

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING July 24, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, July 24, 2013 in the Auditorium at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Susan Schwartz, President
JoAnn DeLauter, Vice President
Marion Blane
Janet Goller
George Haile
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Dr. Matthew Kushner
Nina Lanci

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia Strait Regal, Deputy Superintendent of Business
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Administration
Caryn Blum, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services
Saul Lerner, Director of Physical Education/Health/Athletics/Driver Education/Adult Ed
John Dziedzic, Interim Director of School Facilities and Operations
Thomas Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I
Edward McCarthy, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 p.m. by Mrs. Schwartz, Board of Education President, who then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the July 9, 2013 meeting. Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Schwartz introduced Roger Smith from the architectural firm of Behrendt, Burton and Smith (BBS), who gave an outline of the proposed bond referendum work. He stated the 2010 building condition survey performed by his company is the District's Five Year Plan. He reviewed this plan and considered the District's 2013 needs. He advised NYSED has a format for priorities. Each project has itemized costs and fees. He stated buildings at a certain age, require an assessment of existing conditions. Some items, roofs, doors, etc., are at the end of their useful life and need to be replaced and reconstructed. An Energy Performance evaluation can determine what items are needed for optimal efficiency. Projects are based on energy cost savings.

POTENTIAL BOND

**POTENTIAL BOND
(Continued)**

Fiscal responsibility is a part of this process. He congratulated the District for having done a remarkable job of maintaining its property for 22 years without a bond. He added that, with the Tax Cap, it is now very difficult to do that. He presented a timeline for the proposed bond referendum.

Dr. Kuschner was advised the District will need to have NYSED approval to receive building aid but Mr. Smith hopes to begin work the Summer of 2014 and be on line by September, 2014.

Dr. Kaplan was advised that Landtek's price estimate of \$700,000 was a baseline estimate and most likely did not include the "d zone", inside and soil removal for drainage. Mr. Smith stated the last field he installed cost 1.1 million dollars without contingencies and fees.

Mr. Haile was advised installation of artificial turf at five (5) full size fields is included in Mr. Smith's proposal.

Mr. DeTommaso was advised this plan would be phased in over the years. Some projects are lengthy and could take three (3) to four (4) years to complete because work would be done around summers and school closings and it is also affected by the method of borrowing.

Mr. Haile was advised the District's restrooms are original and tired. They would require a full replacement. HVAC systems are at the end of their useful life. They too are original.

Mrs. Lanci was advised all replacements would be compatible where necessary. Mr. Smith added the District should look into gas conversions. All estimates contain contingencies.

Mr. Haile was advised the new science labs will be state of the art at the time of their reconstruction.

Mrs. Schwartz was advised STEM will be included in any technology updates.

Mr. Haile was advised work will hopefully begin in the summer or fall of 2014, depending upon when the NYSED approves a permit. The work will be on-going.

Mrs. Schwartz thanked Mr. Smith and added the Board is in the process of obtaining bond counsel.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked BBS, the Board of Education and administrators for moving forward with this bond. He added the District has moved forward in some areas of concern. The District has gotten input from the community and staff has held site-based meetings and building tours. The Board will be receiving those building reports. The Board will hold a community forum. Mr. DeTommaso stated the District needs to upgrade its facilities. Mr. DeTommaso

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congratulated two District students, Lauren Lamonsoff and Alana DeGregorio. They were selected to perform in the All Honors National Choir in Nashville, Tennessee, in October. The Board of Education will officially recognize them at a later meeting. He added that he appreciates everyone's energy, enthusiasm and passion.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT
(Continued)**

Mrs. Schwartz reviewed the printed guidelines for anyone wishing to make comments. She added this first Public Comments section is for agenda items only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ross Shulman questioned if plumbing, specifically the water fountains, are included in BBS' proposed bond referendum because the water fountain water tastes bad. He also wanted to know if the District tests the quality of the water from the fountains.

Mr. DeTommaso stated this issue will be investigated and added that the items mentioned in the BBS presentation is just a small, preliminary glimpse, into what needs to be done.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve revised Policy No. 5300 – Code of Conduct. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BOARD POLICY

Dr. Kuschner moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$100 from Astoria Federal Savings to Mephram High School Art Club on behalf of a student who won the 2013 Teen Photo Contest. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

DONATIONS

Mr. Haile moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of a 5'X4'X2.5' bronze colt statue, Calhoun's mascot, from the Calhoun Sports Boosters valued at \$1,950 with a delivery fee of \$350, plus installation. Dr. Kuschner seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Schwartz thanked Calhoun Sports Boosters.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$13,440.42 from the Mephram Sports Boosters for the purchase of a new Pirate Mascot costume valued at \$886.18; weights for weight room valued at \$9,854.24; a sign for the weight room valued at \$600; and a new batting cage valued at approximately \$2,100. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mrs. Schwartz thanked Mephram Sports Boosters.

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve two additional vendors for school year 2013-2014, Home Care for Children, Inc. and Millennium Children's Therapy. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
VENDORS**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated July 24, 2013, as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kuschner seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

PERSONNEL

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- BUDGET TRANSFER** Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education approve a transfer of \$57,134 from A9770 700 00 0000 (short term interest) to A9785 600 00 0000 (installment debt). Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- COMPONENT TAX ALLOCATION** Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education approve the allocation of the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District's tax levy for 2013-2014, and that the Board of Education authorize the District Clerk to notify the component districts of their tax levies for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- PUBLIC RELATIONS** Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Syntax to provide public relations services in connection with the proposed bond issue and authorize the Board of Education president to sign this agreement. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.
- Dr. Kushner moved the following resolutions. Mrs. DeLauter seconded.
- ASSET INVENTORY SOFTWARE** BE IT RESOLVED, moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Asset Works, Inc. to provide support of the district's Asset Inventory software from 9/1/12 – 8/31/13 at a cost not to exceed \$1,350; and that the Board of Education authorize the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Deputy Superintendent to execute an agreement with Asset Works, Inc.
- UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF NASSAU COUNTY** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc. (UCPN) for space at the Brookside School for use as a temporary evacuation site under an emergency management plan when such school property is not required for school purposes, terminating on June 30, 2014.
- EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Tri-State Reach, Inc. to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for the District's eligible employees at a cost of \$14 per instructional and administrative staff (estimated at 560) and \$0 for all non-instruction staff and not to exceed \$7,924.
- THE LONG ISLAND HOME** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a service agreement with The Long Island Home, doing business as (dba) South Oaks Hospital, to provide transitional services identified in a District student's IEP from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14.
- JOINT MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE BIDDING PROGRAM** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:
"WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE
BIDDING PROGRAM
(Continued)**

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law § 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Education Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Participant meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five (5) to ten (10) representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law § 119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law § 119-o.2.j.

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE BID
PROGRAM**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee, as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES, to act as the lead agent for the Program.”

The motion was carried 8-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendy Garguilo asked if there was anything different about the Code of Conduct policy and was advised it contains Dignity for All Students Act updates. It will be available online.

Mrs. Schwartz stated the Board respects members of the community and commended everyone for wanting to speak but the Board cannot discuss any personnel matter in public. She also asked everyone to keep their comments to three (3) minutes.

Sarah Johnson and Tori Cicchetti spoke in support of Mr. Serie.

Mary Schiaffo feels administrators are in contradiction of District policy.

The following people spoke in support of Mr. Serie:

Kathleen Silverman
Ellen Visconti Olson

Jesse Colons asked if there is a District policy prohibiting teachers from making appearances in media.

The following people spoke in support of Mr. Serie:

Landon Cooper
Maureen Paladino
Christine Grassman
Jeff Fein
Sara Cerencia
Michaela Cassella
Darren Ofsink
Marci Talarico
Nicole Baltzer

Bernie Stein stated it appears the Board made a decision based on Mr. Serie's appearance on a television show. He added teachers don't give up their First Amendment rights.

The following people spoke in support of Mr. Serie:

Peter Roberto
John Grossman
Bernie Rosen

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The following people spoke in support of Mr. Serie:

Jack Latham
Andrew SanGabriel
Hayley Yackavage
Marilyn Wolfson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Continued)**

There was none.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Dr, Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Haile, and carried 8-0, the Board of Education agreed to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and student matters at 9:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Goller, and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 11:00 p.m.

Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education declare the preliminary expenses incurred while investigating a potential Bond issue to be ordinary contingent expenses of the District. Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

POTENTIAL BOND

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter and carried 8-0, the Board of Education re-entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. DeLauter, and carried 8-0, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk