

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING APRIL 3, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, April 3, 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, Vice President
Edward Corona
John Ferrara
Janet Goller
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Tracey Miller
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
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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lanci, Board of Education President at 8:20 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lanci led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report, dated February 28, 2019.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso said earlier in the evening a car went through a fence and into the building at Merrick Avenue Middle School. Thankfully, there were no students or staff injured. We believe the driver, who was not from the area, survived. Nassau County Police are still investigating. He thanked Dr. Johnson, Mr. Aceste, Ms. Dunn and the staff at Merrick Avenue Middle School for having such a quick reaction. He thanked coaches, Mr. Fuentes, Mr. Daniels and Pete Magnuson for quickly jumping into action and moving the students to one side of the field. Mr. DeTommaso

thanked Jon Simpkins and his crew and explained that repairs were already underway to the building and that there would be no interruptions to the school day. He said while this is a tragic event we have to be very grateful that the outcome of this situation wasn't worse.

Award of Honor Certificates

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the students being honored tonight: Matthew Condenzio from Calhoun High School was presented with an Award of Honor certificate for receiving All-State Boy's Winter Track. Ryan Murray from Calhoun High School was presented with an Award of Honor certificate for receiving All-State Boy's Swimming. Kyle Althenn and Matthew Hegi from Mepham High School were presented with an Award of Honor certificate for receiving All-State Boy's Wrestling.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that today middle school students took the New York State ELA exams and as usual, a significant number of students chose to opt-out of taking the exam.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that the Counseling and Wellness Centers are continuing to flourish and have been amazing for our community. At a recent superintendent's meeting, legalization of marijuana was a topic of discussion. As a school educator, he feels that legalization of marijuana is problematic. He said that other superintendents at that meeting were discussing options of hiring alcohol and drug counselors. Mr. DeTommaso explained that for 25 years, the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD has had the TEMPO group which offers counseling for substance abuse to kids and families in the Bellmores and the Merricks. He said that TEMPO and the services they provide will be re-introduced to the community. Leaders of TEMPO will be at the next Board of Education meeting to give more details.

Student Representatives

Matthew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Program announced that students from MAP are selling bracelets and t-shirts to benefit Rocco's Voice for Autism. The leadership class gave students a presentation in honor of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Female students of STEM went to a workshop at the Cradle of Aviation to empower them in following careers in math or science. This month, MAP students enjoyed a pie eating contest, saw a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at Columbia University, went bowling and were educated about the history of graffiti.

Gabriela Daza from Mepham High School said last week students hosted the 3rd annual Tedx event to bring students together. She congratulated all of the students that participated in the performance of *Freaky Friday*. Students of Mepham also hosted a Caribbean Culture Night and she thanked everyone for their contributions, especially Dr. Bollettieri. Mepham had the 9th Annual Chop Your Locks charity event. This event raised over \$46,000 to fight childhood cancer. She congratulated students from the wrestling team, honor society inductees, cultural arts foundation winners and the Bellmore-Merrick Bulldogs for their accomplishments.

Jonathan Mashal from Kennedy High said Advance Science Research students competed at the Medical Marvels Competition and the Baseball team had its final youth clinic. He also said the Key Club had the bi-annual blood drive and collected 46 pints of blood. Additionally, Kennedy students created 50 welcome packages for the Ronald McDonald House to help families dealing with medical issues and the Studio Symphony gave a performance to the students at the Shore Road Elementary School. He congratulated the winners of the essay writing contest, students that made honorable mention at the Long Island Science and Engineers competition, the Virtual Enterprise Team, and all of the students that participated in the play *Spelling Bee*.

Juliana Tirino from Calhoun said last month, students enjoyed a class night, a talent show and phenomenal performances of *Mama Mia*. The Leadership Team attended a conference in Albany and enjoyed various workshops and presentations. She congratulated the 30 Art Honor Society and 40 Social Studies Honor Society Inductees. She announced that the Senior Experience Fashion show will be on April 16, 2019. Proceeds will benefit the Make a Wish Foundation and she asked everyone for their support.

Mr. DeTommaso announced that Susan Ellinghaus, Principal of MAP will be recognized by BOCES next week. Mr. DeTommaso also announced that Anthony DeMartinis will be the new Assistant Principal for Guidance at Calhoun High School. He congratulated both of them.

Budget Presentation

Mr. DeTommaso said that based on the sale of the property at Jerusalem Avenue we will keep our tax rate down. In addition to keeping the tax rate down, we will be using some money from the proceeds of the sale towards renovating the Brookside auditorium. This auditorium is used by all of the elementary school districts and is considered the community's auditorium. He also stated that there is no tax consequence for Proposition 2 and we will be using Capital Reserves to complete these projects.

Mr. DeTommaso announced that a new program will be added for students, the Bellmore-Merrick Electrical Program. The District has partnered with the Electrical Training Center to bring training here at Brookside. Upon completion of the program, students will receive the required 450-hour training certificate and job placement. He thanked Mr. Harrington for the foresight to bring this program to the district and also thanked the Board of Education for their support.

Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Mikaela Coni, Business Administrator gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019-2020 School Budget. They stated that all budget information is now available in Spanish and translators are available tonight and at every stage of the budget process for the public. They also stated this budget continues programs, expands and adds new initiatives and adds a Special Education Chairperson. The Wellness Centers have been expanded to include Psychologists in the Middle Schools. The \$163,026,888 budget is an increase of 3.2 million dollars with a proposed tax levy of 2.174%. Ms. Freeman displayed the past ten years' budget numbers, state aid amounts, schedule of reserves and tax cap formula. Benefits, debt service and Special Education costs have increased while fuel costs have decreased due to the districts new use of gas. Ms. Freeman said we have the highest possible Moody's rating of Aa1 and reminded everyone that May 8, 2019 is the Budget Hearing and May 21, 2019 is the Budget Vote.

Future Dates

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned future dates on the calendar and asked the audience to please attend the spring concerts. He wished everyone a great spring recess and stated that the year goes very quickly, so cherish every moment.

VI. Public Comments - Agenda Items

Hail Herman asked for an explanation of the 9th grade expansion in the proposed budget. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the expansion reforms the periods of math classes. By allowing students to take 1 ½ periods of math they can take the regents earlier, thereby allowing them to take an advanced math class the following year.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items VII.A.1. through VII.A.4.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$250.00 from the Merrick Kiwanis Foundation towards the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's 5th Annual "One Voice, One Message" 5K Run/Walk.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$3,000.00 from the Mephram Alumni Association for the restoration of the main lobby and increase the appropriations budget by the same amount.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of baseball equipment valued at \$1,460.00 from the Calhoun Sports Boosters. This equipment will be used to maintain the condition of the field during games and practices.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of aerobic fitness equipment valued at \$21,125.00 from the Calhoun Sports Boosters. This equipment will be used to enhance the capabilities of the Calhoun Fitness Center to be used by physical education classes and all athletic teams.

Ms. Lanci and Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for their donations.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items VII.B through VIII.J.

B. Policy

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

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

C. Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011047, 000011377, 000011685, 000011932, 000012116, 000012295, 000013137, 000013172, 000511996, 041630001, 060620003, 073130000, 080290003, 102580001, 201600064, 370000851, 370001233, 370001254, 370001296, 370001459, 370001604, 370001721, 900010450, 999011268 and 999011280.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – April 3, 2019

- A. Termination
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Salary Reclassification
- F. Leave Request
- G. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated April 3, 2019, and the corresponding warrants.

B. Bids

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.

C. Budget Summary

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

D. Adoption of Budget Propositions

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred sixty-three million, twenty-six thousand, eight hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$163,026,888) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included with the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

PROPOSITION No. 2 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, county of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of one million nine hundred twenty nine thousand eight hundred forty six dollars (\$1,929,846) representing the balance of monies in the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 2016, and unencumbered and unexpended capital funds from Proposition No. 2 in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school fiscal years, and unexpended capital funds from Bond projects, and unencumbered and unexpended capital funds in the school district budget for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years for the following purposes: parking lot, tennis courts and track resurfacing, and floor and ceiling tile replacement at W.C. Mephram High School; renovate auditorium bathrooms and replace doors at S.H. Calhoun High School; and door and lock replacement at all buildings. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund and from the consolidation of existing surplus unencumbered and unexpended capital funds from prior school fiscal years, approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 1.

Ms. Lanci thanked Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent, Mikaela Coni, Business Administrator and their entire team for all of their efforts.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.E through IX.O.

E. **Federal Single Audit**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Federal Single Audit Report for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District for the year ended June 30, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Federal Single Audit for the year ended June 30, 2018.

F. **Medicaid Billing**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Zycron Industries, Highland, New York, for the provision of Medicaid Billing Services, commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2020, at a cost of 15% of monies received and retained by the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Special Education will represent the District with respect to this agreement.

G. **Receipt, Collection and Review of Certified Payroll Records**

WHEREAS, contractors and subcontractors engaged by a school district for construction work are required to pay prevailing wages to their workers and are required to submit certified payroll records to the school district in connection with their obligation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Labor Law §220, the Board of Education designates Jon Simpkins as the individual responsible for Receipt, Collection and Review for facial validity of Certified Payroll Records.

H. **Budget Transfers**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfers:

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|----------|--|-----------|
| 1. From: | A2250.400 (Contractual – Home Teaching) | \$175,000 |
| | A2250.472 (Private School Tuition) | \$175,000 |
| To: | A2250.400 (Related Services) | \$350,000 |
| | To support expenses for related services within the Special Education program. | |
| 2. From: | A2630.463 (Computer Software) | \$35,381 |
| To: | A2630.400 (Contractual) | \$35,381 |
| | To support technology related expenses. | |

I. **Obsolete/Surplus Property**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a 2001 Dodge Utility Truck VIN# 3B6MF366X1M564514.

J. **Municipal Advisor Services**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a municipal advisor services agreement with Munistat to provide research and analysis at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 for the 2019-2020 school year.

- K. Cooperative Bid – 2019-2020 – Nassau County Association of Buildings & Grounds
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Cooperative Bidding Resolution for the 2019-2020 school year:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of Nassau County Public School Districts, during the 2019-2020 school year, to bid cooperatively for the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment and repairs (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District (the “School District”) is desirous of participating in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“Procedures”) governing its rights and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the cooperative bidding of the Commodities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the Superintendent or his designee to represent it in all matters relative above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Procedures, the Board of Education agrees to award bid item purchases according to the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Boards of Education of the Cooperative School Districts, if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

- L. Inter-Municipal Transportation Management
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of an existing Inter-Municipal Transportation Management Services agreement between Bellmore-Merrick Central HS District, the Bellmore UFSD, the Merrick UFSD, the North Bellmore UFSD and the North Merrick UFSD authorizing inter-municipal cooperation and assistance with and among each other for the consolidation of their transportation management services and administration of the transportation management by a single transportation coordinator for the 2019-2020 school year.

- M. Non-Public School Transportation
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District approve the provision of bus transportation to particular non-public schools for a period of three years starting with the 2019-2020 school year. This period of time will become irrelevant if an eligible student should register for transportation to the school in question during this time. The three-year period will restart once there are no longer eligible students in attendance. (NY State Education Law §3635.)

- N. Inter-Municipal Transportation Cooperative
WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2019-2020 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as

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authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

O. BOCES of Nassau County

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a "Regional Summer School Program" at Grand Avenue Middle School for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019 at costs listed therein.

On a MOTION by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

P. Scholarship Applications

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Sandra Kaye Tauber & Arthur Tauber Scholar/Athlete Award. The scholarship of \$5000.00 will be awarded to two Mepham seniors (one male/one female, \$2500.00 each) who maintains an average of 85+, is a member of Mepham varsity sports and has an interest in obtaining a degree/career in Business/Athletic Leadership.

Ms. Lanci thanked the Tauber family.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci stated we did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rona Barach inquired about a later start time for high school students. Mr. DeTommaso responded by saying that in the near future, he will be sending out a survey to the community to determine the general consensus about starting later. He explained that Nassau County schools do not seem to be heading towards a later start time and that it could be problematic organizing the bussing.

Mr. Corona stated that the school he works for has a later start time of 8:10 a.m. but added that they have their own busses.

Ms. Piskin explained that because we share the busses with four other school districts, it is difficult to re-organize the bussing.

Mr. DeTommaso further explained that the CDC recommends a start time of 8:30 a.m. This was problematic for the elementary schools when we looked into this in the past. To change the start time and not meet what the CDC recommends is troublesome but the district will review it again.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lanci stated there was no new business

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XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Blane, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session at 9:35 p.m.

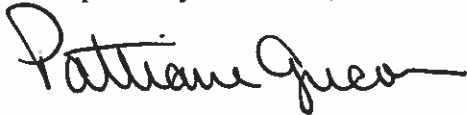
RECONVENE

The Board of Education reconvened into public session at 9:56 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk

