

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 2, 2022

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A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, March 2, 2022, 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:

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

The following member of the Board of Education was not present:

Tracey Miller

Also present:

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools
Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
David Seinfeld, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration
Eric Arlin, Executive Director of Alternative Education
Emily Paluseo, 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
Maura Kempton, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Susan Gibson, School Attorney
Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Corona called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Corona led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Goller and carried 7-0, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and a specific personnel issue.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Goller, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education reconvened to Public Session at 7:58 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Corona led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Corona asked for everyone take a moment to reflect on the conflict in Ukraine and to show compassion to members of our community that are affected by it.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a **MOTION** Dr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0 the Board of Education approved the minutes from the February 2, 2022 meeting.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Blane and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2022.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Harrington said that our thoughts are with the families affected by the conflict in Ukraine. He said that the district is working hard to support the students and families in our own community who have been affected during such a difficult time.

Mr. Harrington said that today's transition to masks being optional went extremely well today. He thanked the Board of Education, the School Opening Team and the Leadership Team for their incredible work in preparing for this transition. He said that Principals held faculty meetings, sent emails home and made daily announcements in each building to ensure that everyone understands the importance of respecting people's individual choices and maintaining classroom environments where students feel safe and welcomed. Mr. Harrington said that he looks forward to the months ahead with much hope in giving students a more normalized end of the school year.

Mr. Harrington said that there are many great things still happening in the District. He said that Mephams Kickline is currently in Disney competing in the Nationals and the Calhoun Boys and Girls Track will be competing the State Championship. He also said that later this month we would have Honor Society Inductions and the St. Baldrick's event, which has already raised over \$30,000 towards cancer research. He mentioned the upcoming dates and musicals adding that tonight we will get a sneak-peek of the On Tour production of "Nice Work If You Can Get It" during our curriculum presentation. Mr. Harrington said these successes are a reminder of how lucky we are to be here in this school district. Mr. Harrington congratulated science teacher Jennifer Verwys from Merrick Avenue MS on being named a New York State Master Teacher saying that she is one of our most innovative and talented teachers in STEM.

A. Presentations

New York State Master Teacher – Jennifer Verwys

Dr. Kaplan presented Jennifer Verwys with an Award of Honor certificate and said that New York State Master Teacher is a highly selective award that recognizes outstanding STEM teachers who continuously work to provide their students with the most innovative classroom experiences as well as those who are dedicated to developing their expertise in content and pedagogy. As part of the program, teachers have the opportunity to participate in ongoing professional development and to build out their network to collaborate with other master teachers across the region. Ms. Verwys was one of just 230 New York educators selected for this program.

Curriculum Presentation - BMB, CHAMP and On Tour

Mr. Harrington said that tonight's curriculum presentation will highlight three specialty programs, our BMB broadcasting program in Mephams HS, our CHAMP culinary program in Kennedy HS and our On-Tour program at Calhoun HS. Mr. Harrington thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of these programs and the dedicated teachers in each program. He congratulated BMB for winning the 2022 Student Television Network Broadcast Excellence Award and said there were only 14 programs in the nation that received this award.

Mr. Bersin and Ms. Fontana thanked the Board of Education for always supporting the programs in the district. Ms. Fontana explained that tonight's presentation would be a behind the scenes look into our specialty programs. She explained how Mephams' BMB has a crew here at Brookside tonight and a crew back in the studio at Mephams so the audience can experience how this all comes together as one complete show. As part of tonight's curriculum presentation, the CHAMP program prepared dinner for the Board of Education and is giving out beignets to the audience. Earlier today, the BMB program was behind the scenes recording as the CHAMP program prepared the food for tonight's meeting. Tonight, BMB interviewed Mr. Corona as he sampled the food and included that footage in the curriculum presentation. Also as part of tonight's curriculum presentation, Nina Genzone from Calhoun's On Tour program sang "Someone To Watch Over Me" as a sneak-peek into their musical production of "Nice Work If You Can Get It". Finally, students and staff were interviewed by BMB, with each person giving their personal insight on how these programs have helped students gain life skills and helped them reach their goals.

Mr. Harrington thanked the students, teachers, administrators and Board of Education for all of their hard work and dedication.

B. Future Dates

March 3	Calhoun Class Night
March 10	Kennedy Art Honor Society Induction Kennedy District College Planning Night
March 10-11	Merrick Ave School Musical
March 15	High School Social Studies Honor Society Induction
March 16	St. Baldrick's @ Mephams
March 22	High School Science Honor Society Induction
March 23-24	Grand Ave School Musical
March 25-26	Kennedy and Mephams Musical
March 26	Calhoun On Tour Musical
April 1-2	Calhoun On Tour Musical
April 6	Board of Education Meeting

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Agenda Items Only*

Mr. Corona stated:

"The Board of Education encourages public participation on school related matters at Board meetings. To allow for public participation, a period not to exceed 30 minutes shall be set aside during each Board meeting. Any person wishing to make comments or raise questions shall complete an information card. Questions are to be addressed to the Board President, not to individual board members. Personal attacks on individual board members, administrators and staff will not be tolerated and may be cause to adjourn the meeting. There will be no back and forth dialogue. Out of courtesy and fairness to the rest of the audience, it would be appreciated if each visitor would limit his/her remarks to not more than three minutes or ask only one question. Public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, by which their reputation, privacy, or rights to due process, or those of others could be in some way violated, is prohibited.

Having said that, please note that the Board is here to listen. The public comment period is not designed to be a discussion. Accordingly, please do not expect the Board to respond to your concerns and questions tonight. This is because we take your concerns and questions seriously and want to have sufficient time to process and research issues, if need be. We will, however, respond

to your questions and concerns at a future meeting, or have the proper staff member get back to you at the appropriate time.

I also want to point out that under state and federal privacy laws we are unable to entertain any comments or questions about school personnel. Please know, however, that we take personnel concerns very seriously. On these matters, we would ask you to go through the appropriate administrative channels.”

There were no public comments made on agenda items.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Piskin, seconded by Ms. Lanci and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved agenda item VII.A.

A. Registration and Voting Information

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2022 Registration and Voting Information.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved agenda item VII.B.

B. Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$1,954.00 from the Mephram Alumni Association to be used for library supplies in the 2022-2023 school year and increase the appropriations budget for the same amount.

Mr. Corona thanked the Mephram Alumni Association for their very generous donation.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Lanci, seconded by Ms. Cmar-Grote and carried 7-0, the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items VII.C through IX.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: 000012024, 00513311, 000513323, 072960000, 081850000, 100359920, 101100000, 101170000, 102580002, 131263295, 201700005, 202000103, 202100041, 370001835, 370001952 and 992450215.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT – March 2, 2022

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

IX. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant – March 2, 2022

The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant.

B. Budget Summary – February 28, 2022

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. District Reserves Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the District Reserves Plan as of March, 2022 and authorizes the publication on the District's website.

E. 2022-2023 Fire Inspection Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Fire Marshalls' 2022-2023 Inspection Reports.

F. Obsolete/Surplus Property

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of one Golf Cart – Club Car at Calhoun High School (tag# 004985).

G. SEQRA - Replacement of Chain-Link Fencing at Brookside Educational Center

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement at the District's facilities: (1) Remove and replace existing fence together with ancillary tree removal and grubbing; (hereinafter the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvement is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects

are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1),(2) and (10) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Project is a Type II Action, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

H. DASNY Grant

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Grant Disbursement Agreement between the School District and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York in connection with the State and Municipal Facilities Program (“SAM”) Grant # 19384 in the form attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Corona asked for discussion regarding video recording of the Board of Education meetings. After some discussion, all members of the Board of Education agreed to record the meetings and have them posted on the District’s website, making them available to the public.

Ms. Lanci discussed an event held by the Lion’s Club where students from Mephram HS helped prepare over 600 sandwiches for those in need. She commended the students for their hard work and thanked them for the opportunity to work with them.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Corona stated the Board of Education received 3 mailed correspondences and 32 emails between January 28, 2022 and February 18, 2022.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Corona stated:

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Having said that, please note that the Board is here to listen. The public comment period is not designed to be a discussion. Accordingly, please do not expect the Board to respond to your concerns and questions tonight. This is because we take your concerns and questions seriously and want to have sufficient time to process and research issues, if need be. We will, however, respond to your questions and concerns at a future meeting, or have the proper staff member get back to you at the appropriate time.

I also want to point out that under state and federal privacy laws we are unable to entertain any comments or questions about school personnel. Please know, however, that we take personnel concerns very seriously. On these matters, we would ask you to go through the appropriate administrative channels.”

Tara C. asked for an update on the college prep meetings and guidance/registrar availability prior to the beginning of the school year. She also asked if sign language could be added to the world language programs.

Mr. Harrington said that the District is currently working on giving students access to their counselors earlier and it should be implemented this year. He also said that the District would look into the possibility of adding sign language into the world language programs.

Laura F. discussed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and said that she supports all teachers that promote this thinking in their classrooms.

Melissa G. discussed optional mask guidance and asked if the District is contact tracing even if it is not required to do so.

Mr. Harrington explained that the updated guidance is still under review and that the District is currently contact tracing.

Ruben L. thanked coaches Moeller and Migliano for the values they instilled in his children.

Chris M. said she had the privilege of sitting on the school re-opening committee and said that everyone was respectful, listened and cared. She is proud of this District and proud to be a part of it.

XIII. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Blane, seconded by Ms. Piskin and carried 7-0, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pattianne Guccione
District Clerk