

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING October 15, 2014

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, October 15, 2014, 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:

JoAnn DeLauter, President  
Marion Blane  
Wendy Gargiulo  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Susan Schwartz

The following member of the Board of Education was absent:

George Haile, Vice President

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel  
David Seinfeld, 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  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Thomas Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator  
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m. Mrs. DeLauter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 3, 2014 and September 17, 2014 Board of Ed meetings. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. DeLauter stated Mr. Haile was not in attendance this evening due to a work obligation.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's report dated August 31, 2014. Mrs. Schwartz seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated our Board meetings are filled with outstanding kids and teachers. Tonight's meeting is no exception. He welcomed Griffin Miller from Calhoun, Mara Friedman from Kennedy and Kara Ognibene from Mephram, this year's student representatives to the Board of Education. He then began the award presentations.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SEMI-FINALIST**

Mrs. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Nicholas Kearney, a senior at Calhoun High School, for having qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Nick transitioned to Calhoun from Kellenberg last year, and although a rather shy young man, he found his niche alongside his peers in Calhoun's computer science and math classes. With the encouragement of his fellow students, Nick joined the chess club and has become a top competitor. Strategy games have long held Nick's interest, with computer science and computer games being his concentration. Nick has created computer programs by teaching himself Python and Java computer languages from manuals and websites. Nick continues to pursue a second year of Computer Programming with AP Computer Science and his future goals include becoming a software engineer and game developer. Nick is also an English Language and Literature enthusiast with writing and reading as his favorite pastime. Fantasy and science fiction novels are his favorite and it is not surprising that he earned a five on the AP English Language Exam. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Gargiulo congratulated Nick.

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Beatrice Brown, a senior at Kennedy High School, for having qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Beatrice is a member of five honor societies including the National Honor Society. She has received the National Spanish Exam Gold Medal two years in a row and was a 2014 American Museum of Natural History Young Naturalist Awards Finalist. An accomplished musician, Beatrice has been an All-County Flutist, a NYSSMA All-State Flutist and a NAFME All-National Honors Concert Band Flutist. She is the principal flutist of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and has performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Beatrice is President of the Mock Trial Team, and a member of the science club, jazz band, pit orchestra and plays golf. Her future plans include studying science and music in college and potentially attending law school. Mrs. Goller congratulated Beatrice on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Schwartz presented an Award of Honor certificate to Nicholas Field, a senior at Kennedy High School, for having qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and the Math Honor Society. He is an AP Scholar with Honor, placed first in Kennedy's Science Fair, and has been a Silver Medalist twice in the National Spanish Exam. Nick is a member of the Varsity Soccer and Baseball teams and has received the Varsity Baseball "Teammate" Award. He is also a member of Hope Club, SADD, and President of the Math Club. Outside of school Nick coaches Little League. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Schwartz congratulated Nick.

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Seth Gottlieb, a senior at Kennedy High School, has qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and the Science Honor Society. Seth is President of the Math Club, a member of the Varsity Track Team and the Advanced Science Research Program. He is a math Peer Tutor and has attended the CTY (Center for Talented Youth) programs at

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Princeton University, Johns Hopkins University and Dickinson College. Outside of school, Seth is a peer mentor at Friedberg JCC and Sid Jacobson JCC and has performed community service at the Merrick Jewish Center. Dr. Kaplan congratulated Seth on behalf of the Board of Education.

**NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SEMI-FINALIST  
(Continued)**

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Justin Shapiro, a senior at Kennedy High School, for having qualified as a Semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Justin has been a member of the N.M.E.A. All-County Band, Swim Team, and Cross Country Team. He is a member of Kennedy's Jazz Band and Pit Orchestra as the Principal Alto Saxophone. In addition, he is a member of the Mock Trial Team, and Student Government. Outside of school, Justin gives presentations on behalf of The Climate Reality Project, is a lifeguard for Nassau County Parks, and the Principal Alto Sax for the Nassau Suffolk Concert Band. Next year, Justin plans on majoring in government or history and attending law school. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Kaplan congratulated Justin.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of tonight's recipients.

Calhoun senior Owen Sconzo who was selected as a 2014-2015 National Hispanic Recognition Scholars recipient was not in attendance. Mrs. Gargiulo stated Owen is an outstanding student as well as a young man of character. He has pursued the most challenging program available and has earned the distinction of A.P. Scholar. His impressive resume includes four A.P. classes this year. Throughout his high school career, Owen has been a world class fencer, competing in many countries around the world. Owen is a humble young man who has made a positive impression on all who have worked with him and is busy planning for college and looking forward to a bright future.

**NATIONAL HISPANIC  
SCHOLAR PROGRAM**

Mrs. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Lisa Condoluci, a senior at Mepham High School, who was selected as a 2014-2015 National Hispanic Recognition Scholar recipient. The National Hispanic Recognition Program identifies outstanding Hispanic/Latino students and the highest-scoring juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. Students with GPAs of 3.5 or higher are designated as Scholars. A natural leader, scholar, athlete, and science researcher, Lisa is a member of five honor societies, including National Honor Society and has received countless accolades for her achievements. An AP Scholar with Distinction, Lisa's program consistently demonstrates the height of rigor that our district has to offer. She has been a member of the Varsity track team for the past four years, conducted research in the behavioral sciences, and has participated in Mepham's Poetry Out Loud competition. Outside of school, Lisa has volunteered her time to working with young children as a summer camp counselor, tutoring struggling students in mathematics, and has raised funds for a variety of causes. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Lanci congratulated Lisa.

**NATIONAL HISPANIC  
SCHOLAR PROGRAM  
(Continued)**

David Pincus was not in attendance at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Lanci read his accomplishments stating David Pincus, a senior at Mephram High School, has been selected as a 2014-2015 National Hispanic Recognition Scholar recipient. David is enrolled in three AP classes in addition to senior experience. He is a member of two Honor Societies and has also been named a National Merit Commended Student. He is a member of the Math Team and has served as a peer tutor throughout his years in high school. A gifted pianist, David has pursued private lessons and has performed in the jazz band.

**NEW YORK STATE  
SCHOOL MUSIC  
ASSOCIATION  
(NYSSMA) ALL-STATE**

Mrs. Gargiulo presented an Award of Honor certificate to Lydia Librizzi, a senior at Calhoun High School, for having been chosen to the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Orchestra. A very talented musician, Lydia is a First Chair violist in the Long Island String Festival. She is a member of the exceptional Calhoun's Choir which won second place last year in Music in the Parks. The "On-Tour" program at Calhoun is also near and dear to Lydia's heart where she has participated in the ensemble and played violin for the pit orchestra. This year Lydia is cast in the role of Widow Capilet in Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well." Lydia is also a serious academic student and is a member of the National Honor Society and anticipates acceptance into the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She hopes to double major in Music Education and Viola performance in college next year. Mrs. Gargiulo congratulated Lydia on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Elijah Maduro, a junior at Calhoun High School, for having been selected as an alternate not only to the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band but also to the All-State Jazz Band. Elijah plays the Tenor Sax and is a member of the wind ensemble and Calhoun's jazz band. He has been a member of the All-County Jazz Band for several years and has received a perfect score on both of his NYSSMA auditions. Elijah excels at jazz improvisation and we are sure we will see him here again next year. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Goller congratulated Elijah.

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mara Friedman, a senior at Kennedy High School, has been selected to the NYSSMA All-State Woman's Chorus, and the All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Last year she was chosen to the All-State Mixed Chorus and an alternate for the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. She was a member of the All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble in 2013 and 2014. Mara is not only a member of the Variety Choir, Girls' Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and the Drama Club; she has consistently held leadership positions including President and Vice-President. She also takes voice and trumpet lessons. Mara is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and the Thesbian National Honor Society. She is Kennedy High School's Student Representative for this year's Board of Education meetings. Dr. Kaplan congratulated and welcomed her on behalf of the Board of Education.

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Mrs. Schwartz presented an Award of Honor certificate to Daniel Grange, a senior at Kennedy High School, for having been selected to perform with the NYSSMA All-State String Orchestra. He has played the cello in the Kennedy String Ensemble for three years and in the student volunteer ensemble “Playback” for three years, which performs in various retirement homes in the local area. Daniel is a skilled pianist as well, having received a score of 100 on his Piano Level 6 NYSSMA audition. He has played piano in the Kennedy pit band, accompanied the Kennedy Women’s Choir and Concert Choir, in addition to singing Bass in the Variety Choir and Concert Choir. Daniel is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, the Math Club and his future plans include quote “making mad money”. He will pursue physics in college. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Schwartz congratulated Daniel.

**NYSSMA – ALL-STATE  
(Continued)**

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Alyssa Rabinowitz, a senior at Mepham High School, has been selected to participate in the NYSSMA All-State Women’s Chorus. She is a member of Mepham’s choir and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. She is also an active member of the Skull and Bones Drama Club, A World of Difference, Habitat for Humanity, and is the co-editor in chief of Mepham’s literary magazine “Fragments”. Alyssa has achieved great academic success and has earned a number of honors and accolades throughout her high school years. She is currently enrolled in four AP classes and is a member of five distinct Honor Societies. She will be graduating with an Advanced Regents diploma with honor and mastery in math and science. Her contributions are not limited to the classroom, as she has made a difference in the greater community by giving generously of her time and raising money for worthwhile causes such as Bethany House and pancreatic cancer research. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Alyssa on behalf of the Board of Ed.

Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Mepham High School English teacher Nicole Maresca who was recognized as a 2014 New York State English Council Educator of Excellence for her efforts in the classroom and she will be honored at the NYSEC Conference later this month. The application process included a letter of nomination, letters of recommendation from a colleague, a supervisor, and a former student, and submission of several lesson plans and instructional materials. In one of her letters of recommendation from a former student, Mrs. Maresca was described as, “An inspiration and a role model. Her caring disposition makes her classroom feel light and comfortable. I would sit in her classroom and think I want to be a great teacher like her one day.” Mrs. Maresca started her time in Bellmore-Merrick as a student teacher and intern. During her 13 years as a teacher at Mepham High School, Mrs. Maresca has taught almost every single grade and academic level and a number of elective courses. Mrs. Maresca serves as the advisor for *Fragments*, Mepham’s Literary & Art Magazine, and she is the Poetry Out Loud lead teacher. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Mrs. Maresca.

**NEW YORK STATE  
ENGLISH COUNCIL  
EDUCATOR OF  
EXCELLENCE**

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of tonight's recipients and added Bellmore-Merrick likes to recognize its student and behind them, our administrators and teachers who support our students.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Griffin Miller, Calhoun's Board of Education student representative, introduced himself. He congratulated Nicholas Kearney, Elijah Maduro, Lydia Librizzi, Owen Sconzo and Jensen Rosemund upon their accomplishments. He also congratulated Calhoun's National Merit Scholarship Commended students for their accomplishment. Calhoun's Ice Bucket Challenge raised over \$3,000. Calhoun recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new turf field. In recognition of Stroke Awareness Day, Calhoun students wore red. Challenge Day was a three day event in which students participated in team building and sharing programs. Calhoun students participated in an "Arrive Alive" driving program designed to help them make good decisions while driving. He is looking forward to homecoming and Coltfest on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mara Friedman, representing Kennedy High School, introduced herself and stated Kennedy's Guidance staff is processing approximately 1,100 college applications. She congratulated Kennedy's Valedictorian, Beatrice Brown, and Salutatorian, Nicholas Field. Students were happy to return to a new turf field and refurbished gym. A ceremony was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. She also noted the technology upgrades within the building. Spirit Week and Homecoming were last week. Student participation in the pep rally, games and bonfire was high and culminated with a football game under the lights. \$3,200 was raised in Kennedy's Ice Bucket Challenge. Kennedy students challenged alumni to a volleyball game and money was raised for cancer research. Sports have begun and the Lady Sharks Swim team is on a seven meet winning streak. A club fair was recently held for freshmen. There will be a Ninth Grade Advisory next week.

Kara Ognibene, Mephram's representative to the Board of Ed, advised the Classes of 1954 and 1964 held their reunions last month. The Drama Club's production of "A Night on Broadway" raised approximately \$3,000 for pancreatic cancer research. For six years in a row, Mephram has been designated one of the top high schools in the US. The World of Difference Club held a Spanish night. Mephram's Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge also raised money. The Football team raised over \$2,000 for Breast Cancer Awareness and students, athletes and school grounds were "pinked out" for the occasion. District College Night was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> with over 106 colleges represented. A movie night under the stars on the new turf field raised over \$3,000. This week is Spirit Week. Friday is "Lip Sink" day. The October 16<sup>th</sup> football game will be under the lights. Girls Soccer and a Pep Rally on October 17<sup>th</sup> will precede the Homecoming Parade and 3:00 PM football game on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. DeTommaso noted raising money for research and others is a common thread running throughout the district's students. It is incredibly satisfying that our students are all about helping others and giving.

Mrs. DeLauter thanked the student representatives for accepting their positions and added she looks forward to the coming months.

Mr. DeTommaso encouraged everyone to look at the amazing teacher artwork displayed in the Brookside corridor.

Mr. Seinfeld stated Ms. Connelly of Kennedy HS, Mr. Gomez of Calhoun HS and Mr. Safina of Mepham HS prepared a Guidance presentation.

**GUIDANCE**

Mr. Gomez explained and demonstrated Naviance to the audience stating it is an amazing program and resource for students and parents. It records academic information, testing information, career information, college search and college applications. Students complete an Interest Inventory of 180 questions and the program suggests possible careers, majors and schools offering courses in the student's area of interest.

Ms. Connelly noted the College Board has announced changes to the SAT. Research indicates students need strong critical thinking and analytical skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Effective March of 2015, there will no longer be a penalty for incorrect answers. Scores will return to 1600, 800 Math/800 Evidenced Based Reading and Writing. 50 minutes will be allotted for the optional essay. The Class of 2017 will be the first class affected by these changes and these students will be encouraged to take both the "old" SAT and the "new" SAT exams. The website [www.deliveringopportunity.org](http://www.deliveringopportunity.org) gives an overview of the SAT changes. The SAT will be very similar to the ACT exam.

Dr. Kaplan was advised Kahn Academy, Kaplan and others will most likely focus more on content aligned with the curriculum and less on strategy.

Mrs. DeLauter mentioned some of the future events, Mepham's Homecoming Parade and the Kennedy and Mepham Math Honor Society inductions, and advised attendees to check the school calendar for a schedule of upcoming events.

**FUTURE DATES**

There were no comments on agenda items only.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the following special education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000010720, 000010926, 000011361, 000011381, 000011476, 000013120, 000511031, 000511650, 000512016, 000512061, 030420010, 032460002, 052720001, 070010425, 070011005, 110009313, 110010882, 110010901, 121740000, 122120001, 130003247, 370000283, 370000842, 992450182 and 992450230. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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**DONATIONS**

Mrs. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$4,000 to help fund Mepham HS' ELITE program from the Mepham Alumni Association and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 7-0. Mrs. DeLauter thanked the Mepham Alumni Association for their generous donation.

Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$432.19 to Kennedy HS' journalism class toward the purchase of newspapers from Target and increase the appropriations budget by this amount. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**POLICY**

The Board accepted Policy No. 5425 – Wellness Policy for a first reading.

**PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated October 15, 2014, as amended. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BILLS**

The Board of Ed reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated October 15, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.

**BIDS**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following transfer:  
\$96,589 from: A2110 130 00 0000  
to: A2250 150 00 0000 (2013-2014)

**INDOOR WORKER/  
STUDENT OCCUPIED  
SPACE**

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 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, and 65° Fahrenheit from September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE FOR THE  
FURTHERANCE OF  
JEWISH EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a revised agreement with the National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education for the use of six classrooms from 9/21/14 to 5/10/15 for 25 sessions for a total cost of \$13,262.

**WAIVER OF BOND**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore Lions and Kiwanis Clubs' use of the Jerusalem Avenue school for their annual Strawberry Festival from 5/26/15 through 6/1/15 and agree to have the \$500 required bond waived inasmuch as Blue Sky Shows (the carnival operator), Bellmore Lions and Kiwanis all have liability insurance.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Platinum Athletics from 9/27-28/14 to provide a choreography stunt clinic for Mephram HS' Cheerleading team at a cost not to exceed \$1,700, funded by fundraisers.

**CONSULTANTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Lisa Ganz of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD) as a presenter for the Pupil Personnel Services teams on Superintendent's Conference Day, 11/4/14, at a cost not to exceed \$200, funded by budget A2010 08 0000 400.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Marsha Iverson as a presenter on Superintendent's Conference Day, 11/4/14, at a cost not to exceed \$150, funded by budget A2010 08 0000 400.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Vincent Marmarole as a presenter on Superintendent's Conference Day, 11/4/14, at a cost not to exceed \$150, funded by budget A2010 08 0000 400.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Evelyn Rubin as a presenter on Superintendent's Conference Day, 11/4/14, at a cost not to exceed \$150, funded by budget A2010 08 0000 400.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the following Grand Avenue MS Math textbooks:

- ISBN 978-0-03-092939-7
- ISBN 978-0-03-092914-4
- ISBN 978-1-56765-585-8
- ISBN 013-4276833

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS  
PROPERTY**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby authorizes the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to enter into agreements with U.S. Employee Benefits Group for the 2014-2015 school year for the provision of:

- Affordable Care Act consulting services;
- Broker of Record; and
- Access to InRoll software for the purpose of employee benefits administration.

**US EMPLOYEE  
BENEFITS GROUP**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreements on behalf of the Board of Education.

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

There was none.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Pamela Banks had four questions. She asked about a high school radio station and was advised that is in Phase II of the bond. She was advised it is slated for July of 2015 at Mephram HS along with a culinary arts program at Kennedy. She asked about the possibility of a Girls Field Hockey Team and was advised the district will investigate the idea. She asked if the district offers a class in Photoshop on Excel and was advised that is currently a part of a business class. She asked about a Robotics Club and was advised there has been discussion on this topic.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk