

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING February 1, 2017

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 1, 2017, 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:

Janet Goller, President  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Vice President  
Marion Blane  
JoAnn DeLauter  
Wendy Gargiulo  
Lisa Katz  
Nina Lanci  
Gina Piskin

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel  
Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
David Seinfeld, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education  
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services  
Helen Kanellopoulos, Assistant Director of Special Education  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Tom Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator  
Antonia Hamblin, School Attorney  
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. Mrs. Goller, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Goller asked for a moment of silence for a Bellmore-Merrick Home and Careers teacher, Jessica Cimmino, who tragically passed away last month.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 4, 2017 meetings. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**MINUTES**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated December 31, 2016. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dr. Kaplan moved that there be a change in the order of the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CHANGE IN THE  
ORDER OF THE  
AGENDA**

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**DONATION**

Mrs. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept a joint donation of \$1,500 total from the Bellmore Lions (\$750) and the Bellmore Kiwanis (\$750) to the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Dr. Bollettieri thanked the Bellmore Kiwanis and Lions Club.

Mrs. Lanci, on behalf of the Bellmore Lions and Kiwanis, made a special presentation of an enlarged check to Dr. Bollettieri.

Dr. Bollettieri advised the Community Cupboard is feeding 17-20 families. She thanked Karen McMahon and other members of the team. Bellmore and North Bellmore school children brought donations. She thanked the ambassadors, teachers, volunteers and everyone involved. She again thanked the Bellmore Lions and Bellmore Kiwanis.

Mrs. Lanci stated Dr. Bollettieri is an incredible role model and thanked her for inspiring our children.

**RETURN TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board return to the order of the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated the work of the student ambassadors and everyone involved in the Community Cupboard is as important as any academic program. Our schools are the community schools.

**ONE VOICE, ONE MESSAGE 5K SUPERHERO RUN**

Robin Einbinder and Joseph Netto gave a brief presentation on Bellmore-Merrick students' community service. Martin Luther King Day of Service was very successful. 1,758 bags of meals were packaged. Continuing with the anti-hunger theme and working with "Rise Against Hunger," the third annual One Voice, One Message 5K Superhero Run is scheduled for 3/25/17. It will start at Grand Avenue MS winding its way through the Bellmores and Merricks, terminating at Grand Avenue. Local organizations have been contacted and flyers, posters and a media blitz are forthcoming.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated he belongs to the New York State Council of School Superintendents. In November of 2016, this organization came out against the nomination of Betty DeVos for Secretary of Education. He believes what we need in that position is someone who supports public education. He does not think she is the right choice and hopes it does not matter to Bellmore-Merrick CHSD. He has confidence in what we do here in Bellmore-Merrick. Whoever is appointed should come and see the power of Bellmore-Merrick. We need someone who cares about kids and understands the mission of public education.

Mrs. Goller stated that she and the other Board members echo those same sentiments. New York State School Boards Association has also issued a statement against the nomination of Betty DeVos.

Mr. DeTommaso pointed out tonight's students as models of what we do here.

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Mrs. DeLauter presented an Award of Honor certificate to Rachel Jozwik of Mepham High School is being recognized tonight as a 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar. Combining her love of art and biology, Rachel researched the stress hormone cortisol, and wanted to see if art classes had an effect on cortisol levels. Rachel spent two years designing and implementing her study. Her efforts resulted in her research project entitled "Correlation Between the rs53576 SNP and Stress Levels in High School Students." Rachel is Mepham's 2017 Valedictorian, a National Merit Semifinalist, a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction, a Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award recipient and a member of five honor societies. Mrs. DeLauter congratulated Rachel on behalf of the Board of Education.

**REGENERON  
SCIENCE  
COMPETITION  
SCHOLARS**

Dr. Kaplan was scheduled to present an Award of Honor certificate to Claire Kelly of Kennedy HS for her research work last summer at the University of Chicago. Claire was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Mrs. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Jennifer Rakhimov of Kennedy HS stating one of Jennifer's passions is science and specifically science research. Her award winning research examined Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy in Degenerated Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cells. Jennifer was inspired "to find an alternative to organ transplants." Knowledge obtained at her father's optometry business led toward her study of the ocular region. She dedicated over 1,000 hours performing research in the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Lab. Jennifer was also selected one of the top finalists for the 2017 Neuroscience Research Prize on behalf of the American Academy of Neurology. Jennifer is a member of the Varsity Badminton team, Yearbook staff, Culture Club and a four year member of the Art and Science Clubs. She also volunteers at the local library. Mrs. Goller congratulated Jennifer on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Piskin presented an Award of Honor certificate to Michael Sternbach of Kennedy HS stating this his research submission entitled "Are Yield Curve Inversions Harbingers of Economic Contractions in Emerging Market and Excessively Debt Ridden Countries?" was inspired by his constant pursuit of learning opportunities related to his intended field of study. Michael is intrigued by all factors that influence financial markets. He has endeavored to learn as much as possible about indicators of future market performance and hopes to apply his knowledge as an undergraduate business major. Michael serves as President of Tutors for A Cure, President of our Future Business Leaders of America Club and has been inducted into six different honor societies. Mrs. Piskin Michael is a great friend to all and, on behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Piskin congratulated Michael.

Nicole Hollings, Principal of Calhoun High School, filled in for Sarah Samir. Sara is at Boston College competing for the Presidential Scholarship. Calhoun students participated in the Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service. Girls and boys sports teams played against Mepham HS. Teams are going to

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

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**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
(Continued)**

playoffs. On Tour's production of "Act 1" was successful and they are now preparing for the musical "On the Town." Transition Night was this past week. Ms. Hollings is looking forward to Friday night's "Faculty Follies."

Abigail Jellinek of Kennedy stated January was dedicated to community service events and thanked everyone for making the initiative so successful. Advanced Science Research (ASR) students also received 23 badges. A parent information meeting was held for students interested in ASR. Science competitions will be held this weekend. "Jam the Gym" was last weekend and the half court shooter came very close to getting a basket. Winter sports teams are looking forward to playoffs. Track and Field athletes have made the county qualifiers. Varsity cheerleaders are heading to Florida. An assembly was given by the FBI on the proper use of social media. She reminded everyone to follow JFK on twitter.

Derek Baumann stated MAP students prepared for finals and Regents exams in January. MAP juniors took the English Regents. Students also participated in the community service project for MLK Day of Service and helped fill 66 bags. Key Club members were involved with Habitat for Humanity in building a house. This was, by far, his favorite activity. Syntax filmed a promotional video for MAP to show new, potential students.

Madison Uzwy of Mepham High School congratulated the Regeneron Science Competition scholars. Mepham students also participated in the MLK Day of Service project. Two students advanced to the NYS level in the PTA Reflections Contest. National honor societies held induction ceremonies. Semifinalists in the Virtual Enterprise competition will compete in the March 1<sup>st</sup> final. The Kick line team performed at the winter event. The cheerleading and kick line teams will compete in Orlando, Florida next month. An "Exploring Career Options" workshop was held. A Kayla Donnelly Memorial Scholarship is being established. She is looking forward to Friday night's "Faculty Follies."

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso stated Cheryl Fontana has been working hard on putting together the "Faculty Follies." The \$5.00 admission will go to the Community Cupboard. The central office band consists of Joseph Innaco, Cheryl Fontana, Eric Arline, Scott Hogan and himself. Dr. Bollettieri and Ms. Hollings will be singing, Eric Caballero will be rapping and staff from MAP will also perform. A film crew may be in attendance. The event lasts approximately one (1) hour.

Mrs. Goller stated she and the board would like front row seats. Mrs. Goller welcomed Antonia Hamblin stating Ms. Hamblin is filling in for our school attorney, Christopher Powers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none on agenda items only.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2017 - 2018 School Year calendar. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

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The Board of Education accepted revised Policy No. 4532 – Volunteers for a first reading.	<b>POLICY</b>
Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000511330, 000511927, 052970001, 053320000, 070740008, 071700000, 080580001, 081340000, 121520001, 121650000, 370000802, 370000818, 370001131, 900010249, 903700055 and 999011268. Mrs. Katz seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.	<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>
Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5,000 to be used for the purchase of a TUFFframe Tensioned Outdoor Batting Cage (approximate value of \$3,975), Pitching Mat (approximate value of \$250) and two (2) Pro Model Hitting Mats (approximately value of \$710) from the Calhoun Sports Boosters. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Calhoun Boosters.	<b>DONATION</b>
Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated February 1, 2017, as revised. Mrs. Piskin seconded, and the motion was carried 7-1-0 with Ms. Gargiulo abstaining on Section H of the report.	<b>PERSONNEL</b>
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated February 1, 2017, and the corresponding warrants.	<b>BILLS</b>
Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.	<b>BIDS</b>
The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.	<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>
Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with the Nassau County Police Department regarding the Nassau County Alert Domain Awareness System. Ms. Gargiulo seconded. Mrs. Piskin was advised signing the Memorandum of Agreement with Nassau County places the district in a good position when the system is operational. The motion was carried 8-0.	<b>NASSAU COUNTY ALERT DOMAIN AWARENESS SYSTEM</b>
Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve an agreement with The Friedberg Jewish Community Center for the use of certain facilities at Brookside for the purpose of a Summer Recreation Program for Middle School Students from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, weekdays, beginning 6/30/17 and ending 8/16/17. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.	<b>SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM</b>
Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects – Phase 2A Construction Change Orders: a. Mephram HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-048, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$5,000 for Extra're	<b>CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS</b>

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**CONSTRUCTION  
CHANGE ORDERS  
(Continued)**

b. Mepham HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-005-048, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$5,000 for Palace  
Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. Katz moved that the Board of Education approve the following Bond Referendum Projects – Phase 2B Construction Change Orders:

- a. Calhoun HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-048, Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$14,299.45 for JNS
- b. Kennedy HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-007-037, Change Order No. 1 in the deduct amount of \$13,297.20 for Hirsch
- c. Grand Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-001-032, Change Order No. 1 in the add amount of \$22,500 for Palace
- d. Grand Avenue MS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-001-032, Change Order No. 2 in the add amount of \$5,000 for Web

Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**OBSOLETE/SURPLUS  
PROPERTY**

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of the following Calhoun textbooks:

- a. 50 “Environmental Science – Earth As A Living Planet”
- b. 42 “Biology”

Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

Mrs. Goller noted the next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. She added don't forget Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at Mepham HS for the “Faculty Follies.”

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Lanci, seconded by Mrs. Katz and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld  
District Clerk