

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MAY 8, 2019

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, May 8, 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
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
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 8:08 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 Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the minutes from the April 3, 2019 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report, dated March 31, 2019.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Lanci asked for a moment of silence to honor the victims of the school shooting in Colorado.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education changed the order of the agenda and moved up item VIII.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report dated May 8, 2019.

- A. Tenure Recommendations
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Cancellation
- F. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- G. Assigned Services - Athletics

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the educators that received tenure tonight. We recognized those teachers and administrators earlier this evening.

Dr. Bollettieri introduced and welcomed Sheila Mullin the new Assistant Chairperson of Special Education at Calhoun High School, Samantha Bausert the new School Psychologist at Mephram High School and Kristine McKiernan the new School Psychologist at Merrick Avenue Middle School.

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed and congratulated Anthony DeMartinis in his new position of Assistant Principal at Calhoun High School. He also congratulated Calhoun's Assistant Principal Dr. Neil Testa and Kennedy's Assistant Principal Jon LaRochester for their new positions as Principals in different districts.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned that the Spring Concerts are underway in the schools and to please go see them. There is an art show in the hallways at Brookside displaying artwork from 9th and 10th grade students from every school. He said the fine arts are so outstanding and significant and it makes a strong statement about this district. Mr. DeTommaso explained the Memory Project in which students from Calhoun and Kennedy were given photographs of children who are Syrian refugees and made portraits from those photographs. He congratulated the music and art teachers and their students. Mr. DeTommaso said the One Voice, One Message 5K run/walk was a great success and that \$10,000 was raised for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He congratulated and thanked everyone for participating. Mr. DeTommaso said the community cupboard is receiving donations from all over the community and is currently supporting 64 families. He thanked everyone for their continued support.

Mr. DeTommaso honored and remembered Lorraine Poppe, retired Principal of Kennedy High School who recently passed away. He said that she will be remembered for how she cared about students, staff and this community. She touched so many lives over the course of her career. She led Kennedy High School with caring and kindness and it is very sad to lose her.

Mr. DeTommaso announced the Bellmore-Merrick Electrical Program will begin in September, 2019. He congratulated everyone involved in getting this program started. Mr. DeTommaso also announced that over the summer the Calhoun High School parking lot will be renovated as a capital project with no tax implications.

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Mr. DeTommaso welcomed Cindy Wolff from TEMPO Group and congratulated TEMPO on serving the community for the past 50 years, with 25 years in Bellmore-Merrick. He said the relationship with TEMPO combined with Northwell/South Oaks have truly made for an ideal wellness program in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Ms. Wolff explained that TEMPO Group is available in all of the Bellmore-Merrick schools with a prevention, education and intervention program for substance abuse.

Future Dates

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates. He asked everyone to please vote on May 21, 2019. He said that there are two propositions on the ballot. Proposition 1 is for the school district's budget and Proposition 2 is for capital projects which has no tax implications for residents. He mentioned Memorial Day and asked that everyone take time to think about what the day stands for in our country and community. He also said that as a result of the District not using a snow day, schools will be closed on Friday, May 24th and Tuesday, May 28th.

Student Representatives

Matthew Alexander from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning said that students are selling bracelets and plants which will be planted in the Memory Garden at Brookside to benefit the Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center. This month, MAP students visited the Tackapusha Preserve in Massapequa, had a presentation on Autism and saw the play *The Miracle Worker* which was about the life of Helen Keller. He said that students are also working with the CORE program on the buddy bench. The buddy bench is an actual bench to prevent bullying by creating a safe place to sit. He announced the Valedictorian and that he has been announced as the Salutatorian.

Gabriela Daza from Mepham High School congratulated the teachers and administrators that received tenure this evening. She said 138 students were inducted into the National Honors Society and congratulated the students that were awarded scholarships. She said the boys' baseball team made the playoffs, participants of the Spring Concerts did an amazing job and Open Mic night was great. She said that students started AP exams this week and reminded students not to stress because one test score does not define who they are.

Jonathan Mashal from Kennedy High School congratulated the art students for their displays in the schools and museums and discussed the Memory Project which creates portraits for underprivileged children. This month, Kennedy students hosted their Fashion Show, went to the STEAM fair to connect with professionals and had a Scrabble tournament. He also said the Studio Symposium went to Disney and the music department worked with a composer on the spring concerts which helped the band reach new heights. He also made a tribute to Loraine Poppe, the retired Principal of Kennedy who recently passed away. He said she will always be remembered for her passion and dedication towards the school.

Juliana Turino from Calhoun High School said the music department went to Disney and it was very exciting because the choir group won 3rd place. She also said that the school's Blue and Grey Concerts were amazing and many of the sports teams are competing in playoffs. There were 134 students inducted into the National Honors Society. Calhoun hosted their Fashion Show and raised \$20,176 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She said that the Relay for Life is this Friday and asked everyone for their support because all proceeds will go towards the American Cancer Society.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Policy

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education adopted the revisions in Policy No. 0115 – Harassment, Bullying & Discrimination.

The Board of Education accepted revised Policy No. 5151.1 – Homeless Children for a first reading.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reviewed and re-adopted Policy No. 1900 – Parental Involvement.

B. Information Item

Ms. Lanci said that the District will be honoring our school district's retirees at our June 5, 2019 regular meeting. She invited members of our professional and civil service staff who have retired during the 2018-2019 school year to attend this reception.

C. Donation

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Blane and passed 8-0, the Board of Education accepted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300.00 from the BMUST towards the Community Cupboard in honor of those teachers receiving tenure.

Ms. Lanci thanked BMUST for the donation.

D. Special Education

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

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Special Education vendors for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011688, 000011756, 000012141, 000012253, 000013137, 000014872, 000512142, 000512340, 052410003, 053410000, 081900001, 101170000, 121840002, 131261969, 201700005, 201800195, 201800240, 370000837, 370001380, 370001452, 370001996, 992450046, 992450088, 992450270, 999011351.

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated May 8, 2019, and the corresponding warrants.

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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 April 30, 2019.

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

D. 2019-2020 Budgeted Reserves and Property Tax Report Card

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve for the payment of sick leave for retirees in the 2019-2020 school year in an amount up to \$600,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Employee Retirement Reserve for payment of employer retirement expense to the New York State Employee Retirement System in the 2019-2020 school year in an amount up to \$2,274,632.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Workers Compensation Reserve for payment of Workers Compensation expense in the 2019-2020 school year in an amount up to \$250,000.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Reserve for Tax Reduction to reduce taxes and fund appropriations in the 2019-2020 school year in an amount up to \$2,480,274.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2019-2020 Property Tax Report Card.

E. Teachers' Retirement Reserve Sub-Fund

WHEREAS, Section 6-r of the New York State General Municipal Law was amended to allow school districts that participate in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System to establish a sub-fund within its retirement contribution reserve fund to finance retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and/or to offset all or a portion of the amount deducted from the moneys apportioned to the school district from the State for the support of common schools pursuant to Education Law §521; and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District participates in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District established a retirement contribution reserve fund on 9/28/05, entitled Reserve for Retirement Contributions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby establishes a sub-fund, entitled the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund, within its retirement contribution reserve fund, subject to the requirements of New York State General Municipal Law §6-r, effective immediately.

F. Transportation Contract Extensions

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve year 2 of a 3-year extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for school year 2019-2020 at full C.P.I., and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extension. Extension parameters listed include large bus and van contracts in all categories, athletic and charter trips to be included.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the extension of school bus transportation contracts with First Student, We Transport Inc., Suburban Bus Transportation, Inc., Acme Bus Corporation, Baumann Bus Company, Inc. and Educational Bus Transportation, Inc. for Summer 2019 beginning July 2019, and school year 2019-2020 at full C.P.I., and, as has been done for prior extensions, continue the waiver of the performance bond for the period of the contract extensions. The extension parameters listed include large buses, vans, matron service and field and athletic trips.

G. District Reserves Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of March, 2019 and authorizes the publication on the District's website.

H. Echocardiogram Screening

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize its President to sign an agreement with Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Cohen Children's Medical Center, to provide echocardiogram and EKG screenings for BMCHSD middle school students.

I. Textbook Distribution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Textbook Central for centralized textbook distribution services for the 2019-2020 school year. Costs are dependent upon the number of participants and are stated with the contract.

J. Education Data Service, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Education Data Service, Inc. for software licensing and maintenance services for the NY/Island Cooperative supply bids at a cost of \$9,300, and Skilled Trades & Ancillary services at a cost of \$2,000 for the 2019-2020 school year.

K. New York/Island Cooperative Bid

WHEREAS, it would be in the joint interest of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and the following school districts (*SEE ATTACHED LISTING*) to participate in cooperative bids for the purchase of various supplies, services, materials and equipment, as advertised by and awarded by the Clarkstown Central School District acting as the Lead Agency, as provided by General Municipal Law Section 119-0, and,

WHEREAS, each BOARD retains the legal authority to contract with the successful Vendor(s) and shall not be bound by purchase contracts or other agreements made by the other BOARD(S),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby agrees to participate with the attached named school districts in such cooperative bids.

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- L. BOCES of Nassau County
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for the use of one (1) classroom at Kennedy High School from 9/1/2019 – 6/30/2020 at a rental rate of \$7,680.00 for the ten-month period and \$1,625.00 annually per student in connection with mainstreaming.
 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a “Twilight Alternative High School Program” at Brookside for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about 9/9/2019 through 6/30/2020 at costs listed therein.
- M. Friedberg Jewish Community Center Lease
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with the Barry and Florence Friedberg Jewish Community Center for the use of certain facilities at Brookside for the purpose of a Summer Recreation Program for Middle School students from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning 7/5/2019 and ending 8/19/2019.
- N. Obsolete/Surplus Property
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a folding machine.
- O. Foreign Exchange Students
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board having received a request for three foreign exchange students to attend Mepham High School for the 2019-2020 school year, hereby approves such request.
- P. 2019-2020 Fire Inspection Report
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Fire Marshalls’ 2019-2020 Inspection Reports.
- Q. Electrical Training Center Inc.
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and passed 7-1-0 with Mr. Ferrara recusing himself, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Electrical Training Center Inc. to provide an electrical training program for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District students for the 2019-20 school year at a cost of \$6,500.00 per student and authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.
- R. Attendance Functions
On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Blane and passed 8-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolutions:
1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of John DeTommaso, Nancy Kaplan and Marion Blane at the John F. Kennedy Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue, Baldwin, New York on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at a cost of \$135.00 per person.
 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of John DeTommaso and Janet Goller at the Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts Luncheon

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at the Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue, Baldwin, New York on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 11:30 a.m., at a cost of \$50.00 per person.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Lanci stated we did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maureen Baglio said that she takes a pickleball class at adult Education. She said the class is overbooked and requested that the District allow them to use the school's tennis courts to accommodate the entire class. Mr. DeTommaso said he will look into it.

Kathleen Silverman is a Paraprofessional in the District and their contract is up for negotiation. She is asking that the District consider decreasing the employee contribution towards health insurance. Mr. DeTommaso and Ms. Lanci expressed gratitude for her hard work in supporting the students and suggested she speak with her union representative.

XII. MOTION TO CONVENE PUBLIC HEARING – 2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and passed 8-0, the Board of Education convened into Public Hearing for the 2019-2020 School Budget Vote.

Kate Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019-2020 School Budget. She stated that they have been receiving questions regarding the Budget Brochure printing in Spanish. She explained that the District is complying with Section 203 of the Voting Right Act of 1965, for the provision of Spanish language in connection with annual and school district elections. The proposed budget of \$163,026,888 is an increase of 3.2 million dollars or 2.02%, with a proposed tax levy of 2.174%. Ms. Freeman displayed the three-part budget numbers for Administration, Program and Capital. Ms. Freeman explained that Proposition 1 is for the General Fund Budget and Proposition 2 is for the expenditure of Capital Reserve monies and repurposing of unexpended Capital Fund monies totaling 1.9 million dollars. Prop 2 monies will be used for projects at Mephram High School, and incur no tax increase for taxpayers. She reminded everyone to please vote on May 21, 2019. Ms. Piskin asked if the newsletter was mailed to residents and Ms. Freeman confirmed that they were mailed out.

XIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lanci congratulated Ms. Goller and the students that were inducted into the John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

XIV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk