

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 3, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 3, 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 for 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, sports and the school budget.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:06 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0 the Board of Education removed the Public Comments sections from this meeting only and changed the order of business accordingly.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Goller seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2021.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and said that he hopes to be in person for the next Board of Education meeting. He said that tonight we recognize the five National Merit Scholarship Finalists representing each high school. He explained how big of an accomplishment this is to achieve and congratulated all of the students.

A. Presentations

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Ms. Cmar-Grote said that Tyler O'Neill of Mepham High School is a socially gifted, academically talented, intrinsically motivated, and one of the finest members of this year's graduating class. Along with being named a National Merit Finalist, Tyler is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of the National Honor Society, and will earn a Regents with Advanced Designation with Honors upon his graduation in June.

Ms. Piskin said that Samantha Green of Mepham High School is a reflective, mature and articulate young woman. Along with being a National Merit Finalist, Samantha is an AP Scholar with Honors, two-time recipient of the St. John's University Women in Science Award, and a member of our Advanced Science Research program.

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the students and requested that we wait a few minutes to allow time for the other National Merit Scholarship Finalists log into the meeting.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the District is taking things one day at a time and we are giving kids as many opportunities as possible. He thanked the entire staff for everything they are doing and for the tremendous effort from the entire community in keeping our kids safe, healthy and in school every day. Mr. DeTommaso said that our District has had in-person classes since September. In the next month, we will start to see other school districts opening for in-person classes because they realize how important it is to have kids back in school. He thanked the parents and kids for their support in keeping our schools open.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the winter sports lasted 27 days and he thanked Mr. Caballero, Athletic Coordinators, Coaches, support staff and Mr. Volpe for the coordination and effort to have an outstanding season. He also thanked the kids and parents for their support and recognized how wonderful it was to see kids playing and being happy.

Mr. DeTommaso talked about fall sports and the incredible amount of work to make it happen. He said that the district will continue to put health and safety first but everyone is thrilled to give kids this opportunity. Games will begin shortly and we are working on the seating capacity and having fans in the stands.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed high-risk sports saying that COVID-19 testing continues and there have been very few positive cases. He said Ingerman Smith, the attorneys for the Central High School District, have said it is legal for school districts to continue to test for high-risk sports. He thanked everyone for all of their efforts and thanked the kids for showing up, getting tested and sacrificing so much to play these sports, which shows how important this is to them. Mr. DeTommaso said we must continue to do the best we can every day and continue to administer COVID-19 testing on our players to keep these sports going.

Mr. DeTommaso said there are three and a half months left in school and he asked that kids continue to adhere to safety protocols inside and outside of school so that we can celebrate our seniors at the end of the year. He reminded parents to keep their kids home if they are sick or are awaiting test results to keep all of our kids safe.

Mr. DeTommaso said that Bellmore-Merrick is the only school district that is having Winter I and Winter II Intramural Sports for middle school students. He thanked the elementary school districts and their Boards of Education, Superintendents, Principals and Directors of Facilities for coordinating with us and allowing us use of their gymnasiums. He said we will be transporting kids to eight different elementary schools and he cannot thank them enough. He also thanked the parents who will be picking up their kids and said this is a true “One Voice, One Message” district.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) team and our partners, South Oaks/Northwell Health. He said this is the most important partnership in these extraordinary times that the District has, which gives our kids and families the resources and support they need.

Mr. DeTommaso said that now we would recognize the three remaining National Merit Scholarship Finalist but first reflected on the fact that we opened for in-person classes in September, have remained open the entire time and the amount of effort put in by everyone to accomplish this.

Mr. Corona said that Lucas Ahrens of Calhoun High School is an adaptable, creative insightful and a natural leader. His innovation is seen in every realm of his life. His course load has been consistently the most rigorous, challenging himself with Advanced Placement and Honors courses.

Ms. Goller said that Connor Gibson of Kennedy High School is confident, ambitious and extremely hard working. He has taken the most demanding schedule and courses and will graduate with the highest degree New York State offers. Connor’s intelligence and strong work ethic will certainly make him a force to be reckoned with.

Dr. Kaplan said that Stamatia Papazis of Kennedy High School is a student who is always willing to embrace a challenge, ask the tough questions, or consistently seek a solution to an issue set in front of her. A leader in the classroom and out, Stamatia is highly respected by all for her personal qualities and character as well as her accomplishments.

B. Future Dates

March 11	Kennedy District College Planning Night
March 23	Mephram Science Honor Society Induction
March 24	Kennedy Science Honor Society Induction
April 7	Board of Education Meeting

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates adding that we continue to have National Honor Society Induction Ceremonies, plays, etc. and we hope to have our concerts return to a live audience. He added that all areas of school life continue to be resurgent and we continue to do wonderful things.

Ms. Goller thanked Mr. DeTommaso and the staff for everything that has been done to keep kids in school with sports and extracurricular activities. She said she is proud to be a member of the Board of Education and that what everyone is doing for kids is greatly appreciated.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments for this meeting.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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

A. Registration and Voting Information

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2021 Registration and Voting Information.

B. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendors for School Year 2020-2021.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000011934, 000012255, 000512098, 000512112, 000512126, 000512136, 000512322, 000512497, 091100011, 192010473, 201800116, 201900009 and 999011419.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – March 3, 2021

- A. Resignations
- B. Appointments
- C. Recommendation for Permanent Employment
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Salary Reclassification
- F. Leave Requests
- G. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- H. Assigned Services – Fall – Athletics
- I. Assigned Services – Winter – Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Spring – Athletics
- K. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- L. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant –March 3, 2021

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

B. Budget Summary – February 28, 2021

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda items IX.C through IX.G.

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. Scholarship

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Jason Vitale Memorial Science Award at Mepham High School of \$500.00.

- E. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of one folding machine at Mepham High School.

- F. Prep Academy Agreement
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. for utilization of space at the Brookside Building for the period January 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

- G. District Reserves Plan
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of March, 2021 and authorizes the publication on the District's website.

X. MOTION TO CONVENE PUBLIC HEARING – SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education convened to a Public Hearing on the School Safety Plan.

Ms. Coni said that the School Safety Plan has been revised to develop plans consistent with Department of Labor requirements in the event that the NYS Governor declare a Public Health Emergency involving communicable diseases such as COVID-19. She said that the revised School Safety Plan is available on our website and that if anyone has questions; please reach out to her or Jon Simpkins.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved agenda item X.A.

- A. School Safety Plan
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopts the revised district-wide safety plan, originally approved on August 5, 2020, to be in compliance with the new NYSED regulations and directs that the district-wide plan be filed with the Commissioner of Education within 30 days of the adoption of this Resolution.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated Dr. Patrick Mannion, the Science Chairperson on his retirement. He announced that Heather Bizewski will be his replacement and he congratulated her.

Ms. Piskin thanked the Principals for keeping kids safe and for the enormous effort put into contact tracing. She thanked the Nurses and the entire staff, saying that students belong in school, which could not have been accomplished without the entire team.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Piskin stated the Board of Education did not receive correspondence.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments for this meeting.

XIV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:40 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk