

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JUNE 2, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, June 2, 2021, in the Auditorium of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Gina Piskin, President
Edward Corona, Vice President
Marion Blane
Melissa Cmar-Grote
Janet Goller
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
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Eric Caballero, Director of Physical Education/Health Ed/Athletics/Driver Education
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
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education met in Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss COVID-19 related issues, moving up and graduation ceremonies, personnel matters and retiring employees.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Piskin, Board President at 8:09 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DeTommaso asked for a moment of silence to remember Joe Corea, a retired Calhoun teacher, coach and athletic coordinator who recently passed away. Mr. DeTommaso said that Mr. Corea was a gentleman, educator, mentor and advisor to many and he will be greatly missed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Miller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2021.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentations

2021 Bellmore-Merrick Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Calhoun High School	Jasper Seabold – Valedictorian Michelle Serban – Salutatorian
Kennedy High School	Jake Arlia – Valedictorian Jordyn Krinsky – Salutatorian
MAP	Tyrik Purcell – Valedictorian Luke Piano – Salutatorian
Mepham High School	Max Luft - Valedictorian Jack Savalli – Salutatorian

Ms. Miller presented Jasper Seabold, Valedictorian of Calhoun High School with an Award of Honor certificate. She said that Jasper solves problems for the pleasure of it and is clearly one of the most talented students in the building.

Mr. Corona presented Michelle Serban, Salutatorian of Calhoun High School with an Award of Honor certificate. He said that and it was very clear from the beginning of Michelle's high school career that she had a natural talent for understanding math and science.

Ms. Goller presented Jake Arlia, Valedictorian of Kennedy High School with an Award of Honor certificate. She said that Jake is by far one of the most accomplished, ambitious and diligent students to ever attend Kennedy High School.

Dr. Kaplan presented Jordyn Krinsky, Salutatorian of Kennedy High School with an Award of Honor certificate. She said that Jordyn is the rare entity who is uniquely amazing at every task she attempts.

Ms. Piskin presented Tyrik Purcell, Valedictorian of Meadowbrook Alternative Program (MAP) with an Award of Honor certificate. She said that Tyrik is a life-long lover of mathematics and he has completed every math class MAP had to offer and AP Art History.

Luke Piano, Salutatorian of MAP was not present to accept his Award of Honor certificate. Ms. Blane said that Luke expresses himself in positive ways, has an eye for detail and the ability to take something he imagines and bring it to life.

Max Luft, Valedictorian of Mepham High School was not present to accept his Award of Honor Certificate. Ms. Lanci said that Max's genuine quest for knowledge has earned him many accolades throughout his time at Mepham and that he is inquisitive, curious and passionate across all subject areas.

Ms. Cmar-Grote presented Jack Savalli, Salutatorian of Mepham High School with an Award of Honor Certificate. She said that Jack is an enthusiastic learner who is unrelenting in his quest for self-improvement, receptive to constructive criticism, and unafraid to push himself way beyond the limits of his comfort zone.

Nassau County Champions - Calhoun Boys Volleyball

Robert Baguiao	Thomas Bello	Daniel Bondi
Brian Chin	Zachary Dumelle	Michael Fazio
Luke Gallo	Matthew Kalfas	Ryan Pucella
Owen Rose	Michael Samir	Brian Sanchez
Patrick Sanchez	Christopher Zaveckas	

Ms. Piskin congratulated the Calhoun Boys Volleyball team for becoming the Nassau County Champions, saying that they had a goal in the beginning of the season and worked extremely hard to achieve it. This was the first County Championship won in the history of Calhoun volleyball program.

Recognition of Board President Gina Piskin for Service and Leadership

Mr. Corona presented Ms. Piskin with a plaque for her serving as the President of the Board of Education. He said that Ms. Piskin was at the helm for a very difficult school year and has always worked with grace under fire

Recognition of retiring members of the Bellmore-Merrick Educational Community

Mr. DeTommaso thanked all of the retirees that we celebrated earlier in the evening.

Recognition of retiring members of the Bellmore-Merrick PTAs

Ms. Piskin thanked our out-going PTA officers, Helene Berberich and Wayne Raso for their faithful service and countless hours of volunteer time to our school district.

Ms. Piskin said that tonight is Mr. DeTommaso's last Board of Education meeting and they would like to take this opportunity to honor him and his dedicated service to the district.

Legislators Steve Rhodes and Tom McKeivitt congratulated Mr. DeTommaso and presented to him a Citation from Nassau County. Mr. Rhodes said that Mr. DeTommaso has encouraged kids to be the best that they can be, to use their gifts and talents in the best way that they can and his service and dedication will leave a mark for years to come. Mr. McKeivitt congratulated Mr. DeTommaso for being ahead of other school districts and for opening our schools for in-person classes since September. He wished him well and thanked him for his service.

Calhoun High School student Nicole Devlin presented Mr. DeTommaso with a statue of a Colt and said that he has done so much for the students. She thanked him and wished him a happy retirement.

Kennedy High School student Jordyn Krinsky presented Mr. DeTommaso with a plaque for the Cougar Pride award and thanked him for getting kids back in school.

Mephram High School student Spencer Astrow presented Mr. DeTommaso with a plaque and thanked him for all of his hard work and dedication, which has given kids a place to grow and learn to be better people.

MAP student Tyrik Purcell presented Mr. DeTommaso with personalized golf balls and said that Mr. DeTommaso's support of all of the programs is appreciated by all.

Prep Academy student Frankie Gechedi presented Mr. DeTommaso with a piece of artwork and thanked him for all he has done for the Prep Academy.

Grand Avenue Middle School student Makayla Daube presented Mr. DeTommaso with a plaque and said that Mr. DeTommaso's hard work and dedication has given them endless opportunities.

Merrick Avenue Middle School student Anna Fitzpatrick presented Mr. DeTommaso with a plaque and thanked him making the decision to have in-person classes for everyone in September.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for the amazing gifts.

Dr. Kaplan said it has been an honor and privilege to work with Mr. DeTommaso and the Board of Education has been blessed to have his leadership for the past eight years. She recalled at Mr. DeTommaso's interview, his very clear vision for Bellmore-Merrick and his understating of how to connect the district. She said that he knew the power of Bellmore-Merrick, the impact we can have on families and that anything less than great would not be good enough. She knows that Mr. DeTommaso has done everything in his power to make this district the best it can be and said that there is not a place that he has not left an indelible mark.

Dr. Kaplan also said that the focus on social and emotional wellness is the envy of NYS and beyond. Families current and future will benefit on this model, everyone has been made better from his inspiration. As he retires, take comfort in knowing that we are set up for success for decades to come and this is Mr. DeTommaso's legacy to this district. The Board of Education is aware that to do this job they way Mr. DeTommaso has done it comes with much sacrifice. She thanked his wife Heather for giving him to us and for allowing our community to be a priority in his life in every day. She also thanked Mr. DeTommaso's children, Briar Rose, Ailis and Brendan who have sacrificed so much. She told them that their father has inspired and impacted thousands of kids. Dr. Kaplan said that Mr. DeTommaso is a shining example of what it is to care for kids as though they were your own. He has inspired and motivated all to be better, and she thanked him for always doing what is right for the community.

Mr. Corona, on behalf of the Board of Education presented a plaque to Mr. DeTommaso made by Mr. Corona's daughter.

Ms. Piskin thanked Mr. DeTommaso and played a video that highlighted the many accomplishments of his career and the legacy he will leave behind.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked everyone for everything they said and for all of the well wishes.

B. Future Dates:

June 11	Middle School Moving Up Day
June 13	High School Graduations
June 14	MAP Graduation
June 25	Last Day of School Students and Teachers
July 13	Board of Education - Organizational Meeting

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned the future dates and our year-end events. He said that the district has written to Senator Brooks and Assemblyman McDonough inquiring if we are able to lift some of the restrictions for graduations. He said that we are going to have big graduation ceremonies and our kids deserve it.

Mr. DeTommaso said that this is his last Board of Education meeting and he wants to thank everyone, the Board of Education, administrators, principals and directors. He said he is getting a lot of credit but this is an amazing team it is really their vision and dedication that makes it all happen. He has had an amazing teaching staff, custodial staff, clerical, paras, nurses, security and food services. The District has wonderful, supportive parents and kids...none of this could happen without everyone's support. He thanked his secretary Donna Gabriele and District Clerks

Pattianne Guccione and Claire Neufeld. Finally, he said nothing would have been possible without the love and support of his wife and family and then thanked Bellmore-Merrick for it all.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

There were no public comments on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

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

A. 2021 Budget Vote Results

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the 2021 Budget Vote results as reported by the component districts.

B. Board of Education Meeting Dates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2021-2022 Board of Education meeting dates.

C. 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 2021-2022 average daily attendance as determined by the student attendance computer programs.

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

D. Donations

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of boxes of hair color, brushes, bowls, shampoos, styling sprays, hair color education books and other additional hair products from De La Mer Salon of Bellmore to the Calhoun High School cosmetology program.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of gardening equipment and supplies from Tyler Berke, a Calhoun High School student and member of Boy Scout Group 285, to be used towards an improvement project for the Community Cupboard outdoor garden with an estimated value of \$1,126.32.

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

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved items VII.E.1 through VIII.K.

E. Special Education

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised recommended Special Education vendors for the 2021-2022 school year.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): 000011688, 000011716, 000011958, 000012024, 000012814, 000015869, 000512098, 000512292, 000512453, 000512501, 000512968, 082140000, 083090001, 103140000, 131261740, 131263416, 192070001, 201700017, 201700141, 201800165, 202000037, 202000138, 370001452.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – June 2, 2021

- A. Terminations
- B. Resignations
- C. Appointments
- D. Recommendation for Continued Employment
- E. Recommendation for Permanent Status
- F. Salary Reclassification
- G. Memorandum of Agreement
- H. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics – Cancellation
- I. Assigned Services – Non-Athletics
- J. Assigned Services – Athletics – Cancellation
- K. Assigned Services – Athletics

Dr. Bollettieri congratulated Justin Gioia on his new position of Districtwide Chairperson of Special Education.

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- A. Bills and Corresponding Warrants dated June 2 2021
The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills and the corresponding warrants.
- B. Bids
On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education approved the bids as stated in the agenda.
- C. Budget Summary dated May 31, 2021
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 items IX.D through IX.T.3.

- D. Municipal Advisor Services *Revision to April 7, 2021 Resolution
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a municipal advisor services agreement with Munistat to provide research and analysis at a cost not to exceed *\$1,200.00.
- E. School Lunch Prices
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended prices for school lunch and food items for school year 2021-2022.
- F. 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 2021-2022 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).

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 2021-2022 with the total cost remaining at \$1,700.

H. Actuarial Analysis – Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLC.

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Sound Actuarial Consulting, LLC to provide Workers' Compensation valuation/analysis as of June 30, 2021 at a cost of \$7,100.00.

2. 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, 2021 at a cost of \$3,000.00.

I. 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 three-year period from 7/1/21 – 6/30/24 at an annual cost of \$16,755.00.

J. 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, 2021 through August 31, 2021 at costs listed therein.

K. BOCES Technology Lease Agreement

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District 39-768023 desires to enter into a four 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 District agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$230,819.29 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 approval of the Commissioner of Education for a period of July1, 2021 to June 30, 2025. (See attached)

L. Transportation Contract Extension

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve year 1 of a 2-year extension of school bus transportation contracts with Guardian Bus Company, Inc. for school year 2021-2022 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.

M. Prep Academy Agreement Addendums

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement addendum between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and Life's WORK for utilization of space at the Brookside Building for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement addendum between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and Community Mainstreaming Associations (CMA) for utilization of space at the Brookside Building for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement addendum 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 July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

N. Prep Academy Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a lease agreement between the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and NYSARC, Inc., Nassau County Chapter for utilization of space at the Brookside Building for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

O. Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Budget/Slate of Officers

WHEREAS, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has submitted its proposed 2021-2022 Budget and proposed 2021-2022 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, for the approval of its member boards, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to record the outcome of the votes and notify Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association of the results.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 school year (as accepted by N-SSBA's Executive Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed 2021-2022 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (as presented by N-SSBA's Nominating Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

- P. District-Wide Safety Team
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the District-Wide Safety Team for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Q. School Safety Plans
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has reviewed the district-wide and building-level School Safety Plans for the 2021-2022 school year and directs that the district-wide school safety plan be made available for public comment.
- R. Memorandum of Agreement
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District hereby approves and ratifies the attached Memorandum of Agreement dated this 27th day of May, 2021 by and between the negotiation representatives of the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO – Nassau Educational Local 865 - Custodial/Cafeteria Unit #7638-00 and the negotiating representatives of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.
- S. 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, 2021 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, 2021 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 two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) from fund balance of the General Fund as of June 30, 2021 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, 2021 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, 2021 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, 2021 to the Unemployment Insurance Reserve (GML §6- m,2).
- T. Budget Transfers
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfers to cover 2020-2021 school year expenses:
- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 1. From: | A1420.412-08-0000 (Legal District Counsel) | \$ 6,900.00 |
| | From: A1240.412-08-0000 (Legal Chief School Admin) | \$ 20,000.00 |
| | From: A1010.412-08-0000 (Legal Board of ED/ADM) | \$ 1,000.00 |

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To:	A1430.412-08-0500 (Legal Salary Attorney)	\$ 27,900.00
To cover legal costs.		
2. From:	A2250.490-00-0000 (BOCES SP ED)	\$ 50,000.00
To:	A2250.400-08-4300 (SP ED Related Svcs)	\$ 50,000.00
To cover related services costs.		
3. From:	A2110.130-00-0000 (Teachers Salary Instr)	\$200,000.00
To:	A2110.140-00-0000 (Substitutes)	\$200,000.00
To cover costs for permanent subs for remote teachers-COVID-19.		

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

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

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Soleymanzadeh thanked the Board of Education for their service and robust instruction. He said that he hopes that going forward that our kids will be unmasked. He asked the Board of Education their position on mask wearing. He inquired about each individual board members position.

Ms. Piskin said that the district is following the guidance put forth and will continue to follow it. She said that the district has only a few days of school remaining and the focus right now is to get through the end of the year. She said that the Board of Education hopes that our kids will not be wearing masks in September.

Mr. Powers said that in terms of the Department of Health, we are required to keep masks on. He also said that the public is not permitted to pole individual members of the Board of Education and the President made her statement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Jay Weinstein spoke about mask mandates and said Bethpage School District is making it optional for their students and so should Bellmore-Merrick

Ms. Piskin stated that no decisions have been made about the 2021/2022 school year but the district will follow the guidance.

Mr. DeTommaso stated that this is a very caring board and that nobody is here to argue.

Kimberly Stahl said that she is against masks and asked the Board of Education to stand up for them and be against mask wearing for students.

Mierto Mannino read a letter on behalf of Jordan Kirper regarding COVID-19 and the mask requirements and side effects of mask wearing.

Ms. Piskin said that our kids started with in school classes in September, played sports and our plan is to get through the remainder of the school year. She said that nobody wants to see our kids in masks in September and she promises that the Board of Education will do whatever they can to make next year more normal.

Melissa Gambardella thanked the district administration and staff for opening schools for in person classes full time in September. She said she loves this district but she is here to discuss the mask mandate and the effects on kids.

Dr. Kaplan said that the Board of Education cares about the kids as if they were their own children and nobody on the Board wants the kids wearing masks. She suggested that the parent direct their frustration to the Governor's office as the mandate comes from his office. At this time, the Board of Education is focusing on finishing the school year.

Richard Zobkin would like to know what actions the Board of Education made at the State level regarding social distancing measures.

Ms. Piskin said that the Board of Education has written letters to the Governor to bring our sports back but at this point we are trying to finish this school year as best as possible.

Mr. Powers said the NYS Department of Health says that masks are required and the district will follow that guidance. He said it appears that the Board agrees with everyone and that it is possible that regulations will change over the summer.

Mr. DeTommaso explained that one reason this district was able to open with in-person classes in September was that we followed guidance and listened to our attorneys. Because the District did not have six feet of distance, we installed barriers and required masks to comply with Nassau County Department of Health and the NYS Health Department.

Mr. Harrington explained that the District is doing its best. We have been meeting with our re-opening committee and believe that going forward there will be mental health issues to deal with. We are confident that we will have the resources available for the kids. Regarding our facilities, the District has everything it needs and we are so happy to have barriers gone. Regarding having kids wear masks next year, we are watching the infection rate very closely and hope the answer is they will not be required. Mr. Harrington said that the District hopes to get through the graduations and end of year events. He assured everyone that the District is with them on this issue, but are taking things one day at a time and are hopeful about September looking more normal.

Jessenia Soundias wants the Board of Education to write a letter to the Governor to advocate for our children and let the parents have a choice regarding mask wearing.

Tatiana Tsempelis discussed Critical Race Theory (CRT) and said it does not benefit our kids' academic growth.

Dr. Kaplan explained that Bellmore-Merrick CHSD has always been a community that is welcoming to all and is a "No Place for Hate" district. She said that CRT is taught in college but it is not in our curriculum and is not being taught in Bellmore-Merrick.

Melissa Gambardella asked if there are plans to adopt a critical race ideology.

Mr. DeTommaso said the District would not adopt a CRT curriculum. He said that there is a NYS framework, which has not been adopted and that we do not receive funding for it. He explained that this has always been a diverse community and we want equity for all of our kids but there is no curriculum on CRT.

Mr. Harrington explained that we train our teachers and staff to let kids make their own theories and to be their own critical thinkers. If anyone has an issue in school, they should talk to a teacher, director or Principal. We know that this world is challenging and we ask our kids to be critical thinkers and to be respectful of others.

Rebecca Tepper wants to know how diversity and equity education is going to be taught in schools, and if the curriculum will be changed. She mentioned a student speech at a prep rally that she interpreted as a student speaking about CRT and privilege.

Mr. Harrington said he did not feel that the student incident mentioned was about CRT or privilege. He said if her son feels targeted then they should reach out. He further explained that this district is diverse with many interests and that we want a classroom where students are connecting.

Ben Shoar spoke about CRT and feels it should not be taught in the classroom.

Barbara Steinberg spoke about CRT and feels that it is an anti-police theory.

Ms. Piskin said that she appreciates everything she said, especially having Police officers in her family.

Tara Cassimano thanked the District for removing the barriers. She would COVID-19 testing on the student athletes stopped and hopes that live streaming of sports events continues.

Mr. DeTommaso said that the District no longer tests the student athletes and Mr. Caballero the District will continue to live-stream our sports events.

Ms. Piskin said in conclusion of the Public Comments, she said it is clear that we all would like the mask mandate removed next year. She also reiterated that CRT is not being taught in the classroom, that we are a diverse community and do teach inclusion.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 8-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk