$100.00 from the Bellmore Lions Foundation towards the Community Cupboard in memory of Joan Testa.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500.00 from the Bellmore Lions Foundation towards the Community Cupboard in recognition of the Faculty Follies.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for the donations.

B. Policies

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

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

Policy No. 5605 – Voter Registration for Students (New)

Ms. Goller asked how this new policy would be implemented. Mr. DeTommaso explained that we have been doing this for years and it is offered during classes.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

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

Policy No. 4710 – Grading Systems

Policy No. 4741 – Class Rank and Weighting of Grades

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

C. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the CSE: 000011440, 000011464, 000012107, 000012261, 000012672, 000511975, 000512259, 000512978, 000513181, 000513185, 043570000, 071910005, 083090001, 100780001, 102570000, 102700001, 131261667, 201600057, 201700227, 201900052, 201900123, 370001081, 370001259, 370001452, 370001457.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report as follows:

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – January 8, 2020

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Salary Reclassification
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellations
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics – Continued

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrants – February 5, 2020

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

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary – January 31, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.D through IX.E.

D. Obsolete/Surplus Property

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of two Steamer Pressureless Double and two Kettle Steam Floor at Brookside.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of one VCR and one TV at Mephram High School.

E. Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Settlement Agreement with Province Therapeutics, LLC. in the amount of \$96,893.50 and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business or her designee to process said payment.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kellie Shuart spoke about the pending legislation on the NY Senate making HPV vaccine mandatory to attend school. She hopes the district will join other central school districts in writing a letter of opposition to Governor Cuomo and feels this should be a parent's choice.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business discussed.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk