

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 4, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 4, 2020 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:

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 Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
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
Emily Paluseo, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
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 6:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss Coronavirus (COVID-19), a personnel matter and attendance at end of year events.

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin seconded by Mr. Corona and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened into public session at 8:10 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone.

Student Representatives

Stephanie Simone said that Mepham High School had a very exciting month, celebrating P.S I Love You Day on Valentine's Day. Students and faculty wrote and delivered positive messages to one another to spread kindness and bring awareness to suicide prevention. She congratulated Sabrina Iraggi for receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, the 2020 Cultural Arts Foundation Winners, Gold Key winner Ronald Rezinck and all of the Mepham winter sports teams and coaches for being named Scholar Athlete Teams by the NYS High School Athletic Association. She announced that on March 18th, Mepham will host their Chop Your Locks for Charity event to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation and hopes everyone can attend.

Mariana Mora from Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP) said throughout the month of February, the Key Club ran a Candy Gram fundraiser and they will donate the funds towards Australian Wildfire relief. MAP students had a moving presentation on Driving While Intoxicated and the importance of making good decisions. After the presentation, they attempted simple activities while wearing vision impairment goggles and said the exercise was very informative. Lastly, she said retired teacher Ms. DiGiovanna gave a tutorial on hydroponic gardening and students are now growing various vegetables in the indoor garden.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Daniel Iskols on his beautiful artwork that was displayed in the Brookside hallway last month.

Daniel Iskols said that Kennedy High School held its annual Class Night last week and added a new aspect to the event, teacher teams. He congratulated Kennedy's trivia team for winning the Nassau County Trivia Challenge, the Virtual Enterprise Class for being named a top 150 company in the nation and the girls varsity basketball team for advancing to the Nassau County semifinals. The entire Kennedy community also engaged in a wellness week, where each day the students participated in activities meant to ease the common everyday stresses. Looking ahead, the Kennedy Student Government is hosting a Polar Plunge on Saturday, March 14th. All of the proceeds will be donated to Special Olympics and he asked for everyone's support.

Gabriella Giobardo said that Calhoun High School had an eventful month. The DECA trip was very successful with Troy Pastor winning first place in Sports and Entertainment Marketing and the team winning 21 medals. Bellmore-Merrick hosted the Hackathon event at Brookside and their team placed 3rd and had a great time. Calhoun's Model UN trip began this afternoon and traveled to NYC to compete in solving problems on a global stage. Upcoming, Calhoun looks forward to Spirit Week, Class Night and the Senior Experience Fashion Show. The Senior Experience Fashion Show will be on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. and proceeds will benefit the Ray Pfeiffer Foundation.

Mr. DeTommaso said that all of the electric and cable wiring that was done for the Hackathon event was completely provided by students from the Bellmore-Merrick Electrical program. He said that the students were very excited about being given the opportunity and he congratulated them on a job well done.

Future Dates

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates pointing out the District College Planning Night, Class Nights and Honor Society Induction ceremonies. He also said that the musicals start to come back this month.

Mr. DeTommaso spoke about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting the world and said that we are in very challenging times. He complimented the entire Bellmore-Merrick team for the way we are responding to this issue. He assured everyone that the District will remain on top of this issue and said he is proud to say that the letters we have sent home to parents have been used by other school districts throughout the County, meaning we have paved the way for the how this issue has been addressed by other school districts.

Mr. DeTommaso said the initial letter was sent home to parents on January 27, 2020 when COVID-19 was just starting to make the news. The letter was sent to assure everyone that the District is paying attention to this and included some of the things people should be doing like covering coughs, washing hands and staying home when sick. He said the second email was sent home to parents on February 27, 2020 and it included the School-Wide District Safety Plan, which includes the Pandemic Plan, and some of the actions the District has been taking. Mr. DeTommaso said the CHSD and the custodial team always does a tremendous job, but we have now added hand sanitizer on every floor, in every office, gymnasium, auditorium and lobby. We have put up posters to remind everyone about how to prevent the spreading of illness. We have been working with our transportation companies regarding how the buses should be wiped down between routes. We are wiping down our computer labs and equipment. We have been discussing with teachers and administrators what we would do if we have to deal with an extended closure for any reason. Every parent and teacher uses Infinite Campus. In the event of an extended closure, teachers will contact students through Infinite Campus. Once they have made the initial contact they will go to the platform they use in class. He said all of this information will be shared with parents in a third letter, which will be sent home tomorrow. Mr. DeTommaso assured everyone that instruction will go forward should we face an extended closure. The District has also secured agreements with outside companies for intense cleaning should we need it. Lastly, Mr. DeTommaso said that as COVID-19 moves forward, the District will take guidance from the CDC, the NYS Department of Health and Nassau County Health Department. Mr. DeTommaso offered to take any questions from the public on COVID-19 and there were no questions.

Ms. Lanci spoke behalf of the Board of Education and said that by reading the material and seeing the emails that they are assured that Mr. DeTommaso and the District is on top of this issue and the community should be reassured.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that the District will continue to take guidance from the three organizations and we will be as prepared as possible.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS– *Agenda Items Only*

There were no comments on agenda items.

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Registration and Voting Information

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2020 Registration and Voting Information.

B. Policy

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

Policy No. 5605 – Voter Registration for Students (New)

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: 000012118, 000012468, 000012797, 000512005, 000512235, 000512341, 000512616, 000512709, 000512716, 000513040, 000513589, 000514046, 070990017, 071900007, 121740000, 121740001, 131261366, 131261969, 131262703, 131264473, 370001119, 370001244, 370001269, 370001322, 370001452, 370001553, 370002031, 900010686, 999011167, 999011407.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – March 4, 2020

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Rescind Volunteer Appointment
- D. Leave Requests
- E. Assigned Services – Non Athletics
- F. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- G. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – March 4, 2020

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

B. Budget Summary – February 29, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

C. 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.

D. Obsolete/Surplus Property

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of obsolete World Languages textbooks and equipment from Calhoun High School.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the old Wrangler Auto Scrubber with Battery Charge at Kennedy High School.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the disposal of the District's obsolete equipment of 12 projectors, 6 printers, 5 smart boards and 2 iPods.

E. Prep Academy Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and Life's WORK for utilization of space at the Brookside Building for the period March 5, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

F. Summer Recreation Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Summer Camp of Bellmore-Merrick, Corp. for the lease of space at Grand Avenue Middle School for the operation of a summer recreation program for the period July 2, 2020 through August 11, 2020.

G. District Reserves Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of March, 2020 and authorizes the publication on the District's website.

H. TRS Reserve Funding

WHEREAS, that the Board of Education previously established the "Retirement Contribution Reserve TRS Sub-Fund" within its "Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that transfers from the "Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund" to the "Retirement Contribution Reserve TRS Sub-Fund" are allowable under GML 6-r;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorize a transfer from the "Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund" to the "Retirement Contribution Reserve TRS Sub-Fund" in the amount of \$500,000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby directs the Assistant Superintendent for Business to effectuate said transfer in accordance with law.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kellie Shuart spoke about the pending legislation on the NY Senate making HPV vaccine mandatory to attend school.

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 Ms. Miller, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk