

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting November 13, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, in the Board of Education Conference Room at the Administrative Offices at the Brookside School at 1260 Meadowbrook Road, Merrick, New York 11566.

The following members of the Board of Education were present:

Susan Schwartz, President
JoAnn DeLauter, Vice-President
Marion Blane
Janet Goller
George Haile
Dr. Nancy Kaplan
Dr. Matthew Kushner
Nina Lanci

Also present:

John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia Strait Régal, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel
Caryn Blum, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Eric Arlin, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
Joseph Innaco, Director of Instructional and Technology Services
Saul Lerner, Director of Physical Education/Health/Athletics/Driver Education/Adult Ed
Jon Simkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations
Thomas Volpe, Transportation Supervisor/Health and Safety Coordinator
Michelle Gagnon, Administrative Assistant I
Christopher Powers, School Attorney
Claire Neufeld, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by Mrs. Schwartz. Mrs. Schwartz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the October 16, 2013 and November 6, 2013 meetings. Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated September 30, 2013. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 8-0. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. DeTommaso welcomed everyone and stated that tonight both the Board of Education and teachers are being recognized. Students will be performing. He expressed his appreciation of the Board on behalf of himself and the Bellmore-Merrick staff and community. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Schwartz displayed artwork created by the Mephram HS Art Department depicting four students under an umbrella with the saying "One Voice, One Message." Each Board member received a framed copy of this artwork.

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Mr. DeTommaso introduced Grand Avenue Middle School's Select Chorus led by Mrs. Amanda Cantwell. They performed "The Scientist" and "September." Next, Ms. Barbara Farchione introduced her Merrick Avenue MS eighth grade students who made a fold-out journal for each Board member thanking the Board members for their work and dedication.

**SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNITION**

Marcia Eisenmesser and Betty Pittari of the PTA Council also thanked the Board of Education stating the Bellmore-Merrick Council of PTAs would like to express their most sincere and heartfelt thanks to another group of volunteers, the Bellmore-Merrick School Board. The Board's dedication to our schools, the time taken from their families and the countless hours of work, benefit all the children in our community. With gratitude they made a donation to each school library.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked all the presenters.

Rebecca Peretz, Calhoun HS, stated there were many fundraising activities during October, Breast Cancer Awareness month. She stated the fall sports season was spectacular. Girls Soccer were in the Nassau County finals and finished 2nd in the county. Girls Cross Country competed at the county championship and qualified for States on 11/9/13. Boys and girls Volleyball teams had very successful seasons. Boys Badminton also had a good season. On-Tour students hosted two events in October. The Senior citizens very much enjoyed their event. The dangers of texting while driving are highlighted throughout the school with the posters stating "No one is that important. Hang up and drive carefully." Mr. DeTommaso experienced the simulated driving. Costumes for a Cure raised money for "Music Never Stops", in memory of former Calhoun student, Tyler Seaman. There will be a Thanksgiving food drive and dinner.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

Rohan Nagpal stated Kennedy HS had a great fall sports season. Boys and girls soccer were in the county finals and girls Volleyball advanced to the division championship. Boys varsity Volleyball went undefeated with a 43 match winning streak; won the county championship; defended their Long Island title and are headed to the state competition. There were two assemblies on bullying featuring Mark Black who shared his own experiences and conducted a workshop with 30 students. A Kennedy student's artwork is being displayed in the Columbian Consulate in Manhattan. A modern version of "Twelfth Night," set in a trailer park, is Kennedy's fall production. There were several fundraising events in October for Breast Cancer. 36 students were inducted into the Tri M Music Honor Society. Kennedy alumni will meet on 11/27/13. Community service activities are planned, kicked off with a Thanksgiving food drive. He thanked the Board for their work.

Rachel Fain, Mepham HS, stated Mepham HS hosted on-sight admissions. Mepham Elite provides enrichment opportunities and Mepham Strong volunteers go above and beyond. Key Club raised money for a new plaque

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES**

at the 9/11 Memorial. Mephram’s annual Battle of the Classes is raising money for childhood cancer research and treatment on 11/14/13. Everyone enjoyed the Rookie Rugby event. She congratulated the new members of the Math Honor Society. Italian Heritage Night showcased food and performances. The swim team won their division championship, finished second in the county and broke two county records. Boys and girls Volleyball and Football had very good seasons also. Mephram’s Fashion Show was enjoyed by all.

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the student representatives stating he is aware of how much preparation goes into their reports and it is appreciated.

**EDUCATOR OF
EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Kushner presented an Award of Honor certificate to Calhoun English teacher Jason Boland for having been recognized as a New York State English Council Educator of Excellence for his efforts in the classroom and in the school community. A letter of nomination, letters of recommendation from a colleague, former students, and submission of several lesson plans and instructional materials were included in the application process. Former students of Mr. Boland had the following comments; “Even though it might sound dramatic, I can honestly say that with perhaps the exception of my parents, Mr. Boland is the most influential person in my life,” and “My memories of Mr. Boland have no beginning and no end; it’s as if he has always been around, guiding me.” Mr. Boland has taught in the district for sixteen years, and began his career at Kennedy High School as a student teacher. He then went on to Merrick Avenue Middle School as a probationary teacher and has been at Calhoun for the past 12 years. He has taught practically every high school English course, is the adviser of the award winning newspaper *Hoofbeats*, and the coach of the Girls Varsity softball team.

Dr. Kaplan presented an Award of Honor certificate to Merrick Avenue Middle School English teacher Stephanie Richemond for having been selected as a New York State English Council Educator of Excellence for her efforts in the classroom and in the school community. The application process included a letter of nomination, a letter of recommendation from a colleague, letters of recommendation from former students, and submission of several lesson plans and instructional materials. Comments from former students included, “Ms. Richemond is such a kind, caring, involved teacher who pushes me to want to be the best student I can be,” and “In life, there are good teachers who teach students the curriculum and also there are great teachers who also teach life lessons. Ms. Richemond is a great teacher.” Ms. Richemond has taught at Merrick Avenue for the past eleven years and has participated in various curriculum writing projects and district initiatives

**PROGRAM OF
EXCELLENCE**

Mr. Haile presented Award of Honor certificates to Calhoun High School English teacher Julie Rosslee and Social Studies teacher David Goldberg, for

having been awarded the New York State English Council Program of Excellence for their work in the Voices of the Past course. Ms. Rosslee and Dr. Goldberg founded the course eight years ago to teach students about the human flaws that lead to genocide and to engage these learners in open discussions about the need for individuals to be active participants in correcting society's wrongdoings. Ms. Rosslee and Dr. Goldberg presented their Program of Excellence at the NYSEC Annual Conference in Albany in October and discussed the course's evolution into an interdisciplinary, experiential learning environment for students. Ms. Rosslee and Dr. Goldberg have been teaching at Calhoun for the past twelve and ten years respectively. Both have taught a variety of grade levels and courses and have contributed to the school community in various ways. Currently, Ms. Rosslee is adviser to the National Honor Society and facilitator to the student-driven Calhoun Book Club, and Dr. Goldberg is the District Mentor Coordinator.

**PROGRAM OF
EXCELLENCE**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked and congratulated everyone tonight. He added he is very proud to be Bellmore-Merrick's Superintendent of Schools. Teachers and administrators can change kids' stars. He can see the power of quality teaching and investing in kids. He noted that the staff is always here to support students and teachers alike. Principals and chairs are here at the meeting because it's a total team effort. He thanked the Mephram Art Department for the spectacular display in the Central Office corridor. He also congratulated the athletic teams. They had a great season and he is proud of how our students represent Bellmore-Merrick. Wins and losses come and go, but the players will always remember the experience. He wished Kennedy good luck at states and asked Mr. Lerner to keep him apprised. He stated the Senior Citizens Connection event was a great success. A survey was distributed to determine the focus of the next event (computer or exercise class) in January. He advised the educational meeting at Ward Melville HS had approximately 1,500 attendees and many voiced their opinions on the state's implementation of Common Core. There is another meeting tonight in Mineola. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/9/13 but he has no other information. He stated Bellmore-Merrick students are college and career ready. They graduate with the highest stats in the county. The District supports its staff and teachers and will continue to prepare students to be 21st century learners. He added this is the last meeting before the Capital Projects Bond Vote on December 2nd and encouraged everyone to vote. He also added there will be newsletters about community connection and the bond. He has been working closely with many organizations to get out the vote. He noted the important dates listed on the agenda. 11/19/13 is SEPTA District College Night. A Common Core presentation for parents will be held at both the middle and high school parent/teacher conferences. He ended by wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

JoAnn Ricchetti stated her disappointment with the state and common core implementation and asked what the district will do to disengage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>Mr. DeTommaso advised Bellmore-Merrick is not a Race to the Top district. The district is dealing with common core and the implementation process. Curriculum is moving forward and the District is educating its parents. Teachers, with the support of staff, are preparing our students. High Stakes Testing does not match what our kids are doing.</p> <p>Dr. Kuschner moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:</p>
BUDGET CALENDAR	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Budget Calendar as presented in the agenda.</p>
BUDGET VOTE DATE	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Annual Budget Vote for the 2014-2015 school year be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, the third Tuesday in May, as required by law.</p>
BUDGET COSTS	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District to share budget voter registration and voting costs with each component district when the budget vote for the Central High School District and the component districts are held on the same day.</p>
BOCES BUDGET VOTE DATE	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve that the BOCES Budget Vote/Trustee Election be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2014.</p>
ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve that the Annual Public Hearing be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.</p>
SPECIAL EDUCATION	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following Special Education placements as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE): BCSE cases: 370000796, 992450057, 370000017, 992450028 and 362844643. Building CSE IEP changes: 000011326, 000010263, 000011312, 370000813, 050620001, MO3142, KO9531, G10985, G11590, 990010200, 370000699, 992450121, 992450133, 110011000, 121180000, 030520065, 000010828, 370000837, 050420003, G11774, 000511755, 000511722, 000511119, 121740000, 000011204, 370000608, 110010852, 992450059, 992450069, 992450086, G11066, K10916, G10997, K10333, K10701, 122120001, 000511228, 121210000, G11694, G11839, G11637, 030520067, 370000736, 121740000, G11853, 100290001, 102140001, 000511435, 000511498, 992450061 and 370000890.</p>
F.J. LINDER CENTER FOR AUTISM	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities as a vendor for the 2013-2014 school year.</p>

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of four (4) Lenovo Think Centre towers, four (4) Acer monitors and four (4) licenses and software assurances to Calhoun HS' Prep Program from South Oaks Hospital's Career and Educational Counseling Center.

DONATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of two outdoor benches, valued at \$2,864, from the Mephram HS Tennis team.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation in the amount of \$4,431 for the purchase of a Smart Board, two projectors and wall mounts, and 2 Elmos for Grand Avenue Middle School from Grand Avenue Yearbook and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$9,600 from the Calhoun HS Challenge Day account to pay for the program through the BOCES Arts in Education program and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the following donations from the Merrick Avenue PTA:

- \$1,000 toward the purchase of a PA system for the gymnasium and increase the appropriations budget by this amount;
- \$435 toward the purchase of art supplies for "Collograph Printmaking";
- \$969 to purchase a water fountain with water bottle re-filling station, Model # Elkay LZS8WSLK EZH2O from Global Industrial, valued at \$919; and
- 1,000 planner/agenda books for incoming 7th and 8th grade students for the 2013-2014 school year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$300 from PTA Council to the District's six libraries and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated November 13, 2013, as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kaplan seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

PERSONNEL

The Board of Education reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated November 13, 2013, and the corresponding warrants.

SUMMARY OF BILLS

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the bids as stated in the agenda. Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.

BIDS

BUDGET SUMMARY	<p>The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report.</p> <p>Dr. Kushner moved the following resolutions:</p>
WAIVER OF CUSTODIAL/ROOM FEES	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve waiving the custodial/room fee for the Kiwanis Club and Merrick Brotherhood Council's annual Thanksgiving Concert and Pancake Breakfast in Calhoun High School on Sunday, 11/24/13.</p>
LEASE AGREEMENT	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with the Jewish Association Serving the Aging for the use of Brookside School space as a senior citizen community center for one (1) year, from 10/1/13 through 9/30/14, at a cost of \$93,600.</p> <p>Mr. Haile seconded and the motion was carried 8-0.</p>
2013 BOND REFERENDUM – CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES	<p>Mrs. DeLauter moved that the Board of Education, upon successful passage of the Bond Referendum, approve School Construction Consultants, Inc. to provide Construction Management Services to Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, for the duration of the Bond Referendum projects at a cost not to exceed \$850,000. Dr. Kushner seconded. Mrs. Schwartz stated that only if the bond passes, will the money be used. The project needs a facilitator and the cost is included in the bond. The motion was carried 8-0.</p>
CORRESPONDENCE	<p>There was none.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>Joan Phillips spoke about Project Hope, an organization that helps people recover from Hurricane Sandy and asked the Board to disseminate the following contact information for Project Hope, www.centralnassau.org, 950 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville, New York 11801-3511, telephone 516-822-6111 extension 267, jphilips@centralnassau.org.</p> <p>Lisa Katz asked the Board to consider passing a resolution against High Stakes Testing.</p>
OLD/NEW BUSINESS	<p>Mrs. Schwartz stated North Bellmore has passed such a resolution. She added this Board is in favor of constructing a resolution and will be working on it.</p> <p>Mrs. Schwartz reminded everyone the Bond Vote is the Monday after Thanksgiving, 12/2/13, and encouraged everyone to vote.</p>
EXECUTIVE SESSION	<p>On a motion by Dr. Kushner, seconded by Dr. Kaplan and carried 8-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters at 9:24 p.m.</p>

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On a motion by Mrs. Goller, seconded by Mrs. Lanci and carried 8-0, the Board of Education reconvened at 10:19 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Blane, and carried 8-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk