

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 1, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 1, 2020 via Zoom video conference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 for alternative means for public entities to conduct public meetings.

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  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
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  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session via video conference at 7:15 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, the budget and the many challenges the district has faced due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Ms. Blane, Board President called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Blane welcomed everyone and thanked medical personnel and first responders for their commitment during this time of crisis. She also thanked the administrators, teachers and staff. She commended the students for their continued commitment and said we will all get through this together.

Ms. Blane explained that pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1, tonight's public meeting will be streamlined, recorded and a transcript will be available at a later date. She further explained that Board Policy # 2350 identifies the order of business for a regular Board of Education meeting and entertained a motion to remove Public Comments for tonight's meeting only.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0 the Board of Education removed the Public Comment sections from this meeting only and changed the order of business accordingly.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 4, 2020 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 29, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso started by thanking everyone and said these are unprecedented times. He said we have never been through anything like this before and hopefully we will never go through anything like this again, but he knows that this community will get through this like we have gotten through many other difficult times. The community has been raising funds and supplies for first responders and health care workers. We are serving breakfast to 100 kids daily and the Community Cupboard has continued to feed about 37 families bi-weekly. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Board of Education, administrators, directors, chairs, principals, assistant principals, paras, custodians, food workers, clericals, nurses, teachers and the entire staff for their dedication in putting kids and families first. He thanked the teaching staff for the remote teaching plan which keeps improving and for their dedication to their students. He is very proud of what this District is doing, it is an amazing team and an amazing staff. Mr. DeTommaso wants the community to know that we are here for them and we will continue to educate their kids. He said that we update the community every Friday, but things change often so if anyone in the community has any questions, please let us know. Mr. DeTommaso further stated that if anyone in the community needs any kind of resource (for children or adults), please reach out to us, we are here to help you. Mr. DeTommaso wants everyone to know that the CHSD and the component districts are all working together and we will continue to update the community but in the meantime and above all else, stay healthy, be well and as long as this takes, we will be there for your kids and families.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS– *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting only.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report as follows:

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT – April 1, 2020

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments

VIII. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – April 1, 2020

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

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary – March 31, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

Ms. Freeman said the budget presentation will be available online tomorrow. The proposed budget is keeping under the cap at 2.561%. There are some changes to the budget, one is that the tax cap calculation now includes a BOCES capital exclusion. She said the proposed budget increase is 2.23% which is 3.6 million dollars. Revenue is down this year due to a loss from out of district revenue which is being made up from reserves and fund balance. Regarding State Aid, numbers were given out today, but they have not yet been approved

and it seems that whatever gains and stimulus we would have been given cannot be relied on, therefore we will keep the same amount as what we budgeted for this year.

Ms. Coni explained that the spending budget is also at 2.23%. Increases in spending included salaries, benefits, increases in TRS rates, and Special Education Related Services. There is a new technology improvement project and we will be retaining new programs that were introduced in the 19-20 school year such as the counseling and wellness programs, AP Cap Stone, the Culinary Program and Broadcasting. There are also some program enhancements included in the budget. Ms. Coni mentioned that the budget vote has been postponed to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Freeman explained that there are two propositions on the ballot this year. The first proposition is for the school budget and the second proposition is for capital reserves which will have no impact on the community.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Freeman and Ms. Coni for their hard work on this budget. He explained that the State Aid numbers came in today at 5:00 p.m. and he thanked them for adjusting the budget at the last minute.

Mr. Powers explained that Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order changing the school budget vote to a date no sooner than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items VIII.D through VIII.P.

D. Adoption of Budget Propositions

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred sixty-six million, six hundred sixty-one thousand, four hundred sixty-four dollars (\$166,661,464) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 2- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of seven hundred fifty one thousand, eight hundred eight dollars (\$751,808) representing the balance of monies in the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 2016 for the following purposes: parking lot, tennis courts and track resurfacing, and floor and ceiling tile replacement at W.C. Mephram High School, Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle Schools and door and lock replacement at all buildings. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 1.

E. Federal Single Audit

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Federal Single Audit Report for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the year ended June 30, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Federal Single Audit for the year ended June 30, 2019.

F. Receipt, Collection and Review of Certified Payroll Records

WHEREAS, contractors and subcontractors engaged by a school district for construction work are required to pay prevailing wages to their workers and are required to submit certified payroll records to the school district in connection with their obligation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Labor Law §220, the Board of Education designates Jon Simpkins as the individual responsible for Receipt, Collection and Review for facial validity of Certified Payroll Records.

G. Municipal Advisor Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a municipal advisor services agreement with Munistat to provide research and analysis at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 and to provide financing services for Tax Anticipation Notes and Revenue Anticipation Notes at a cost of \$6,500 and \$10,500, respectively.

H. Cooperative Bid – 2020-2021 – Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2020-2021 school year:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of Nassau County Public School Districts, during the 2020-2021 school year, to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District (the “School District”) is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“Procedures”) governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the Superintendent or his designee to represent it in all matters relative above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

I. Inter-Municipal Transportation Management

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an existing Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator for the 2020-2021 school year.

J. Non-public School Transportation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the provision of bus transportation to particular non-public schools for a period of three years starting with the 2020-2021 school year. This period of time will become irrelevant if an eligible student should register for transportation to the school in question during this time. The three-year period will restart once there are no longer eligible students in attendance. (NY State Education Law §3635.)

K. Inter-Municipal Transportation Cooperative

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2020-2021 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

L. SCOPE Emergency Child Care Services - Executive Order 202.4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and SCOPE Educational Services to provide Emergency Child Care Services to children of first responders and medical service providers, in accordance to Executive Order 202.4, and authorizes the Board of Education President to sign said agreement.

M. BOCES Technology Lease Agreement

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District 36-715693 desires to enter into a 5 year contract with the Nassau BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 630 Technical Services:

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$1,661,934.66 plus related borrowing fees, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period from 4-24-2020 to 4-23-2025.

N. 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.

O. Tax Anticipation Notes

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In order to facilitate the issuance from time to time of tax anticipation notes (the "Notes") to meet periodic cash-flow needs pursuant to Section 24.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (the "Law"), the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (the "District"), in the County of Nassau, New York, hereby delegates its power to authorize the issuance of tax anticipation notes to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to Section 30.00 of the Law.

Section 2. All Notes so authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 3. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00 and 60.00 of the Law, the powers to sell and issue such Notes, including the renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute tax certifications relative thereto, are hereby further delegated to the President of the Board of Education.

Section 4. All of such Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 5. The powers hereby delegated shall be exercised by the President of the Board of Education until such time as the Board of Education, by resolution, shall elect to reassume the same.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

P. Revenue Anticipation Notes

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In order to facilitate the issuance of revenue anticipation notes (the “Notes”) to meet cash-flow needs, pursuant to Section 25.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (the “Law”), the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District (the “District”), in the County of Nassau, New York, hereby delegates its power to authorize the issuance of revenue anticipation notes to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to Section 30.00 of the Law.

Section 2. All Notes so authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 3. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00 and 60.00 of the Law, the powers to sell and issue such Notes, including the renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute tax certifications relative thereto, are hereby further delegated to the President of the Board of Education.

Section 4. All of such Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 5. The powers hereby delegated shall be exercised by the President of the Board of Education until such time as the Board of Education, by resolution, shall elect to reassume the same.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments for this meeting only.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the student reps who are not here tonight, Mariana Mora, Stephanie Simone, Daniel Iskols and Gabriella Giobardo and said we miss them. He thanked the entire staff for their hard work. Mr. DeTommaso addressed the kids by saying that he knows there is a lot of anxiety and that this is difficult, but he wants them to know that they are missed. We miss their energy and whatever this brings, know that through all of this we will take care of you and we will make sure that we do the best we can for you.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk