

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JUNE 2, 2020

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday evening, June 2, 2020 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:

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
Mikaela Coni, Administrative Assistant for Business
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 via video conference at 7:21 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter, the budget and the many challenges the district has faced due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Ms. Blane, Board President called the meeting to order at 8:34 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. Goller, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the May 6, 2020 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2020.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2020 Bellmore-Merrick Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated all of the Valedictorians and Salutatorian for their accomplishments, saying they are some of the finest students in the country. Prior to tonight's meeting, each Valedictorian and Salutatorian were presented with Award of Honor Certificates.

Ms. Miller congratulated Marc Edayadi, Valedictorian of Calhoun High School, and said he has exceptional focus, direction and determination. With ten AP classes under his belt, Marc's academic path shows a passion for History, a commitment to Science Research and a love for music.

Marc will be attending Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations this fall studying government and economic policy.

Mr. Corona Congratulated Adam Gokcan, Salutatorian of Calhoun High School and said he is a genuinely kind and humble young man, even given all his astonishing achievements. With perfect scores in all AP courses, as well as a perfect ACT of 36, Adam has wowed teachers in every corner of the building. Adam will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Ms. Piskin congratulated Katherine St. George, Valedictorian of Kennedy High School and said she is a focused, inquisitive, open-minded and intrinsically motivated individual who excels in her pursuit of the most rigorous academic program our district has to offer. She was recognized as a Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist and she will enroll at Columbia University where she will major in Biochemistry.

Ms. Goller congratulated Madeline Jutsen, Salutatorian of Kennedy High School and said she is brilliant, self-motivated and conscientious. She said Madeline is the rare student who can sift through the details to see the “big picture”. On top of her beyond-exemplary grades and scores, Madeline is an analytical reader, a thoughtful writer and a critical thinker. Madeline will be attending Muhlenberg University in the fall.

Dr. Kaplan congratulated Laszlo Goch, Valedictorian of Meadowbrook Alternative Program (MAP) and said he is a dedicated student who loves to learn and has a special affinity for mathematics. He has taken and excelled in numerous AP classes, is very involved in Community Service, serves as the Treasurer for the Key Club and a Student Ambassador representing MAP at various district meetings. Laszlo will pursue Computer Science in the Honors Program at Adelphi University.

Ms. Miller congratulated Mariana Mora, Salutatorian of MAP and said she has devoted herself to rigorous coursework, excelling in AP Art History and AP Psychology. Her quiet and demure presence aside, Mariana is a strong-willed proponent of Community Service. As Key Club President, she was honored at the annual Kiwanis Student Recognition Night in mid-May for her devotion to serving the community and her dedication has helped MAP achieve gold star status as a “No Place for Hate” school. Mariana served as MAP’s Board of Education Student Representative for this school year and she has been accepted into the Nursing Program at Nassau Community College.

Ms. Lanci congratulated Alyssa Dioguardi, Valedictorian of Mepham High School and said every now and then a student comes along who truly amazes those around them with their paramount intelligence, unique determination and genuine love of learning, Alyssa is absolutely one of those students. Alyssa is an integral part of our Advanced Science Research Program and an active member of seven honor societies. She is the first violinist in the school Concert Orchestra, is a self-taught guitarist, pianist and vocalist and also serves as student representative for site-based meetings.

Ms. Blane congratulated Spencer Mattes, Salutatorian of Mepham High School and said he is a kind, intrinsically motivated and thoughtful humanitarian. His remarkable transcript speaks for itself, especially the fact that each year he achieved perfection (100-105%) in all of his coursework which consisted of all AP Honors and college level classes. Spencer will be attending the Scholars Program at Binghamton in the fall majoring in Physics.

Recognition of High School Student Representative to the Board of Education

Gabriella Giobardo	Calhoun High School
Daniel Iskols	Kennedy High School
Mariana Mora	Meadowbrook Alternative Learning Program (MAP)
Stefanie Simone	Mepham High School

Mr. DeTommaso congratulated the representatives to the Board of Education, saying they are some of the most incredible student leaders in the entire state. Prior to tonight's meeting each student representative was presented with a gavel to recognize them as official members of the Board of Education. Mr. DeTommaso said that they have been the highlight at each Board meeting and they have been greatly missed since March. He told them that we are hopeful that the Governor allows an outdoor graduation but assured them that the upcoming month may be different but it will be exciting. He thanked them for their contributions and said we certainly will remember them.

Recognition of Board President Marion Blane for Service and Leadership

Prior to tonight's meeting Ms. Blane was presented with a plaque in recognition of her service and leadership. Ms. Piskin thanked Ms. Blane for her leadership and being at the helm this school year. She said the school year started off calm and the winds have shifted, but with Marion at the helm the Board of Education was well informed and she handled everything perfectly. She did an outstanding job, especially during these unprecedented times.

Ms. Blane said that she has served as President for this Board of Education two times in her career but this year was very interesting. She thanked everyone and said she loves her plaque.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Blane for her leadership and for leading with a loving and kind heart.

Recognition of John Ferrara, retiring member of the Board of Education

Prior to tonight's meeting Mr. Ferrara was presented with a plaque for his service as a member of the Board of Education. Ms. Blane thanked Mr. Ferrara and said she was sad to hear he is retiring. She has loved working with him, he will be missed.

Mr. DeTommaso said Mr. Ferrara has always kept kids and families first and he has been a pleasure to work with. He thanked him for his support and guidance.

Ms. Lanci said John has expertise in electric and construction and he brought that to this board. He guided some of the Board members as to what the guidelines and requirements are for those students that enrolled in the new Electrical Program. She said he thinks about the taxpayers but he thinks about the kids first, he has a great heart and is a gentleman. She has had the pleasure to serve with Mr. Ferrara on two boards, the Elementary and the High School Board of Educations. She said she will miss him and thanked him for serving.

Mr. Ferrara thanked everyone and said it was all his pleasure.

Recognition of retiring members of the Bellmore-Merrick Educational Community

Mr. DeTommaso said that prior to tonight's meeting we recognized the retiring members of the Bellmore-Merrick staff. He thanked them for their contributions to the community. They have influenced and worked with decades of kids. They have made such a difference in the lives of kids and we wish them much love and gratitude for everything they have done in Bellmore-Merrick. He also thanked BM Broadcasting for putting together a retiree tribute video which was shown earlier in the evening.

Recognition of retiring members of the Bellmore-Merrick PTAs

Ms. Lanci said the PTA members we honor tonight have played important roles in the wonderful partnership that we have in Bellmore-Merrick between our Board of Education, administration and parent leadership. They have demonstrated faithful service and given countless hours of volunteer time to our school district as PTA members. The community is a better place as a result of their unselfish contributions. Prior to tonight's meeting Betsy Lashin, JoAnn Erhard, Jenny Roth, Jodi Serken, Margaret Kubica, Alison Dictor, Maria Ponzio and Lori Adami were presented Award of Honor Certificates.

Mr. DeTommaso discussed the recent events and the deep sense of pain and heartbreak going on in the country. He said how sad he is for George Floyd and his family, for the brutal murder he endured and for the pain they must feel seeing it played over and over again on television. He is also sad for our police forces across the country that dedicate their lives to protecting people and how they are taking such abuse because of the actions of four police officer. He is sad for the peaceful protesters who are trying to change society and who have been lumped together with those that are causing such violence and mayhem in our streets. He is sad for the store owners who are trying to deal with being closed for the past three months and are now dealing with their businesses being destroyed at no fault of their own. He is sad for all those who have suffered for their race, creed, color or sexual identity and he is sad for all of the kids that have to see this all played out on television. Mr. DeTommaso said he believes that when sadness comes, hope can and will follow. He is hopeful that this unrest will end and that hope will come, and it will be real, and it will be lasting. He hopes that we will all learn to treat each other better, but that everyone must do their part. As educators, we must help lead the way. We have to support the programs currently in the CHSD like "Erase Racism" and the ADL's "No Place for Hate". We must continue to expand our Re-imagine Committee led by Dr. Bollettieri and staff. We must support the community to make the CHSD a better place, a more tolerant place and I have faith that in the end, society will be better for our kids and families.

Dr. Kaplan thanked Mr. DeTommaso for his statement and said that she believes that education is where the hope really lies. She believes that the culture and climate in our school buildings are an example of how we are better than some of the things going on in our country. She asks that we continue to focus on social justice issues. Dr. Kaplan said that it seems that this event has raised more awareness than other events and it has highlighted some of the issues that we need to address and fix in this society. She appreciates the culture and climate in our schools, thank you.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked all of our first responders and healthcare providers and he offered peace and comfort to those who have lost loved ones in the battle of COVID-19. He thanked the Board of Education for their leadership, guidance, incredible volunteerism and the way they always care for kids and families. He thanked the amazing staff for all that they do for kids and families all the time, but especially for what has been done for the past three months. Mr. DeTommaso was proud to say that this district was one of the first districts to implement distance learning. He has stacks of letters of appreciation for the staff from parents and kids. He thanked the parents for their support and advice and for keeping their kids focused on their work. He thanked our students for being strong and working through the fear, anxiety and stress and still doing amazing things. He especially thanked the Class of 2020. Mr. DeTommaso explained that students that have grit and resiliency are thought to be better college students and citizens and that they become more successful because they learn to deal with adversity. He said the class of 2020 has had to learn more grit and resiliency than most but it will pay off in the long run, as they will keep rising even when they fall. You will be the leaders in our future. Mr. DeTommaso is hopeful that the Governor will allow an outdoor graduation in the future. He congratulated them and said we will see you soon.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the 8th grade moving up ceremonies will take place on June 12th and the high schools will have a walk-through of their first floor of their building for the seniors. The summer academic refresher course and registration information will be coming out shortly. The courses will be taught live and will be in topics that students will need to get ready for next year. He thanked Mr. Harrington and his team for getting this program ready. Mr. DeTommaso said he doesn't know what school will look like in September but whatever that is, it will be the best possible solution for us. The District has a re-opening committee and it is exploring many options for the start of school as we await guidance from the Governor. Of course, there can be a regular opening which is what we all want, but another option could be blended online and in person. Lastly, if the start of the school year is only by remote learning, the online learning will change. It will be more robust, more intense and more livestreamed. We know it will be difficult but we are looking at those options. Mr. DeTommaso asked parents to look for graduation information and a survey about remote learning and reminded everyone to cast their ballot for the budget before June 9th.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Ferrara 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 only.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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

A. Board of Education Meeting Dates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2020-2021 Board of Education meeting dates.

B. Days of Religious Observance (DRO) for State Aid/Average Daily Attendance

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the exclusion of days of religious observance from the calculation of 2020-2021 average daily attendance as determined by the student attendance computer programs.

C. Policies

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

Policy No. 5100 HS – High School Attendance Policy

Policy No. 8131 – Pandemic Planning

D. Fall 2020 New Adult Education Courses

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended new Fall 2020 Adult Education courses.

E. Grant Award

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept from the NY Institute of Technology a \$200.00 Mini Research Grant STEM Initiative for the Kennedy HS Robotics GO account to be spent on STEM materials that the grant winning student, Julia Levine is involved in, and increase appropriations budget by the same amount.

- F. 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): 000012545, 000511927, 000511943, 000512924, 100780001, 192010274, 201600057, 201700135, 201900119, 370001129.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – June 2, 2020

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

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant dated June 2, 2020
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.
- B. Bids
The Board of Education approved the bids as stated in agenda.
- C. Budget Summary dated May 26, 2020
The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary.
- D. School Lunch Prices
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended prices for school lunch and food items for school year 2020-2021.
- E. Inter-Municipal Cooperative Bid
WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York, to bid jointly on selected Food Service Commodities, Food and Food Service Supplies for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS, the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District (BMCHSD) is desirous of participating with other districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0; and,

WHEREAS, the BMCHSD wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specification, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the BMCHSD hereby appoints the Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association Cooperative Bid Committee to represent it in all matters related above; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BMCHSD's Board of Education authorizes the above-mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BMCHSD's Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BMCHSD's Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; and (3) that after award of contract(s), it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

F. Facilities Use Fees

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended fees for the use of school facilities for School Year 2020-2021.

G. Athlete Management

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Rank One Sport for athlete management and scheduling services for school year 2020-2021 with the total cost remaining at \$1,700.

H. Third Party Administrator

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Omni Group to continue as Plan Administrator for the district's 403(b) plan for the 2020-2021 year.

I. Actuarial Analysis - GASB 75

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLC to provide GASB 75 valuation/analysis as of June 30, 2020 at a cost of \$9,500.00.

J. Pupil Transportation and Assignment System (PTAS)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an extension of professional services in an agreement with Applied Data Services for a one-year period from 7/1/20 – 6/30/21 at an annual cost of \$16,347.00.

K. Reserve Funds

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Capital Reserve (ED LAW §3651), and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve (GML §6-r, 3(a)), and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund (New York State Teachers (GML 6-r,). and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (GML §6- p, 3(a)), and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Workers Compensation Reserve (GML §6-j, 2(a)), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize a transfer of an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2020 to the Unemployment Insurance Reserve (GML §6-m,2).

L. TLC Brookside Rent Relief

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District authorizes the Board President to enter into the First Amendment to the Agreement between TLC at Brookside, Inc. and Bellmore-Merrick CHSD.

M. BOCES of Nassau County

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with BOCES of Nassau County for a “Regional Summer School Program” with a provision for distance learning for Bellmore-Merrick Central High School students and others commencing on or about July 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 at costs listed therein.

N. Transportation Contract Extension

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve year 3 of a 3-year extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for school year 2020-2021 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.

O. Modify School Calendar/End Date of Leaves

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District modifies the School Calendar for the 2019-2020 school year as attached to this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District modifies the end date of all leaves previously approved by the Board of Education to end on June 26, 2020 to June 17, 2020, the revised end date of the 2019-2020 school year.

P. BOCES Technology Lease Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and The Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Project # 37-720236) for the lease purchase of technology equipment, software and services, and authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business discussed.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board of Education did not receive correspondence.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

XIII. MOTION TO CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING – 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and carried 8-0, the Board of Education convened into a Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 School Budget Vote.

Ms. Freeman, Assistant Superintendent for Business started by saying it is with a heavy heart that this will be her last Board of Education meeting as she is retiring this month. She has loved working here and she thanked the Board of Education, Mr. DeTommaso, Dr. Bollettieri, Mr. Harrington, Ms. Coni, Directors, Principals and Business office staff for the honor of working with them. She said that Ms. Coni is very competent and will do wonderful things for the District.

Ms. Freeman explained that the full budget was presented and approved in April and we are not making any changes to that budget. The budget is available online on the District's website. Ms. Freeman said if anyone has any questions they can call or email her or Ms. Coni. The 2020-2021 budget goals are to maintain instruction, programs and district initiatives. Another goal is keeping at or under the tax levy cap. This budget has meet all of those goals. The proposed budget of \$166,661,464 is increase of 3.6 million dollars and 2.23% from 2019-2020. The proposed budget is within the cap at 2.561%. Regarding revenues, the tax levy is an increase of \$3,057,479. PILOT payments are anticipated to go down approximately \$100,000. Ms. Freeman explained that the Governor's proposed budget included an increase to Foundation Aid but that was rescinded due to the pandemic. The \$260,000 State Aid increase is driven by increases in expenditures such as BOSCES and Transportation. The District is hopeful that all anticipated State Aid will be received. The District will also be utilizing numerous reserves, including the new TRS Reserve and Appropriated Fund Balance to reduce the burden on the community.

Ms. Coni started by thanking Ms. Freeman for her support and guidance and she congratulated her on her retirement.

Ms. Coni explained that the budget to budget increase is 2.23%. Increases in spending included salaries and benefits, additional related service costs for our students with disabilities and a major technology project to upgrade our wireless network and equipment to ensure the privacy of our students and staff remains intact. We are maintaining a lot of our programs that we currently have but we are also expanding some programs such as Mandarin language into 11th grade, AP Cap Stone, redesigned computer science, Prep Academy and Robotics. The budget vote will take place on June 9th by absentee ballot. In order for your vote to count, you must submit your ballot to the component elementary District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9th. Ms. Coni also explained that there will be a Proposition 2 on the ballot to expend \$751,808 in Capital Reserves on the Mephram project to help funding with the parking lot, tennis courts and track resurfacing, and floor and ceiling tile replacement, at no additional impact on the taxpayer. Ms. Coni explained that in the event this budget fails, the Board of Education is required to adopt a contingency budget. The contingency budget means that the district is not allowed to adopt a budget that exceeds the 2019-2020 tax levy amount. That means that the proposed budget would be cut by over \$3,000,000 which would impact a lot of programs. Ms. Coni stated that all of the budget information is available on the District's website under the Business Office section and to please reach out if anyone has any questions.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked Ms. Freeman, Ms. Coni, the Principals and everyone on the team that was involved in the budget for their hard work. Mr. DeTommaso believes the district always presents a fair budget to the taxpayers and asked everyone to please complete and mail in their ballot. He also mentioned that normally budget vote results are available on the evening of the vote/election but due to the elementary districts having to count a tremendous number of ballots which cannot begin to be counted until 5:00 p.m. on June 9th, he believes it is more likely that the results will available some time on June 10th. Mr. DeTommaso said this is a great community, a

great school district and it is all due to the support of the community members. He thanked everyone for their support and asked everyone to please vote.

XIV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk