

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 14, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 14, 2018, 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:

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, President
Nina Lanci, Vice President
Marion Blane
Steve Enella
John Ferrara
Wendy Gargiulo
Janet Goller
Gina Piskin

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
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel 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
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Tom Volpe, Director of Transportation/Security & Employee Safety Officer
Ken Zisel, Assistant Principal of Districtwide Services
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. Dr. Kaplan, Board of Education President, welcomed everyone and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Kaplan asked for a moment of silence in honor of the tragedy at Parkland.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 7, 2018 meeting. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

MINUTES

Mrs. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, for the month ended January 31, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Kaplan explained the Board recognizes the conflict with tonight's meeting and the District College Planning Night. Due to the snowstorm, it could not be helped. Tonight is the first opportunity for the public to address the District regarding security. District leadership makes safety a priority. What occurred at Parkland compels us to think about and examine the safety and security

BOARD PRESIDENT

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**BOARD PRESIDENT
(Continued)**

measures we have in place. Board members have had many conversations with the community and each other over this topic. These conversations have been productive. Tonight we will hear from you. Dr. Kaplan thanked the public, staff and leadership who have been occupied with this issue. Our Superintendent will give presentation of the District's security and safety. The Board will not get into a back and forth tonight. Please have respect. There is no reason to boo or applaud. We do best when we come together as a community.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for being here tonight. We continue to do incredible things and recognize amazing things at Board of Ed meetings. Our student representatives have the night off. He stated this is a difficult, heartbreaking time/discussion for educators, parents, children and human beings. He then began a Powerpoint presentation. Security is a multidimensional issue involving technology, personnel, safety team, social and emotional outreach and treatment, staff, students and parent connections. We have 42 security guards and over 600 cameras. We will be increasing the security guards to 48. We are connected to the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) in real time. We have the RAVE system, panic buttons and use swipe cards for our personnel. We will be installing vestibules in all buildings. Buildings have been streamlined and have only two entrance doors available. Students will be required to use their IDs. NCPD will be performing an audit on the District. We practice safety drills. Mental health and the wellness of students is a key and we are adding guidance counselors and social workers. Future considerations for the District are closed campuses, ballistic film on windows, new door and lock systems, metal detectors and armed security personnel. Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the District is examining the possibility of students taking the five required Regents exam and others taking performance/portfolio assessments. He mentioned items in the upcoming events.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rosemary Garafolo asked for further clarification regarding the five Regents exams and performance/portfolio assessments.

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

**REGISTRATION AND
VOTING INFORMATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2018 Registration and Voting Information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011265, 000013648, 000511235, 000511671, 000512063, 000512135, 030410009, 030430039, 050600009, 090840003, 100359924, 131261657, 171810790, 201700162, 370000577, 370001380, 992450105 and 999010194.

POLICY

The Board of Education accepted Policy No. 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in A Domestic Setting (Revised) for a first reading.

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

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Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated March 14, 2018, as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was passed 8-0 with Ms. Gargiulo recusing herself from Items H and I.	PERSONNEL
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated March 7, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.	BILLS
Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.	BIDS
The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated March 7, 2018.	BUDGET SUMMARY
Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:	
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following budget transfer: 1. Not to exceed \$100,000 for the installation/creation of security vestibules for all school buildings. From A9950 (Interfund Transfer to Capital) to A1620 400 (Contractual) (Please note this is a transfer to a non-contingent budget code for the purposes of student safety.)	BUDGET TRANSFER
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of musical instruments listed in the Mephram High School Office of the Principal memo, dated 2/9/18.	OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following: Calhoun HS, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-052, Change Order No 1 for a time extension with \$0.00 cost increase for Pioneer.	CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Bond Referendum Projects Phase IV – Grand Avenue MS, Merrick Avenue MS, Calhoun HS, Kennedy HS and Mephram HS Owner-Contractor agreement with a contract sum of \$73,575.00, subject to additions and deductions.	OWNER- CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the use of AHRC Nassau to provide recycling of the District's computer hardware and related devices.	RECYCLING SERVICES
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of a consultant, Stagelight Entertainment, to provide sound services for Kennedy's spring musical production for a maximum of 22 sessions at \$98.00 per session, for a total not to exceed \$2,156, funded by Kennedy Building Student Activities.	CONSULTANT
Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.	

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Mrs. Gargiulo moved the following resolution:

**SETTLEMENT AND
RELEASE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a Settlement Agreement and Release in connection with an impartial hearing and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign said Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Board.

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

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following community members addressed the Board of Education on safety and security issues within the district:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Berta Weinstein urged the Board to draw from peoples' expertise.

Kellie Shuart questioned drop-off procedures for Mephram.

Scott Carlin questioned where student drivers exit school grounds.

Amy Weber appreciates security but does not want armed guards.

Dora DePaolis does not want metal detectors and guns in schools.

Karen Vecchione feels metal detectors are unnecessary and armed guards are ineffective.

Carson Termotto, a student, is against armed guards.

Rebecca Sirof, a student, is against guns in schools.

Deborah Goldstein urged the Board to make schools safe and added teachers need panic buttons.

Jeanette Deutermann urged the Board not to take extreme measures adding there is a psychological toll with extreme measures.

Megan Trageser, a student, is against armed guards and metal detectors.

Michelle Levine asked for respect and being open to ideas and is opposed to armed guards.

Suzanne Vera is glad to hear the district is increasing the number of guidance counselors and social workers.

Maggio Ventura, a NCPD training officer, volunteered to help.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Continued)

Jessica Gubenko supports metal health initiatives and does not want armed guards in our schools.

Nicole Venditti stated she was encouraged by tonight's presentation and she supports increased security from armed law enforcement.

Michelle DeLutri supports mental health initiatives.

Jodi Turk Goldberg stated her son, a student, wants armed security guards who are retired police officers.

MaryAnne Hastings stated students feel unsafe now and want security.

Rosemary Garafolo mentioned security at extracurricular activities and NYS laws and feels armed guards would add to students' anxiety.

Erin Corless, a student, stated today's fire alarm at school raised her anxiety and wants increased security with other options.

Michelle Trageser is against armed guards and metal detectors.

Christine Seaman wants armed guards as another level of security.

Alison Dictor mentioned student IDs and added she does not like the idea of armed guards.

Laura Tesser wants trained officers as guards and urged the Board to continue this discussion.

AnnMarie Chapur stated the only way to stop an incident from happening is with equal force.

Liz Sendrowitz is against armed guards and feels kids experience enough anxiety.

Russell Robinson stated the NCPD response time needs to be reduced but the district needs to take dynamic steps. He volunteered his help.

Dr. Kaplan thanked those who commented and took the time to come out tonight. This is what makes Bellmore Merrick a special place. The Board does not make decisions lightly and will collect information and make their best decision.

Mr. DeTommaso is aware that many community members walk the tracks or practice their golf game but Physical Education classes are sometimes held outside. The district is limiting visitors' access and explained the district is requiring all visitors to go through the front doors; day, evening and weekend.

Dr. Kaplan advised the audience to keep an eye on announcements. The April Board of Ed meeting may be changed from April 11, 2018 to April 9, 2018.

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OLD/NEW BUSINESS There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:49 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Piskin, seconded by Mr. Enella and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 10:29p.m.

ADJOURNMENT On a motion by Mr. Enella, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk