

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 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, March 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
Marion Blane
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Tracey Miller
Gina Piskin

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

Edward Corona

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
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
Mikaela Coni, Purchasing Agent
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
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 8:17 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 to honor the families affected and the lives lost by the tornado in Alabama.

**APPOINTMENT TO THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ms. Lanci announced and welcomed Tracey Miller as the appointment to the Board of Education representing North Merrick UFSD for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Lanci, on behalf of the Board of Education, thanked Ms. Gargiulo for her many years of dedicated service on the Board of

Education. Her vibrant personality and the way she cared about children with such passion on this Board will be missed.

**ELECTION OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION
VICE-PRESIDENT**

Ms. Lanci asked for nominations to fill the vacant position of Vice President of the Board of Education. Ms. Piskin moved to nominate Ms. Blane and Dr. Kaplan seconded. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and the motion was carried 7-0. Ms. Guccione administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Blane.

Ms. Blane thanked everyone.

MINUTES

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 6, 2019 meeting. Mr. Ferrara seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Goller moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated January 31, 2019. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

**CHANGE IN ORDER
OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Kaplan moved that the Board of Education change the order of the agenda to vote on the Personnel report. Ms. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 7-0.

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

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

Dr. Bollettieri introduced and welcomed Theresa Dell'Olio as the new District-wide Chairperson for Special Education.

Dr. Bollettieri introduced and welcomed Danielle Caliendo as the new District-wide Chairperson for Math.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso started by congratulating and welcoming Ms. Dell'Olio and Dr. Caliendo. He said earlier in the evening we honored the Mephram Kickline Team for winning the Long Island Championship and the Boy's Bowling Team for winning the Nassau County Championship. The Bowling Team will be competing in State Championship tomorrow and he wished them the best. He said that it is the experience and the participation that will be the fondest memories that the team members will carry forever. Bellmore-Merrick does all areas of school life really well and he thanked the teachers, administrators, all staff, coaches, advisors and parents for

supporting the efforts of all of the students and giving such a high quality of education.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the Wellness Centers, partnered with South Oaks/Northwell Health, are exceeding expectations. The volume of kids going to the Wellness Centers between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. is incredible and is making a big impact on their lives. The Wellness Centers have been visited regularly by other school districts that want to see how the program is operated. He thanked everyone involved in making the centers such a huge success.

Mr. DeTommaso introduced Dr. Netto and Mrs. Einbinder, to discuss the 5th Annual One Voice, One Message 5K run/walk. The run/walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the race begins at 9:00 a.m. The race starts and ends at Grand Avenue and this year proceeds from the race will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Mr. Netto and Ms. Einbinder also mentioned the tremendous effort that was put in to collect over 1200 bags of donated food for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The Book Fairies collected 7000 books from Grand Avenue MS and the Global Youth Service Date is upcoming. They thanked Ms. Lanci and the Bellmore Lions Club for their continued support to the district. They also thanked all of the supporters and hope to see everyone at the One Voice, One Message 5K run/walk.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Matthew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Program began by announcing that he has been accepted to the New York Institute of Technology. Students from MAP went to see Diablo at the Tillis Center at LIU Post which was very entertaining. They had their annual college and career day which featured presentations from different businesses. Various colleges were also present and he said it was a great educational and enjoyable experience. He said that speaker Chris Memoli visited MAP to tell his story about his struggles and triumphs from a traumatic brain injury accident. Matthew said he will never forget Mr. Memoli's story and recommend that Mr. Memoli speak at every school. Next month, MAP students are looking forward to seeing Romeo and Juliet in New York City and students will have a workshop with a nutritionist.

Gabriela Daza from Mephram High School said that the school hosted the 11th Annual So You Think You Can Dance competition. School group, Dancing Dreams, did a beautiful performance and Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting recorded the event. She congratulated the Boy's Bowling and Mephram Kickline team. She also congratulated the 38 Art National Honor Society inductees and the National Merit Scholarship Finalists. She said two students were named Nassau County Wrestling Champions, Kyle Althenn and

Matt Hegi. The Hockey team made it to state competition and the acapella group, Mechapella, competed at Sing Strong and did a fantastic job. The Chop Your Locks Charity Event to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation will be on March 20th at 6:00 p.m. Mephram started this charity event in 2008 and over the years the community has raised over \$330,000 to fight childhood cancer. She said that tickets are now available for the performance of Freaky Friday and she asked everyone to please donate to the Community Cupboard.

Jonathan Mashal from Kennedy High said that students promoted positivity and enjoyment by celebrating P.S. I Love You Day. Students posted 1800 Post-it notes with positive message written on them on a wall in the school. He congratulated Analisa Coppa for earning the Gold Key writing award and the National Merit Scholarship Finalists. He said the Math Club competed at the County Championships and the Virtual Enterprise team ranked among the top 10 schools nationwide. He said the Boys Basketball team the Hockey team made the playoffs and he congratulated both teams. He said the month ended in spirit and school pride as the 8th graders came to Kennedy to speak to upper classmen, get advice and find out future high school experiences. He said students are looking forward to career day, a trip to Disney and a movie night next month.

Mr. DeTommaso said Juliana Tirino from Calhoun was home sick with the flu and he hopes she feels better.

FUTURE DATES

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned future dates on the calendar. Tomorrow night, March 7th, is the Middle School 6th Grade Parent Orientation and he thanked the elementary districts. District College Planning Night is on March 13th. He added that this is the time for musicals and plays and encouraged everyone to attend. He said that the Budget Committee Hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 27th and the tax levy is 2.17% which is below the Long Island average of 2.5%. He thanked the kids and said when you listen to the students you realize how blessed we are to be in Bellmore-Merrick.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none on agenda items only.

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolutions:

REGISTRATION AND VOTING INFORMATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2019 Registration and Voting Information.

DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500.00 from the Bellmore Lions Club towards the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's 5th Annual "One Voice, One

Message” 5K Run/Walk and increase the appropriations budget by the same amount.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Bellmore Lions Club.

POLICIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policies for a second reading and adoption:
Policy No. 0115-Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination (Revised)
Policy No. 6700-Purchasing (Revised)
Policy No. 6740-1-Purchasing Procedures (Revised)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011101, 000011176, 000011311, 000011389, 000011440, 000011464, 000011497, 000511654, 000511980, 000512005, 000512118, 000512445, 000512711, 000513166, 031430003, 033040001, 060580002, 060670004, 070360000, 070680007, 072960000, 091100010, 131261958, 131262917, 201700207, 201800154, 201800160, 370001034, 370001112, 370001380, 370002011, 992450326 and 999011249.

BILLS

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

BIDS

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary, dated February 28, 2019.

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolutions:

RECYCLE SERVICES

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.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of obsolete cafeteria equipment as stated in the agenda.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the LorriLee Memorial Scholarship Award in honor of former Mepham teacher LorriLee Geraci. The scholarship will be awarded to a Mepham senior who demonstrates academic achievement in science, participates in the science research program and is an active member of the community.

ATTENDANCE FUNCTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Ed Corona, John Ferrara, Janet Goller, Nancy Kaplan, Nina Lanci, Tracey Miller and Gina Piskin at the Bellmore-Merrick

United Secondary Teacher's 37th Annual Awards Dinner/Dance at the North Ritz Club, 274 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, New York on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm, at a cost of \$70.00 per person.

Ms. Lanci thanked the Geraci Family and Mr. DeTommaso explained that LorriLee Geraci was a longtime beloved teacher and he also thanked the family.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci said we did receive Board correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Gagnon thanked the Bellmore Lions Club making a donation to a family that that needed assistance from the Community Cupboard as discussed at last month's Board of Education meeting.

Mary Keene thanked Wendy Gargiulo for her many years of dedicated service on the Board of Education. She said that Ms. Gargiulo was advocator for the students and discussed how she was passionate about helping families utilizing the Community Cupboard of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.

Mr. DeTommaso said that Ms. Gargiulo will be missed and he thanked her. He also thanked all of the people who have contributed to the Community Cupboard.

Matt Kushner announced that Ms. Goller, Board of Education Trustee will be honored as Friend of Kennedy in their Hall of Fame. Lorraine Poppe, retired Principal and Eileen Connelly, retired Assistant Principal will also be honored on the Wall of Honor. He said that they are making a commemorative journal and are looking for donations. If you want to attend the dinner or make a donation the information is available on their website. He also said that as a previous Trustee of the Board of Education, one of the highlights was hiring Mr. DeTommaso as a Superintendent. He said that Mr. DeTommaso's goals and visions for the District far exceeded what was presented at the interview. He thanked Mr. DeTommaso, the administrators, the teachers and the support staff for giving the students what they need to be successful.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Mr. Kushner and said he is honored to serve as the Superintendent.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lanci announced that Ms. Ellinghaus, Principal of MAP, will be honored by BOCES as a Friend of Education.

Ms. Goller congratulated Cheryl Fontana, Director of Fine and Performing Art for her starring role in Mama Mia at the community theatre in Oakdale. She saw Ms. Fontana's performance and said it

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was phenomenal. Ms. Goller said she is very proud of Ms. Fontana. Ms. Lanci and Mr. DeTommaso congratulated her.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk