

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JANUARY 6, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, January 6, 2021, via Zoom video conference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 for alternative means for public entities to conduct public meetings.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Gina Piskin, President
Edward Corona, Vice President
Marion Blane
Janet Goller
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Nina Lanci
Tracey Miller

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent of Personnel
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Michael Harrington, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Joseph Innaco, Director of Administrative & Instructional Technology and Data Protection/Security
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, remote learning, winter athletics, the 2021-2022 school calendar and budget.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 7:41 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. Piskin asked for a moment of silence to remember Evan Bradshaw, a Mephram H.S. student who passed away suddenly last month.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the December 2, 2020 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 November 30, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso wished everyone a Happy New Year and said that we have had a smooth start back to school. He said that the district has been busy monitoring cases and quarantines. He said the district have sent out several emails and stressed the importance of parents and staff to read all communications. Mr. DeTommaso said that we have had a regular amount of cases and are paying close attention to a possible surge in cases from the holidays. He explained that parents continue to have the option to switch to remote learning for a certain period, resulting in lighter in-person attendance. Mr. DeTommaso thanked the students and staff for following all safety protocols.

Mr. DeTommaso said the district is currently preparing for the beginning of the winter intra-mural sports, which will commence on January 19th. He also said that we are excited about offering middle school students the option of track for the first time in Bellmore-Merrick. Mr. DeTommaso said the District will send out a notice about potential remote learning days on January 13, 20, 26 and 27.

Mr. DeTommaso reminded everyone that they do not have to wait for a Board of Education meeting to ask questions. He said the Board of Education had received a question about teacher using microphone and said that we have microphones and teachers can have one upon request. The Board of Education received a second question about the monitoring of bus usage to which he said that we monitor bussing annually and ridership is down about 33% this year. Finally, Mr. DeTommaso said that the district is currently preparing the budget for next year, which is becoming more difficult since the figure for State Aid is unknown.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0 the Board of Education removed the Public Comment sections from this meeting only and changed the order of business accordingly.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items VII.A.1 and VII.A.2.

A. Policies

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policies for a first reading:
Policy No. 8625 – Privacy and Security for Student, Teacher and Principal Data (New)
Policy No. 8635 – Information Security Breach and Notification (Revised)
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following policy for a second reading:
Policy No. 5151.1 – Homeless Children (Revised)

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved items VII.B.1 through VII.B.2.

B. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a wheel chair for the Nurse's Office at Merrick Avenue Middle School from Kristine Birdie.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of 12 Chromebooks from Ms. Whitney Ralston, which will provide additional resources that will help enhance virtual learning opportunities for our students.

Ms. Piskin and Mr. DeTommaso thanked them for their donations.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items VII.C through VIII.H.

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 (CSE): 000011861, 000014576, 000512109, 000512323, 000512340, 000512655, 000512847, 000514182, 062360006, 070540003, 073130000, 081560001, 081910001, 081930010, 081970004, 090910005, 110210003, 110260004, 131261307, 131261421, 131261685, 131262413, 131263296, 131263316, 181910090, 201600052, 201600108, 201700005, 201700235, 202000094, 202111082, 202111775 and 370001821.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – January 6, 2021

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- D. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- E. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- F. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- G. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellations
- H. Assigned Services – Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – January 6, 2021

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

B. Budget Summary – December 31, 2020

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items IX.C through IX.F.

C. Foreign Exchange Student

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education having received a request for a foreign exchange student to attend Mephram High School for the 2021-2022 school year, hereby approve such request.

D. PCR COVID-19 Testing Agreement

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approve an agreement with ATC Testing and Screening Services, LLC to provide PCR COVID-19 swab testing for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approve an agreement Healthcare Logics, LLC to provide PCR COVID-19 swab testing for the 2020-2021 school year.

E. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of two TVs, one printer, three overheads and one typewriter in the book room of the Brookside Building.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of one refrigerator in the MAP Student Lounge, room #125 of the Brookside Building.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve disposal of one IBM Wheelwriter 6 electric typewriter (serial #11-0124521) located in the Brookside Building.

F. BOCES Technology Program Contract

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District 38-760462 desires to enter into a 4 year contract with the Nassau BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 532 Instructional Technology Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$1,296,107.64 which is inclusive of related estimated borrowing fees, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period from 1-15-2021 to 1-14-2025.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeTommaso discussed the new Chromebook initiative, in which the District will purchase Chromebooks for every student, starting with 7th and 8th grades. He said that kids have adapted to remote learning and that we need the Chromebooks, which we hope to distribute next year. He also discussed the COVID-19 testing agreements that were approved tonight which will provide the required COVID-19 testing on staff and students in the event that the Governor declares our district in an orange or red zone. Mr. DeTommaso said that we worked together with our component districts and are prepared should we have to test our staff and students. Mr. DeTommaso added that the district is working on the 2021-2022 school calendar. He also said that everyone must continue to work together as things are changing rapidly and the district is as usual, doing our best for kids and staff.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Piskin stated the Board of Education did receive correspondence.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments for this meeting.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:59 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk