

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 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, November 6, 2019, in the Auditorium 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:

Marion Blane, Board of Education President  
Gina Piskin, Vice President  
Edward Corona  
John Ferrara  
Janet Goller  
Dr. Nancy Kaplan  
Nina Lanci  
Tracey Miller

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 Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education  
Mikaela Coni, Administrative Assistant for Business  
Cheryl Fontana, Director of Music/Fine and Performing Arts and Adult Education  
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security  
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations  
Tom Volpe, Supervisor of Transportation  
Ken Zisel, Brookside Assistant Principal  
Christopher Powers, School Attorney  
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Blane, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened into public session at 8:11 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 5-0 with Ms. Goller, Mr. Ferrara and Ms. Miller abstaining, the Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 2, 2019 meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 7-0 with Mr. Corona abstaining, the Board of Education approved the minutes from the October 10, 2019 meeting.

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2019.

V. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone to the newly renovated auditorium in the Brookside building. He explained that this auditorium was one of the capital projects we have completed and he thanked Ms. Freeman and Mr. Simpkins for their efforts completing this project. He said this is the community's auditorium and it is primarily used by the elementary districts. He said North Merrick's drama program uses this auditorium for their annual play and it is always a great show.

Mr. DeTommaso said this month is Board Appreciation month in Bellmore-Merrick. He said on behalf of central administration, administrators, teachers and staff, we are grateful for everything that you do for kids and families. Mr. DeTommaso said this Board of Education has the most supportive, dedicated people he has ever met, each member is dedicated to working for the families of this district. We all thank them for their dedication of serving on two boards and we appreciate them.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Ms. Lanci for receiving the "Woman of Distinction" award from NYS Assemblyman Dave McDonough.

Mr. DeTommaso said tomorrow will be the end of the first marking quarter and we had some wonderful things happen in the schools. In Grand Avenue M.S., student Tyler Bissoondial finished second place in the country in the Broadcom Masters. In Merrick Avenue M.S., Katelyn Dunn and Kate Caporusso are off to a great start in their new positions as Principal and Assistant Principal. Mephram H.S. has installed the Field of Honor and at the Calhoun vs. JFK football game there was a dedication to the veterans at half time. Mr. DeTommaso said that the academics in the schools speak for themselves, but it is the things that we do every day like helping families bi-weekly with the Community Cupboard that make this district so special. He thanked the veterans that have served us and those that continue to serve us as we recognize Veterans Day on Monday and he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

A. **Presentations**

**School Board Recognition**

Cheryl Fontana thanked the Board of Education for their support of art and music but also for their support of the entire district. She said in recognizing the Board of Education for their dedication, students followed this year's theme "Closer to their Hearts" and we know that this district is close to the boards' hearts.

Merrick Avenue M.S. students presented a collaboration art piece designed with a border of hands drawn by different students and two hands coming together in the center forming a heart around the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD logo.

Calhoun Prep Program presented individual art pieces for each member of the Board of Education. Students researched each board member and designed an art piece specifically for them. They then added personal information about themselves on the back so the board member could get to know the person that made the art piece for them.

Grand Avenue M.S. students "Grand Voices" performed a music medley of "I will Survive" and "I'm a Survivor", making this the first musical performance of the school year and the first musical performance in the newly renovated auditorium.

Maria Small representing the PTA Coordinating Council thanked the Board of Education for their dedication and presented a donation of \$300.00, requesting an increase in appropriations budget for each school library of \$50.00. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the supportive relationship of the parents and the PTA.

New York State English Council 2019 Educators of Excellence

Ms. Goller announced that two teachers, Vivian DiGennaro of Kennedy High School and Jennifer Greco of Calhoun and Mepham High School have 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. DiGennaro and Ms. Greco were formally honored at an awards ceremony at the NYSEC Annual Conference held in Albany on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be honored again by the Long Island Language Arts Council in May. Each teacher was presented an Award of Honor Certificate on behalf of the Board of Education.

Student Representatives

Gabriella Giobardo of Calhoun High School thanked the Board of Education for their hard work and dedication to the district. She mentioned that Calhoun had a successful month having Spirit Week, Colt Fest and Homecoming. They honored veterans at the senior football game and the On Tour program performed a Shakespeare play. Sadly, Calhoun lost an alumni from 2019, Josiah Campbell. She said Josiah was someone who always brightened your day and brought laughter to people's lives, he will always be in our hearts. Calhoun ended the month with the Special Education Halloween Dance hosted by World of Difference.

Daniel Iskols said Kennedy High School students participated in Spirit Week leading up to Homecoming. Money was raised throughout the events to benefit the Special Olympics. He congratulated students David Frank, Sylvia Bergman, Mikaela Cohen, Lily Stone and Gianna Valente for their accomplishments. He said the Safe Halloween Event with the Reinhardt Elementary students turned out to be a great success, with newly added outdoor components of inflatables and Trunk or Treat. He mentioned that there will be a food drive on November 17<sup>th</sup> at King Kullen and JFK drama will be presenting the Laramie Project on November 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mariana Mora of Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) said that they had a representative from Nassau County Holocaust and Tolerance Center come to discuss different signs of hate and the importance of tolerance. They also had a speaker from Bobby and the Stray Animal Shelter come to discuss the various forms of animal abuse and how it relates to bullying. She said that we should focus on treating victims with patience and kindness. MAP students went on two informative field trips in October, to the Sunken Forest in Fire Island and to Oak Beach. They also had Spirit Week, volunteered time at various events and will be honoring Veterans tomorrow.

Stefanie Simone of Mepham High School said that 24 students were inducted into the Math Honor Society and over 110 students were inducted into World Languages Honor Societies. Mepham's Field of Honor was set-up and will remain on display until December. Proceeds from the field will benefit the Feal Good Foundation. She congratulated several of her peers for various accomplishments, the girls soccer team and the Sharks. She said Mepham students are looking forward towards the Battle of the Classes and the drama club's presentation of "A Christmas Carol On November 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Annual External Audit Review

Alan Yu of Cullen and Danowski, LLP gave a presentation on their audit of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District's finances ending June 30, 2019. They found no material weaknesses and is issuing an unmodified opinion, which has the highest level of assurance possible. There are no reportable findings and the District's financial health is stable and consistent. He said the District has a 19% of total spending in fund balance which is a reasonable amount, and that the District manages the finances carefully. He was pleased to report that the two previous recommendations were carried out and that there were two new recommendations regarding policies and procedures, which are already being worked on being implemented with BOCES and internal auditors. There have been increases in both revenues and expenses. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Freeman, Ms. Coni and the entire business team.

B. Future Dates

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS– *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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

A. 2020-2021 School Budget Process

1. Budget Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar.

2. Date of Budget Vote

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2020-2021 School Year be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

3. Registration and Voting Costs

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.

4. BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election – Tuesday, April 21, 2020

5. Annual Public Hearing – Wednesday, May 6, 2020

B. Policy

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy for a first reading:

Policy No. 1741 – Home-Schooled Students

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy for a second reading:

Policy No. 8650 – School District Compliance with Copyright Law

C. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2019-2020.

D. 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): 000011666, 000012021, 000012118, 000012507, 000511980, 000512129, 000512136, 000512297, 000513097, 000513185, 000514076, 000514077, 031430003, 033040001, 040270000, 042680000, 043030000, 050490002, 051090000, 051310001, 053410000, 060650001, 060670004, 061020000, 072620000, 131261663, 192010274, 201700137, 201700163, 201900002, 201900048, 370001244, 370001296, 370001586, 370001627, 370001870, 992450312, 999011233.

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Report as follows:

VIII. **PERSONNEL REPORT – November 6, 2019**

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

IX. **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrants – November 6, 2019

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.

B. Bids

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

C. Budget Summary – October 31, 2019

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by a consent agenda items IX.D through IX.J.

D. 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 14, 2020 at a cost of \$26,325.00.

E. 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, 2019.

F. Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver

WHEREAS, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District has an approved Annual Professional Performance Review ("APPR") Plan in place, effective for the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS, the District has submitted an Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department since compliance with the independent evaluator requirement would create an undue burden on the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies the District's October 2, 2019 submission of the Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department.

G. Obsolete/Surplus Property

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of five cafeteria tables which are no longer being used at Merrick Avenue M.S.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of eight art tables which are no longer being used at Merrick Avenue M.S.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of band instruments that are no longer in working condition with a trade in value of \$3600.00 to be used towards the purchase of replacement instruments at Merrick Avenue M.S.

H. 913 Resolution

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law Section 913, that an employee, whose identity is known to the Board of Education, is hereby directed to report for an examination in order to determine the capacity of such person to perform his/her duties. The said examination will be conducted by Dr. Randall Solomon at his office located at 33 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 217W, Huntington Station, New York 11746 on November 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm, and/or any subsequent days that Dr. Solomon may require.

I. Construction Change Orders

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Site & Interior Reconstruction Change Orders at S.H. Calhoun High School, SED No. 28-02-53-07-0-004-053:

1. Change Order No. 4 in the add amount of \$15,886.00 for Pioneer Landscaping & Asphalt Paving Inc., the Site Work Contract.

2. Change Order No. 5 in the add amount of \$18,393.00 for Pioneer Landscaping & Asphalt Paving Inc., the Site Work Contract.

J. Reimbursement for Attendance Functions

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6830 permits school district employees, officials and members of the Board of Education to be reimbursed for reasonable, actual and necessary out of pocket expenses which are legally authorized and incurred while traveling for school related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools determined that Central Office Administrators are required to attend certain functions in the best interest of the School District, including

the BMUST Retirement/Annual Dinner, Nassau BOCES Awards Dinner, PTA Founders Day, Cultural Arts Luncheon, JFK Hall of Fame Awards Dinner; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board of Education in the best interest of the School District also attend such functions; and

WHEREAS, Central Office Administrators and Board Members attend and pay for said events; and

WHEREAS, such expenses are eligible for reimbursement, pursuant to Board Policy 6830.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes reimbursement to Central Office Administration and Board members for their attendance at said events; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Business or her designee to process said reimbursement.

K. Donation

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$5000.00 from the W.C. Mephram Alumni Association to be used for the Robotics and Engineering room (LL01), and increase appropriations budget by same amount.

Mr. DeTommaso and the Board of Education thanked the Alumni for the donation.

L. Section 75 Charge

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a charge is being preferred pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 75 against a non-instructional employee of the District whose identity is known to the Board of Education. Such charge is set forth in the written charge filed with the District Clerk; and IT IS FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Joseph Wooley, Esq. is hereby designated as Hearing Officer to hear such charge and to make proposed findings of fact and a recommendation with respect to measure of discipline, if guilt be found, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Law; and IT IS FURTHER

RESOLVED, effective November 7, 2019, that said employee shall be suspended without pay for thirty (30) days, pending determination of the charges.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rania Elbaz wants to know if the school calendar will be on the Board of Education agenda in December. She also asked what steps will be taken to determine the impact of EID regarding attendance as dictated by law, if there is a survey or questionnaire. Mr. DeTommaso explained that the school calendar will be on the December agenda and the public will be able to comment. He explained that there is no survey; it is illegal to have a survey. He also clarified that a board member previously asked the school attorney to clarify what the law states. Mr. DeTommaso spoke with other school districts that close school on EID. They saw a 15% drop in attendance, which in their opinion was significant enough for those districts to close.

Mr. Powers explained that NYS Education Law section 3210 states the Board of Education or trustees shall determine whether school session should not be held at an individual public school, or district-wide, on a day where, if school were in session, absenteeism may result in the waste of educational resources because a considerable proportion of the student population is unlikely to attend because of a religious or cultural day of observance.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business discussed.

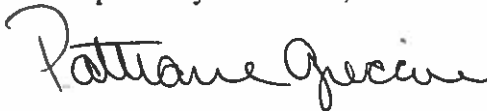
XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Corona, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pattianne Guccione  
District Clerk