

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FEBRUARY 6, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 6, 2019, 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  
Mikaela Coni, Purchasing Agent  
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  
Ken Zisel, Assistant Principal of Districtwide Services  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. Mrs. Lanci, Board of Education President, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 2, 2019 meeting. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Piskin moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Reports, dated November 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

**NATIONAL BOARD  
CERTIFICATION**

The Board of Education recognized teachers Linu Chako, Jessica Metkiff, William Morris and Christy Rochford for achieving National Board Certification. National Board Certification represents a consensus among educators about what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do in the classroom. It was

designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvements in schools nationwide.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the teachers who earned this prestigious certification.

## **REGENERON SCIENCE COMPETITION**

The Board of Education recognized three students, Jake Levine, Jonathan Mashal and Whitney Sussman for becoming semi-finalists in the 2019 Regeneron Science Competition. Jake Levine's research project is titled "Fasciclin 2 Expression is Positively Correlated with Gut Function Under Nutrient-Poor Conditions in *Drosophila Melanogaster*" which is a study of Celiac disease. Jonathan Mashal's research submission is titled "Bay Scallops and Eastern Oyster Survival within *Crepidula Fornicata* Shell Beds in the Peconic Bays, New York". His research may in fact help sustain bay scallop populations in the region for years to come. Whitney Sussman completed a research submission titled "The Role of Clock Genes and Hormones in Small Intestinal Glucose Uptake". Whitney is genuinely invested in establishing a strong background within the study of sciences and her project may help combat diabetes.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of our students and staff who participated in Advanced Science Research. The journey, the opportunity and the experience are more important than the end results.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Mathew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Program said that students went to the Holocaust Museum and also went to Human Rights Day at Adelphi where students were able to choose from various workshops regarding human rights. They took part in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 18<sup>th</sup> by collecting school supplies. He said they had regents and mid-term exams and the students worked really hard to prepare.

Gabriela Daza from Mepham High School congratulated the teachers that received National Board Certification, the wrestling team for qualifying for the Nassau County Championship, the Kickline Team for winning the Long Island Championship and Boys Bowling League for winning the County Championship. They had the Mr. Mepham male beauty pageant and the Faculty Follies which raised nearly \$3,000.00 for the Community Cupboard. Students participated in the MLK Day of Service by collecting breakfast items. The entire District combined collected over 1200 bags of donated items for charity.

Jonathan Mashal from Kennedy High School said that students came together through art therapy to remember the school shooting in Parkland, FL. They made an art mural which they will share with

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. He said the Business Department placed 14 students in the Future Business Leaders of America Competition. The Science Department had three Regeneron Scholars and the Science Olympiad Team will be competing in March. The CyberPatriot Team won the State Championship and will continue to work together. They had a softball/baseball youth clinic and students participated in the World Read Aloud Day by reading with children across the country aged 5-11 years old via Skype. He also said that the Jam the Gym and the Penny Wars events raised money for the Long Island Crisis Center.

Juliana Tirino from Calhoun said the Poetry Out Loud winners will be advancing to the regional competition. The winter concerts were great and the annual holiday door decorating competition was great. The Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted 38 students and she thanked the teachers. The Advanced Science Research students won a Samsung tablet at the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Initiative. The Candy Cane Volleyball Tournament was exciting and the Calhoun On-Tour production of Peter and the Star Catcher was wonderful. Students at Calhoun also participated in the MLK Day of Service by collecting healthy, quick and easy food items and collected food for the Community Cupboard and 11 various organizations. The Boys Bowling Team will be advancing to the State Championship. The Science Olympiad Team won 9 medals and the coveted Spirit Award and the Girls Track Team won the divisional championship.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso started by thanking Cheryl Fontana, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, the teachers and everyone involved in the Faculty Follies. The Faculty Follies raised around \$3000.00 for the Community Cupboard which serves about 60 families. The entire school district participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Each school picked a specific food category which was then assembled and distributed to various organizations. He said he is very impressed that a school district is able to help so many people. Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates and wished everyone a wonderful winter break.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none on agenda items only.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2019 – 2020 school year calendar.

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**DONATIONS**

On a motion by Ms. Blane, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a third and final donation in the amount of \$14,355.11 from the Estate of Michael J. Dubin to be used for the creation of learning centers at John F. Kennedy High School and increase the appropriations budget by same amount.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that Michael J. Dubin was a Social Studies teacher at Kennedy High School. He has donated \$250,000.00 in scholarship money and \$250,000.00 which was used to renovate the library at Kennedy High School. Mr. DeTommaso and the Board of Education extended sincere gratitude to the estate.

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation from Andrew Cohen of 100 tickets and one hour of court time prior to a Long Island Nets basketball game at Nassau Coliseum on February 24, 2019 for the Calhoun Challenger Basketball Team and Calhoun Challenger Cheerleaders.

Ms. Lanci and Mr. DeTommaso expressed gratitude for the donation.

On a motion by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500.00 from the Bellmore Lions Club towards the Community Cupboard.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Bellmore Lions Club.

**POLICIES**

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for a first reading:

Policy No. 0115-Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination (Revised)

Policy No. 6700-Purchasing (Revised)

Policy No. 6740-1-Purchasing Procedures (Revised)

On a motion by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for a second reading:  
Policy No. 4770-Graduation Requirements (Revised)  
Policy No. 4772-Graduation Ceremony (New)  
Policy No. 6900-Disposal of District Property (Revised) (Replacing 3260)

Ms. Gargiulo confirmed with Mr. Harrington that the amendment to policy No. 4770-Graduation Policy was to add language for Special Education.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

On a motion by Ms. Gargiulo, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

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

On a motion by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011265, 000011393, 000012204, 000012205, 000012342, 000012860, 000013172, 000511787, 000511808, 000512244, 000512696, 030430009, 040260002, 041630001, 050380002, 051310001, 061360000, 062360006, 070780002, 071210000, 080630002, 091200001, 092030004, 100059881, 102580001, 110190001, 131261648, 131262416, 181910155, 181911122, 201700008, 201800040, 201800205, 370001081, 370001431, 370001600, 370001627, 370001835, 992450184, 999011150 and 999011288.

## **PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, with Ms. Gargiulo recusing herself from item J, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated February 6, 2019 as stated in the agenda.

## **BILLS**

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated February 6, 2019, and the corresponding warrants.

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated January 31, 2019.

**APPEAL OF A STUDENT  
DISCIPLINARY MATTER**

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education having reviewed an appeal of a student disciplinary matter in executive session hereby denies such appeal and directs the District Clerk to notify the parents who filed such appeal of the Board of Education's decision.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Lanci said we did receive Board correspondence from BOCES.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

MaryAnn Collica presented a letter and petition to the Board of Education regarding the storage container on the field at Kennedy High School.

Sheree Jarmol thanked everyone for the success of the Varsity Bulldogs Senior Night. There were many changes this year and it was a great night.

Shaina Sheikh requested that Eid Holidays be added to the school calendar.

Raina Elbaz congratulated the science finalists and also discussed Eid holidays being added to the school calendar.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Gargiulo discussed the Community Cupboard and how it serves the community. She spoke about a parent that relies on the community cupboard. On the evening of the Faculty Follies this parent reached out to her and explained that she was selling her furniture to feed her family. Ms. Gargiulo reached out to Mr. DeTommaso and Dr. Bollettieri who jumped right into action to get help for this family. Ms. Gargiulo thanked Mr. DeTommaso, Dr. Bollettieri and the entire community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk