

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING November 7, 2018

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, November 7, 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:

Nina Lanci, President
Wendy Gargiulo, Vice President
Marion Blane
Edward Corona
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
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 Services
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, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m. Mrs. Lanci, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Lanci began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, PA on October 27, 2018

MINUTES

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the revised minutes from the July 10, 2018 meeting and the minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated September 30, 2018. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso began by recognizing the Board of Education on behalf of the district. He thanked the Board for their guidance and is grateful for their leadership and support. He also thanked the board members' families for the time taken away from them to be here supporting us.

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION**

As a special treat, the Culinary and Hospitality Applied Management Program (CHAMP) students presented the Board of Education with a very incredible meal in honor of Board recognition month. Cheryl Fontana, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, thanked the Board members for their support of art and music. Nick Giordano, Art Teacher at Grand Avenue, thanked the Board. Grand Avenue students presented each board member with a wellness tree. Heather Lohr, Art Teacher at Calhoun, thanked the Board members. The Art II students presented to the Board a large piece of artwork that represents the district. Dana Brandwein, Vocal Music Teacher at Merrick Avenue introduced the acapella group "Word of Mouth" who gave a musical tribute to the Board. They performed "Havana".

Mr. DeTommaso thanked all of the students and reminded everyone that they can see all of the District's choir and performing groups at the District Choral Showcase on November 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Lanci thanked everyone for allowing the board members to serve the community and said it was their pleasure to work with the community and with this administrative team.

DONATION

Maria Small of the PTA Coordinating Council thanked the Board of Education for all that they do and presented a donation of \$300.00 for the libraries (to increase appropriations by same amount) in recognition of Board Appreciation Month.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the PTA for the donation and said that the libraries have recently been renovated and are being used more than ever before. Because of the increase in demand, the libraries will now stay open later, until 4:30 p.m., three times a week.

**NYS ENGLISH COUNCIL
EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE**

Ms. Lanci announced that two teachers, Tanya Cestaro and Rebecca Levy have each been recognized as a New York State English Council Educator of Excellence. The application process included a letter of nomination and letters of recommendation from supervisors and colleagues. Ms. Cestaro and Ms. Levy were formally honored at an awards ceremony at the NYSEC Annual Conference Held in Albany on October 19, 2018 and will be honored again by the Long Island Language Arts Council in May. Each teacher was presented with an Award of Honor Certificate on behalf of the Board of Education.

DONATIONS

Dr. Kaplan moved to accept a donation from Bellmore Lions Club for the CHAMP program (to increase appropriations by same amount) for their assistance with the Nassau County Strawberry Festival.

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

Ms. Blane moved to accept a donation from Kiwanis Club of the Bellmores for the CHAMP program (to increase appropriations by same amount) for their assistance with the Nassau County Strawberry Festival.

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

Ms. Lanci thanked Kiwanis and Lions Clubs for the donation.

**ANNUAL EXTERNAL
AUDIT REVIEW**

Alan Yu of Cullen and Danowski gave a presentation on their audit of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's finances ending June 30, 2018. They found no material deficiencies and is issuing an unmodified opinion which has the highest level of assurance possible. The District is in good financial shape and is stable. There are no reportable findings. There have been increases in both revenues and expenses. He recommends that the District follow up with NYS on a special program in which the district is entitled to an 80% reimbursement from the State.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Jonathan Mashal is not feeling well and was not present.

Matthew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Program congratulated Zachary Gosse, MAP Special Education teacher and Coach for the Mephram Boys Soccer team for winning the Nassau County Championship. This month they had an ambassadors meeting with Dr. Bollettieri. They went to Project Care and did team building activities. The leadership class went to the Holocaust Museum. They also went to the Sands Point Preserve and the Ronald McDonald House. They had Spirit Week and dressed in a different theme every day. He is looking forward to all of the activities planned for next month.

Gabriela Daza from Mephram High School said that 24 new members were inducted into the Math Honor Society. The Department of World Languages held its Honor Induction Ceremony where over 150 students were honored for their studies in world languages. The fourth annual Field of Honor is on display. She congratulated the Boys' Soccer Team for winning the Nassau County Championship for the first time in Mephram history. The cross county teams did well at the state qualifying meet. The Sharks placed second at the county championship. Battle of the Classes is tomorrow here at Brookside

and the Drama Club will be presenting "Up the Down Staircase" next week. She reminded everyone that they are now accepting donations for the community cupboard for the holiday season at their main office.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Gabriela for recently representing the District on Erase Racism at the NYS conference.

Juliana Tirino from Calhoun said they had the Fall Guidance Program for 9th grade students and discussed support opportunities with the Counseling and Wellness Center. Leadership class has continued its sister school program with a school in Mississippi. Calhoun won first place and \$1000.00 in the Elevator Pitch Contest hosted by LIU Post and Virtual Enterprises. Calhoun was the final winner for Spirit Showdown. The World Language Society inducted over 100 students into the Honor Society. Calhoun faced off with Mepham in football and won in overtime. On Halloween students donated over \$400 towards "Music Never Stops" program. They will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16th and proceeds will go to Community Cupboard.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso said the Mepham Boys' Soccer Team and possibly more champions will be recognized at next month meeting. The elevator pitch winners will also be here next month. The counseling and wellness centers are doing better than expected. The community cupboard is providing for over 45 families and accepts food items plus other household items such as school supplies and even dog food. He said that they need over 90 turkeys for Thanksgiving and thanked everyone involved.

Dr. Bollettieri added that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts hosted their "Trunk or Treat" where trunks were filled with donations for the Community Cupboard.

Ms. Gargiulo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the Veterans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none on agenda items only.

Ms. Goller moved that the Board of Education accept the following resolutions:

2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Budget Calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2019-2020 School Year to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District sharing budget voter registration and voting costs with each component district when the budget vote for the Central High School District and the component districts are held on the same day.

The Board of Cooperative Education (BOCES) Nassau County has advised that the 2019 BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will hold its Annual Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from the North Bellmore Central Office Administrators and the North Bellmore Principals Association of \$250.00 to the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's Community Cupboard, and increase appropriation by same amount, in recognition of the efforts of the North Bellmore Board of Education Trustees on the occasion of Board Appreciation Month 2018.

POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the following policy: Policy No. 5425-Automated External Defibrillator

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
VENDOR LIST**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors list for the 2018-2019 school year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):000011657, 000012443, 000013083, 000511656, 000511787, 000512244, 000512992, 000514076, 041630001, 043000000, 062440005, 080660008, 090130000, 090560017, 102570000, 131261667, 181911122, 201600057, 201700054, 370001265, 370001757, 992450046, 992450088, 992450108, 992450254, 999011233, 999011268.

Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Ms. Lanci thanked the Central Office Administrators for their donation.

Ms. Piskin moved that the Board of Education accept the following resolution:

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PERSONNEL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated November 7, 2018 as stated in the agenda.

Ms. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 8-0 with Ms. Gargiulo recusing herself from item I.

Dr. Bollettieri introduced Mikaela Coni, the new Administrative Assistant in the Business Office.

BILLS

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated November 7, 2018, and the corresponding warrants.

BIDS

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Ms. Gargiulo seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated October 31, 2018.

Mr. Ferrara moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

GRADUATION VENUE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Live Nation Worldwide, Inc. for the use of the NYCB Theatre at Westbury as the site for the S.H. Calhoun, J.F. Kennedy and W.C. Mepham High Schools Commencement Exercises on June 30, 2019 at a cost of \$24,580.00

SEQRA

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Proposed Dugout Reconstruction Project at the John F. Kennedy High School Softball Field and the Sanford H. Calhoun High School Baseball Field (Project); and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(8) of the SEQRA Regulations and therefore requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the final Project acceptance, upon receipt, from the New York State Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation, in connection with its request for approval of said Project from the New York State Education Department.

BUDGER TRANSFER

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve a transfer not to exceed \$300,000:

From: A2250 472 (Private School Tuition)

To: A2250 400 (Contractual)

To support expenses for related services within the Special Education program.

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
BROOKSIDE SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, on or about October 16, 2018, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District discovered that the auditorium at the Brookside School was experiencing a mold issue;

WHEREAS, such condition requires immediate action including remediation of the mold issue to preserve the integrity of the building and the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby declares the above described condition at the Brookside School to be an emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the remediation of the above described condition at the Brookside School as an ordinary contingent expense of the Board and authorizes the Board President or his designee to take the necessary legal steps to correct said condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes an increase in the 2018-19 budget by an amount not to exceed \$142,325 and utilize fund balance to pay for the increase in appropriations.

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
JFK HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, on or about September 25, 2018, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District discovered that the auditorium at the John F. Kennedy High School was experiencing a mold issue;

WHEREAS, such condition requires immediate action including remediation of the mold issue to preserve the integrity of the building and the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby declares the above described condition at the John F. Kennedy High School to be an emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the remediation of the above described condition at the John F. Kennedy High School as an ordinary contingent expense of the Board and authorizes the Board President or his designee to take the necessary legal steps to correct said condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes an increase in the 2018-19 budget by an amount not to exceed \$417,100 and utilize fund balance to pay for the increase in appropriations.

AUDIT REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Audit Report of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, including the accountant's opinion, financial statements and management letters, for the school year ended June 30, 2018.

SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following textbooks:

Book Title/Edition: Street Law: A Course in Practical Law/6th Edition

Copyright Date: 1999

Number of Books: 25

Author/Publisher: Arbetman, Lee and O'Brien, Edward/National Textbook Company

ISBN Number: 0-314-14077-8

Reason: Updated to 7th Edition; book no longer used.

Book Title/Edition: America: Pathways to the Present

Copyright Date: 2000

Number of Books: 100

Author/Publisher: Cayton, Perry and Reed/Prentice Hall

ISBN Number: 0-13-435100-2

Reason: Updated to more recent publication; book no longer used.

Book Title/Edition: World History: Connections to Today

Copyright Date: 1999

Number of Books: 100

Author/Publisher: Ellis, Elisabeth and Esler, Anthony/Prentice Hall

ISBN Number: 0-13-434326-3

Reason: Updated to more recent publication; book no longer used

Book Title/Edition: Basic Principles of American Government

Copyright Date: 2005

Number of Books: 12

Author/Publisher: Sanford, William and Green, Carl/AMSCO

ISBN Number: 978-1-56765-638-1

Reason: Updated to more recent publication; book no longer used.

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Book Title/Edition: Work Civilizations: The Global Experience/6th Edition
 Copyright Date: 2011
 Number of Books: 75
 Author/Publisher: Stearns, Adas, Schwartz and Gilbert/Longman
 ISBN Number: 10:0-13-136020-5
 Reason: Updated to more recent publication; book no longer used.

SURPLUS INSTRUMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the following instruments:

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Instrument</u>
1061635	Bundy Clarinet	E30175	Jupiter Baritone
1122151	Olds Baritone Saxophone	314461	Martin Committee Baritone
4017037	Olds Low A Baritone Saxophone	692666	Bundy Baritone Saxophone
131432	Selmer Mark Tenor Saxophone	907382	C.G. Conn Sousaphone
760987	C.G. Conn Sousaphone	2102353	Olds Low Baritone Saxophone
4017027	Olds Low Baritone Saxophone	N170262	Conn Low A Baritone
4017034	Olds Low A Baritone	436	Leblanc Paperclip Contra Alto
N179409	Conn Tenor Sax.	272252	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer
M143712	Selmer Mark Alto Saxophone	8656	Leblanc Bass Clarinet
M143312	Selmer Mark Alto Saxophone	191	Getzen Flugelhorn Lacquer
A9188	Artley Bass Clarinet	421887	King Double French Horn
270939	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer	251771	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer
252711	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer	255029	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer
251777	Amati Piston Tuba Lacquer	401380	Conn Piston Tuba
003155	Yamaha Piston Tuba	0157	Vito Clarinet
124031	Artley Clarinet	030286	Jupiter Baritone
4017024	Olds Baritone Saxophone	M145012	Selmer Mark Tenor Saxophone
0121788	Olds Baritone Saxophone	W3054	Selmer Alto Clarinet
4017039	Olds Baritone Saxophone	ISI6397	Mirafone Stencil Rotary
230	Getzen Flugelhorn Lacquer	4023	Vox Clarinet
A50079	Vito Clarinet	485468	King Baritone Lacquer
224261	King Baritone Lacquer	W1862	Selmer Clarinet
560093	Evette Flute	7426	Leblanc Alto Clarinet
V4412	Selmer Bass Clarinet	38297	Gemeinhardt Flute
398903	King Baritone Lacquer	4826	Vox Clarinet
D10507	Vito Clarinet	V0934	Selmer Alto Clarinet
438893	Olds Baritone Lacquer	6485	Bundy Piccolo
M141810	Selmer Mark Tenor Saxophone	143682	Selmer Mark Alto Saxophone
H39897	C.G. Conn French Horn		

Ms. Piskin seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Gargiulo moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions which were added to the agenda:

RETAINER AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve an agreement to retain the services of Hamburger, Maxson, Yaffe & McNally, LLP at a cost of \$255.00 per hour plus incidental costs and authorizes the Board President to sign said agreement.

COMMENCEMENT OF LITIGATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the commencement of litigation against Nassau BOCES and further authorizes the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for Business to execute notices of claim, three-day demands, or any other predicate documents or judicial pleadings required to enforce the District's rights, as owner, landlord and contract vendor, to collect rent, use and occupancy, or damages from Nassau BOCES in connection with the Nassau BOCES' continuing use and occupancy of the Jerusalem Avenue Junior High School.

Ms. Goller seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that we may have to engage in litigation with the sale of the Jerusalem Avenue property. The property was supposed to close in July but didn't happen. It will probably close in December. We don't think we will need to have litigation but we need to be prepared.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci said we did receive Board correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rona Baruch inquired about the mold in John F. Kennedy H.S. and Brookside and how it was found.

Mr. DeTommaso said that in both locations the mold was not in the air. The rain and weather causes mold in these types of buildings and in John F. Kennedy H.S. even though it was cool, we knew something was wrong. It was determined that the dehumidifier was not working properly and caused mold on the ceiling. The cost of repair should be covered by insurance. The finding at John F. Kennedy H.S. made us look at all of the buildings and that is how we found the mold in the Brookside auditorium. There are no mold issues in any other building. There is no danger. JC Broderick did the testing and another contractor will do the repairs.

Victor Della Cruse said that blanket suspension policies should be reviewed. He feels that with new security and technology in place the District should be able to get more detailed information to accurately discipline students.

Acoj Iqbal, a former student, requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. She said that Camp Avenue Day was scheduled

on EID last year which upset her children. Camp Avenue Day was rescheduled but she feels her children shouldn't have to choose between school and their holiday.

Ms. Lanci asked Ms. Iqbal to explain how the holiday is celebrated. Ms. Iqbal explained that Eid al-Fitr is celebrated after thirty days of fasting for Ramadan and Eid al-Adha is celebrated for the pilgrimage. Ms. Lanci stated that the Board of Education is still discussing the holidays and the impact on the calendar. The 2019-2020 will not be effects but 2020-2012 will be impacted.

Raina Elbaz requested that Eid holidays be added to the school calendar. She is a prior student at Calhoun High School and has returned to the community as Pediatric Dentist to give back to the community. She said many school districts have added Eid to the school calendar.

Michelle Kaplan said she thinks the Board of Education should review the policy on bullying. She feels that technology makes things tricky and now when kids make mistakes it gets filmed. She feels that students aren't being taught that what they did was wrong.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the administrative team is using restorative justice. He said that students are acclimated to return to school after a suspension. They utilize the counseling and wellness centers to discuss things and he is confident in how the District deals with students upon returning to school.

Dr. Kaplan thanked Mr. DeTommaso, Mr. Harrington, the Central High School District's Administration and the community for their support at the Merrick Jewish Center community forum after the shooting tragedy in Pennsylvania two weeks ago.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

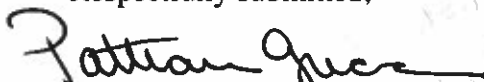
On a motion by Mr. Gargiulo, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 9:36 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Piskin, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 10:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Blane, seconded by Mrs. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk