

## **Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, February 7, 2024)**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday evening, February 7, 2024 in the Board Conference Room of the Administrative Offices at the Brookside Educational Center, 1260 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick, New York.

### **Members present**

Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

### **Also present:**

Michael Harrington, Superintendent of Schools

Scott Bersin, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Mikaela Coni, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Eric Gomez, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration

Eric Arlin, Executive Director of Alternative Education

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

Jon Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations

Christopher Powers, School Attorney

Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk

## **1. Opening**

### **Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM**

#### A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

#### B. Acting District Clerk

Motion to appoint Michael Harrington as the Acting District Clerk during Executive Session.

Motion by Melissa Cmar-Grote, second by Nancy Kaplan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

#### C. Executive Session

Motion to convene into Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

#### D. Reconvene to Public Session

Motion to reconvene into Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Melissa Cmar-Grote, second by Megan C Ryan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

#### E. Pledge of Allegiance

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

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

### A. Board of Education Meeting Minutes 1/3/24

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Nina Lanci, second by Marion Blane.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

## **3. Approval of Treasurer's Report**

### A. Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2023.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Megan C Ryan.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

## **4. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Harrington welcomed everyone to the meeting and said this evening we will highlight some incredible accomplishments for some of our students and staff. He welcomed back our student representatives and said that this time of year is usually quiet but not here in Bellmore-Merrick. We have had so many wonderful events such as, robotics competitions, MLK Day of Service and Holocaust Remembrance Day. He thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of our programs and staff and he congratulated everyone that is receiving an Award of Honor certificate tonight. Mr. Harrington thanked our teachers, coaches and staff for all that they do for our students.

### A. Award of Honor Presentation - Regeneron Scholars

#### Kennedy High School

Claire Schwartz

Cole Wasserman

#### Mepham High School

Christiana Foufas

Molly Graff

Matt Yang

Mr. Harrington congratulated the Regeneron Scholars on their achievement, their parents and their teachers. He said that these students started their research during the COVID-19 pandemic and this journey has left them with an amazing skill set.

Dr Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Clair Schwarz and said "Claire Schwartz, a senior in the Advanced Science Research program at Kennedy High School, is a young woman of great character who is highly respected and uniquely motivated within a wide array of commitments. A student-athlete who balances an extraordinary workload and serves as a leader among her peers, Claire is tirelessly invested in enhancing her school community. Claire has fully immersed herself within her research, entitled The Administration of Sulforaphane via Broccoli Sprouts Ameliorates Parkinson's Disease Phenotypes in a Drosophila melanogaster Model. She investigated the effect of sulforaphane on Parkinson's disease and hopes to apply the perspective she has acquired and enhance her base of knowledge as an undergraduate Biology major on her way to a career in the medical field. A trusted leader and coordinator, Claire has made an impression as an integral member of Kennedy's School and Community Leadership program. A three-sport varsity athlete, Claire has dedicated herself and prioritized team commitments throughout each school year. She serves as the Recycling Manager within our HOPE club, and embraces assisting and mentoring others as a Peer Tutor within Tutors for a Cure and as part of our ACES (Athletes Compassionately Educating Students) program. Claire also serves as our Senior Class Public Relations

Manager. Amidst a wide array of time-consuming commitments, Claire remains supremely motivated, inquisitive, industrious and uniquely composed. Claire has been inducted into six different honor societies, as she has distinguished herself in every subject area. Congratulations Claire!"

Ms. Piskin presented Cole Wasserman with an Award of Honor certificate and said "Cole Wasserman, a focused, altruistic and accomplished senior in the Advanced Science Research Program at Kennedy High School, embraces scholarship, research, service and initiative. Cole's inclination to help others motivates him to prioritize using his science endeavors to assist those with special needs. Science remains a central focus amidst Cole's uniquely demanding academic program. Within our Advanced Science Research Program, this class of 2024 Salutatorian investigated APCMediated Expansion of hPSC-Derived Natural Killer Cells. His research concerned the viability of a novel new cancer treatment using natural killer cells derived from stem cells. Cole has dedicated hundreds of hours to his current research at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Cole eagerly looks forward to majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Brown University, and he plans to make research a primary focus as an undergraduate and throughout medical school. In our school community, Cole proudly serves as Co-President of our Math Team. He continues to earn recognition within competitions as a member of our Science Club, where he serves as a Team Leader, and our Science Olympiad team. Cole was a lead builder for the REACH Challenge team that received first place nationally for their development of an adaptive desk developed for a special needs student. He also serves as Treasurer of our Tutors for a Cure program. Beyond our settings, Cole is presently working with The Nassau County United Cerebral Palsy Foundation to repair and refurbish aging adaptive toys and devices that their students rely upon. Congratulations Cole!

Ms. Ryan presented Christiana Foufas with an Award of Honor certificate and said "Christiana Foufas is a brilliant and compassionate student. Her academic accolades are endless: Valedictorian for the Class of 2024, National Merit Commended Student, AP Capstone Diploma and Seal of Biliteracy recipient, AP Scholar with Distinction, score of 5 on every Advanced Placement exam taken, and a member of five academic honor societies. In the classroom, she is a team player and true cheerleader for her peers. Christiana has also enrolled in our two most rigorous research programs: AP Research and Advanced Science Research. Her AP Capstone Research study examined the financial knowledge of high school students on Long Island. This research was highlighted on the National Financial Educators Council's website. Through the Advanced Science Research program, Christiana has worked with Dr. Eric Lamberg of Stony Brook University and Head Coach of the US National Amputee Soccer Team researching players' perceptions of adaptive sports on their recovery. Christiana received honors at the Long Island Science competition for this research. It also inspired her to start her own non-profit called Enable Athletics, which promotes adaptive sports. As a senior, Christiana is working with Dr. Meir Barak researching the structure-function relationship in rabbit talus. She is also the lead mentor for Grand Avenue Middle School's Students' Network of Cooperative Science. Christiana is actively involved as a Girl Scout, is an athlete who participates in both the basketball and served as captain of the track and field team, has been Vice-President of her class for the last four years, Vice President of Build-On and also an active member of several other clubs and organizations. Christiana also has the distinct honor of being named the 2023 Miss Laconia, Greece for the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York. Christiana intends to pursue a degree in Biochemistry. We look forward to celebrating her continued success this year and after graduation. Congratulations Christiana!"

Ms. Cmar-Grote presented an Award of Honor certificate to Molly Graff and said "Molly Graff is an extraordinary individual who has earned induction to five academic honor societies. She is currently serving as Vice-President of the Science Honor Society and has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction as well as an AP Capstone diploma recipient. Molly has an insatiable interest in research. She started the AP Capstone program at her previous school and was enrolled in AP Research last year. For her AP Research project, Molly researched how the proximity of smartphones impacts attention levels and performance in teens. At the completion of her submission to the AP Research program Molly was compelled to continue her research by enrolling in our Advanced Science Research program. Through this program she worked with a mentor, Dr. Lilian Park to expand on the research she had started. Molly has been recognized as a Regeneron Scholar and semifinalist for her expanded research. Molly also used the summer of her junior year to attend a summer program at Oxford University; while there, she conducted original research in the field of clinical psychology. The abstract of this research was published in the Oxford Summer Journal of Psychology. It comes as no surprise that Molly plans to continue her passion for research in college by majoring in neuroscience, psychology, or cognitive science. Molly immerses herself completely and fully to all of her endeavors both academic and extra-curricular. She has become an integral part of the school community and is an active member of the Model UN, Peer Tutors, and the Robotics Club. Congratulations Molly!"

Ms. Lanci presented an Award of Honor certificate to Matt Yang and said "Matt Yang is the Salutatorian for Mephram High School's Class of 2024, a National Merit Semifinalist, and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Matt has utilized every opportunity to pursue academic excellence and his transcript represents the absolute pinnacle of Mephram's course rigor. Matt has pursued classes beyond what our district offered as he exhausted our Mathematics curriculum; as such, currently he is taking a Calculus III class at Hofstra University. Deeply involved in the Advanced Science Research program, Matt is a published researcher. His experiences in this program have cemented his interest in pursuing scientific research as a career. He spent the last summer conducting graduate-level research in Computational Mathematics at Michigan State University's prestigious High School Honors Science/Mathematics/Engineering program. Today Matt continues to work as a member of a graduate research group at MSU. In his free time, Matt works as a software engineering intern and SAT tutor. A true leader, Matt currently serves as President of the Robotics Club, Math and Coding Club, the latter of which he founded. He is a 4-time American Invitational Mathematics Examination winner and qualifier, and an active member of all academic honor societies. Matthew wishes to pursue a career in scientific research, and we are very excited to see what he accomplishes in the future as we know it will be incredible. Congratulations Matt!"

#### B. Award of Honor Presentation - STEM School of Excellence - Kennedy High School

Mr. Harrington congratulated Rob Soel, the Kennedy Science Department, and all directors and staff for all of the work they have done with our students.

Ms. Goller presented the Kennedy High School Science department with an Award of Honor certificate and said "Congratulations to Rob Soel and the John F. Kennedy High School Science Department on being honored as a ITEEA (International Technology and Engineering Educators Association) STEM School of Excellence winner! JFK is joining an outstanding group of schools that are impacting and making a significant difference in the lives of their students and Integrative STEM literacy. ITEEA'S STEM School of Excellence Award recognizes superior K-12 and Post-Secondary STEM programs from schools all around the world. These schools show outstanding commitment to providing a robust integrative experience through STEM programs. They are providing a meaningful STEM education experience for students and inspire others to learn effective best practice and instructional strategies to enhance their own programs. These schools serve as a model and inspiration to their communities. They are leaders in their region, province, or state as proponents of advancing STEM education for all."

#### C. Award of Honor Presentation - New York State Public High School Athletic Association Fall 2023 Community Service Challenge

Mr. Harrington congratulated the Calhoun High School Football team and thanked the coaches for the incredible work that they have done working with the team, both on and off the field.

Mr. Corona presented an Award of Honor Certificate to the Calhoun Football team and said "Calhoun High School's football team was one of two programs to win the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Fall 2023 Community Service Challenge. The team spent their season evolving into community advocates for cardiac screenings for young people. The team hosted "Cardiac Screening" themed games and set up booths at community events to educate and raise awareness for the importance of cardiac screenings while fundraising for St. Francis Hospital's Cardiac Screening Programs. It was important to the team to raise awareness about early screenings to detect abnormalities since many are asymptomatic. "I am extremely proud of our players, parents and school community in our attempt to bring attention to sudden cardiac death awareness," said head coach Nick Rawls. "As a program we wanted to highlight a cause that is unfortunately overlooked but is extremely important to bring attention to. Our players dedicated their time, energy, and effort to reach out to the community during games as well as at the Merrick Fair in order to help bring awareness and raise money for a worthy cause. They represented Calhoun with dignity and class and had a profound impact on those who they interacted with." Congratulations!"

#### D. Award of Honor Presentation - National Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductees

Coach Brian DeGaetano - Kennedy High School

Coach Peter Barros - Kennedy High School

Mr. Harrington congratulated Coach DeGaetano and Coach Barros for their hard work and the positive impact they have had on our students and community.

Ms. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Coach Peter Barros and said "Coach Barros has been involved with the sport of wrestling as a wrestler, official, and coach for 59 consecutive years. Coach Barros wrestled at C.W. Post and Springfield College in Massachusetts. Upon graduation from Springfield, he was hired as an elementary school physical education teacher in the Half Hollow Hills School District where he began his coaching career at Harborfields High School. In 1982, Coach Barros began teaching physical education at Half Hollow Hills West High School and became an assistant wrestling coach; several years later, he became the Head Varsity Wrestling Coach at Walt Whitman High School. After leaving Whitman, Coach Barros became a wrestling official, but after a few years got back to coaching on the mat as an assistant at Syosset High School working with Mike Murtha, a former college All-American wrestler. Lucky for us, Coach Barros decided to come to Kennedy where he has served as an assistant for the past five years. Coach Barros has had a tremendous career and has influenced thousands of student-athletes as a coach and mentor in the sport. Congratulations Coach Barros!"

Ms. Goller presented an Award of Honor certificate to Coach Brian DeGaetano and said "Now entering his 30th season at Kennedy High School and 33rd year coaching wrestling in Nassau County, Coach DeGaetano has led the Cougars to a 374-136-3 Dual-Meet record. He is the longest tenured head coach in Bellmore-Merrick history and the longest reigning coach at one school in Nassau County. Under his leadership, the Cougars have won 31 Invitational Championships, 16 League and Qualifying Tournament Championships, have made the Dual-Meet Championships every season including seven Top Eight, three Final Four finishes and County Final appearances in 2007. The Cougars finished in the top ten of the Section 8 tournament 11 times and top 20 thirteen times. Under Coach DeGaetano, 344 wrestlers have earned All-Conference honors, 83 have won conference championships, 84 earned All-County including six County champions and 16 runners-up. Fourteen wrestlers have qualified for the State championships with six wrestlers earning All-State honors. Eighty-seven wrestlers have won invitational championships, including four NYS freestyle/Greco Roman championships. For his efforts, Brian is a nine-time Conference Coach of the Year recipient and in 2022 received the LIWOA Sportsmanship Award. However, what coach is most proud of is the Alumni Club which he helped establish in 1996. What started out as a way to fundraise for the team has turned into so much more. Over 500 former wrestlers are connected with the team, and it has kept the Cougar wrestling family strong. Coach DeGaetano cites coach John Thomas, John Schaefer and George Munnich as tremendous influences in his success as a wrestling coach. Congratulations Coach DeGaetano!"

#### E. Student Representatives

Sydney Brewer from Kennedy High School said "Good Evening everyone! It is so nice to see you all again in the new year! As we begin the second half of our school year, I could not be more delighted with all of Kennedy's accomplishments. On January 10, the students in the Leadership III class presented their Cougar Talks. Over the first semester of the course, the seniors in the Leadership program identified and developed ideas they are passionate about and have transformed those ideas into a TED-style talk. The 25 students in the program shared their experiences traveling the world, experiencing happiness, experiencing their family traditions, and more. I was proud to be part of this program and can attest to the value in not only presenting these talks but the process of writing, rehearsing, and memorizing them. If you want to watch the program, you can find it on the CougarTV channel on YouTube. Last weekend, Kennedy hosted one of the country qualifying tournaments. Six Kennedy wrestlers qualified for the county tournament this weekend. Also, while on the topic of Kennedy wrestling, I am pleased to inform you that Mr. DeGaetano, our long-time head wrestling coach, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. DeGaetano has been the coach at Kennedy for over 30 years and has built one of the county's most distinguished programs. He will be inducted in a ceremony on April 13. Kennedy students had the privilege of hearing from two Holocaust survivors on January 30. The speakers spoke to students about their experiences their homes during the early 1930s and the impact the genocide had on their families. The next day, students in the Leadership program heard from Mr. Carl Wilkens, the only American to remain in Rwanda during the genocide there. That story was equally impactful and highlighted the way that Rwandans restored peace after the travesty in that country. The Kennedy Science Department has been busy. Two ASR students were named semi-finalists in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Robotics teams hosted the VEX Robotics tournament where over 40 teams from around Long Island competed, and three of the six Kennedy teams finished in the Top 15. Also, the Kennedy Science Olympiad team competed in the regional competition this weekend. The team received 16 medals. AND .... Kennedy's International Technology and Engineering Educators REACH teams have been named national semifinalists and finalists. Finally, we ended January with a bang with our annual Jam the Gym events. This annual Student Government event is a highlight of the year, and I can tell you we literally JAMMED THE GYM. Both nights were highlighted by competitive basketball games and the very best of the Cougar Nation spirit. The student government gave away free t-shirts and rally towels, we hosted halftime



competitions, presented trophies for Fan of the Game and Players of the Game, and even had a student take a half court shot to win \$10,000 (he missed). Both games were live streamed by Cougar1V. You can find those productions on their YouTube channel. It has been a busy couple of months at Kennedy. In addition to the big events going on our students have been busy in the classroom with AP Capstone presentations, cultural activities in World Language classes, exciting field trips, and much more. Thank you all so much, and I look forward to seeing you next month."

Kyle Haglich from Meadowbrook Alternative Program said "Good evening, Board of Education. My name is Kyle Haglich and I'm the student representative from the Meadowbrook Alternative Program (MAP for short). In December, my fellow classmates in MAP had a blast playing mini golf at Monster Golf. Next, the MAP kids went bowling with Prep Academy and we all had lots of food and time to bond. Thank you Community Parent Center for funding both trips! And finally for the month of December we had a speaker come in from the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. In January we celebrated MLK week by collecting items for the Community Cupboard. Our student ambassadors made presentations in all of the classrooms. They did an amazing job! Last week, we had Carl Wilkins at MAP to speak about his experience while in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994. He also spoke of how the country has come to heal itself after the horrendous tragedy. It was inspiring for all of the students. We are thankful that he took the time to visit us. Today, we had 4 students attend the Human Rights Conference at Adelphi University. I'll report next month on how it went. Prep Academy went to Calhoun for a holiday party in December and had a blast! Then they started DJ lessons with a professional DJ, which I think is pretty cool. Next they took a trip to Thomas Ham and Eggery diner to learn how to pay their own bill. Finally for the month of December, the Prep students had my favorite field trip of the year, which is shopping at the mall for the holidays. In January, students from Calhoun who will be attending Prep Academy next year came over to visit us. To finish off the month, there was our annual alumni day where students returned to talk about their experiences after graduating. The Prep students loved listening to and seeing their former classmates. Overall it was a great 2 months at Brookside! Thank you for having me and see you next month."

Ava Kamlet from Calhoun High School said "Good evening Administrators and Board of Education, Happy February! I hope you have all had a smooth start to 2024! Calhoun students are as active as ever, participating in and planning events to keep our days exciting and busy. On Tour has been non stop! Although they had a short rehearsal period, they were able to pull off Arsenic and Old Lace, flawlessly. The cast and crew were incredible and they were especially successful from the box office aspect. They have immediately started work for their musical, "Bright Star" to open March 9th. Their musical director started rehearsals during midterms week and the cast has been working hard ever since! DECA is preparing for their annual trip to Rochester, fundraising with Crumb! Cookie fundraisers and more. We are proud of their hard work and dedication, and cannot wait to see their amazing successes during their upcoming regional convention. Racial equity club is wrapping up their Tanzanian fundraising initiative, and they have an open forum coming up on February 15. Additionally, Racial Equity Club had its first, but soon to be annual, non-partisan voter registration drive, resulting in the registration of 30 juniors and seniors who weren't previously registered. We are proud of our hockey team, who have made it to the playoffs, and have loved cheering on our boys and girls basketball teams this season. We are also very excited to share that our Girls Winter Track team won the County Championship last night, which is their 3rd consecutive win. This week, we have begun our 2nd annual PS I LOVE YOU DAY events! We currently have a spirit week going on, encouraging students to dress up accordingly, to raise awareness to this cause. This Friday, February 9th, our counseling department will be hosting a door decorating contest, bake sale, hair tinsel by our cosmetology students, a rock band performance, access to a calming room, as well as a visit from the Buzz'd Coffee Truck. The Calhoun community is looking forward to this Friday, and are grateful for the efforts of our counseling department. We are looking forward to what February has to offer at Calhoun, as we know that our students and community will continue to put together these amazing events. I hope you all have a wonderful February, and I look forward to seeing you next month!"

Matthew Keegan from Mepham High School said "Good evening Mrs. Goller, Mr. Harrington, Board members, central office administrators, school officials, and members of the community. It's great to be back to discuss all Mepham has accomplished last month. January has been a month marked by achievement from all around Mepham High High School. To start, our seniors have reached new heights in the field of science research. Congratulations to Christiana Foufas, Molly Graff, and Matt Yang and their teachers Dr. Kommor, Ms. Partap, and Ms. Spargifiore for being selected as Regeneron Scholars. The Regeneron Science Talent Search is the nation's most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors, and all 3 scholars should be incredibly proud of their hard work. Additionally, eight seniors participated in the Charles Duggan Long Island

Science and Engineering Fair. Congratulations to Matt Yang for advancing to the second round being held in early March. And I'd like to thank Science Chairperson Ms. Bizewski for her leadership and support of the science research program. Mepham honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King last month through our annual MLK week of service. In addition to our leadership students teaching a lesson on MLK's goal of eradicating domestic food insecurity, each student was encouraged to make a contribution to the Community Cupboard throughout the week. We thank all students who participated in the food drive. Mepham High School's Robotics Junior Team secured the prestigious Design Award at the VEX Robotics Competition on January 7th at Farmingdale High School. This accomplishment has earned the junior team a spot at the state championship at the Harvey School on March 2nd. Congratulations to the talented team for their outstanding achievement! Mepham's literary magazine, Fragments, has been selected to receive the rank of Superior in the 2023 REALM program, led by the National Council of Teachers of English. Congratulations to advisor Ms. Maresca and the Fragments club on this incredible honor! The Mandarin Honor Society created a Chinese wishing tree in Mepham's courtyard in which students wrote and hung all of their New Year's wishes and resolutions. In Chinese tradition, the wishing tree serves as a conduit for aspirations to blossom and flourish in the coming year. It is a celebration of optimism, unity, and the boundless possibilities that the future holds. Congratulations to Mepham's first cyber security team who competed in the National Semifinals of the CyberPatriot competition on Thursday, January 18th. In the state round of the CyberPatriot competition held in December, the team finished second in the state of New York. Thank you to Mr. Walsh for mentoring and working with these talented students. The 2nd Annual Mepham Winter Ball was a massive success, with even more students in attendance than last year. Thank you Mrs. Geller, the Student Government, and our Custodial team for transforming the gym into a winter wonderland of fun and dancing. Last Tuesday, renowned advocate and survivor of the Rwandan genocide, Carl Wilkens, engaged with students from Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Geller's leadership classes. Wilkens, drawing from his insights and experiences, gave a firsthand account of one of history's darkest chapters, emphasizing the power of empathy and individual action in the face of adversity. By sharing his stories and fostering interactive discussions, Wilkens instilled in students a greater understanding of the consequences of hatred while highlighting the importance of compassion and leadership. The Mepham Pirates have had a monumental January, and we look forward to seeing what the future will hold. Thank you for your time!"

#### F. Future Dates

February 13	Kennedy & Mepham Art Honor Society Induction
February 15	Calhoun Art Honor Society Induction
February 19-23	Winter Recess - Schools Closed
February 29	Calhoun & Kennedy Class Night
February 6	Kennedy Winter Letter Ceremony Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Harrington mentioned the future dates.

### **5. Public Comments-Agenda Items Only**

A. Guidelines to Public Comments - 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.

There were no public comments.

### **6. Superintendent's Recommendations**

A. School Calendar 2024-2025

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended 2024 – 2025 school year calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

B. Policy No. 4741 - Class Rank and Weighting of Grades

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following policy for a first reading:

Policy No. 4741 - Class Rank and Weighting of Grades (Revised)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

C. Donation - Community Cupboard

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$500.00 from the Bellmore Presbyterian Church for the Community Cupboard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

D. Special Education Vendor List 23/24 (Revised)

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the revised Special Education vendor list for the 2023/2024 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

E. Special Education Report

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following special education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 000010279, 000012046, 000012598, 000013017, 000013098, 000013099, 000013289, 000014123, 000015069, 000015192, 000015576, 000512680, 000512782, 000512881, 000513460, 000513619, 000513925, 062360006, 090910005, 102600000, 110210003, 131261421, 131262043, 131262413, 131262861, 131263385, 131263683, 181910157, 181960001, 201700181, 201900049, 202110561, 202111573, 202200046, 202200227, 202300044, 212211380 and 222311334.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan



## **7. Human Resources Report**

### A. Human Resources Report 2/7/24

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Human Resources Report for February 7, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

## **8. Business and Finance**

### A. Bills and Corresponding Warrant

The Board of Education reviewed the bills and corresponding warrant dated 2/7/24.

### B. Budget Summary

The Board of Education reviewed the budget summary dated 1/31/24.

### C. Attendance Function

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools attendance at the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) 2024 Winter Institute Conference from March 2, 2024 through March 5, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

### D. Transportation Agreement-Educational Bus/Wantagh UFSD

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD to enter into a piggyback contract with Wantagh UFSD and Educational Bus Transportation Inc. (EBT), for the transportation of students to an out-of-district non-public school, effective February 8, 2024. This would result in a cost saving to the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, as the original contracted cost is substantially lower than new contracts that have bid out to school of similar distance.

BE IT RESOLVED, effective February 8, 2024, the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD may piggyback off the Wantagh UFSD's current contract with Educational Bus Transportation, Inc. (EBT), for the transportation of students to the following school: St. Pius V

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

### E. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment/Property - SOC Cutter

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of a SOC Cutter (Tag# 009903, Serial# 111300053) located at the Calhoun Maintenance garage.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

F. Obsolete/Surplus Equipment/Property - Technology Equipment

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare obsolete and approve the disposal of 24 iPads, 29 desktops, 42 projectors, 3 laptops and 598 Chromebooks located throughout the district.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

G. Custom Tours, Inc. Agreement

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Custom Tours, Inc. for a student music trip to Walt Disney World from March 20, 2024 to March 23, 2024 (subject to attorney review and approval).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

H. Budget Transfer

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD approve the following budget transfer to cover 2023-2024 school year expenses:

From: A2250.472 (Special Ed - Private Tuition) \$630,000.00

To: A2250.400 (Special Ed – Related Services) \$630,000.00

To cover costs for Special Ed – Related Services.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

I. DSP Microprudentials Grant Agreement

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (“OPWDD”), for SUNY Direct Support Microcredentials, for the period of September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2028 (subject to attorney review and approval).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved by consent agenda items 6.A through 8.I.

Motion by Nancy Kaplan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

**9. Old/New Business**

No old or new business was discussed.

## **10. Correspondence**

### A. Correspondence

Ms. Goller said that the Board of Education received five mailed correspondence and did not receive any emails between December 23, 2023 and February 2, 2024.

## **11. Public Comments**

### A. Guidelines to Public Comments

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.

There were no public comments.

## **12. Potential Executive Session**

### A. Motion to enter into Executive Session.

The Board of Education did not enter into Executive Session.

## **13. Adjournment**

A. Motion to Adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

Motion by Megan C Ryan, second by Nina Lanci.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Nina Lanci, Nancy Kaplan, Melissa Cmar-Grote, Marion Blane, Janet Goller, Gina Piskin, Edward Corona, Megan C Ryan

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Submitted by Pattianne Guccione, District Clerk