

MINUTES OF THE BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting March 12, 2014

A work session/regular meeting of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 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
Dr. Matthew Kuschner
Nina Lanci

The following members of the Board of Education were absent:

George Haile
Dr. Nancy Kaplan

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 work session was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Mrs. Schwartz. Mrs. Schwartz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeTommaso stated representatives from Burton, Behrendt and Smith (BBS) and School Construction Consultants (SCC) were present to give an update on the progress of the capital projects.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS
BOND UPDATE**

Joe Rettig, BBS, advised he is expecting approval of the designs in Phase 1 – flooring and turf fields - from the State Education Department (SED) in early May. Everything is within budget. Logo artwork has been submitted to the District. The district wide security project is ready to be submitted to SED. A rotational work plan for Phase 2 – HVAC, science rooms and restrooms – work is being considered.

Mr. DeTommaso stated with the \$50 million dollar capital projects bond and an energy performance contract of \$24 million dollars, this is the opportunity to set the District on a quality course. The District is guaranteed energy savings of 1.1 to 1.3 million dollars a year.

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CAPITAL PROJECTS BOND UPDATE	<p>Mrs. Goller requested that the Board of Education receive a timeline of the capital projects bond work and a weekly update on progress.</p> <p>Paul Adamo of SCC stated his company has taken measurements, is looking at staging and field access issues, attended design meetings, provided the Board with drawings and will begin working on bid strategies and bid forms to make recommendations to the District.</p> <p>Mr. DeTommaso stated the sequence is as follows: 1.) drawings; 2.) submit drawings to SED; 3.) receive SED approval; 4.) bid; 5.) award bid; 6.) project starts.</p> <p>SED approval of Energy Performance Contracts (EPC) are currently taking in excess of six (6) months.</p>
REGULAR MEETING	<p>On a motion made by Mrs. DeLauter, seconded by Mrs. Goller, and carried 6-0, a regular meeting of the Board of Education was convened.</p>
MINUTES	<p>Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 12, 2014 Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Lanci seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.</p>
TREASURER'S REPORT	<p>Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's Report, dated January 31, 2014. Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.</p>
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	<p>Mr. DeTommaso welcomed Griffin Miller who is filling in for Rebecca Peretz tonight.</p>
CHANGE IN ORDER OF THE AGENDA	<p>Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education change the order of the agenda. Mrs. DeLauter seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.</p> <p>Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:</p>
REGISTRATION AND VOTING	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2014 Registration and Voting Information.</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: BCSE cases: 000511531, 070011254 and 050450013. Building CSE IEP changes: 362844617, 070650006, 110011000, K11015, G10995, 000512052, K10230, K11139, 370000906, K10872, 120860000, K11017, 030570002, G10732, 110010789, K10233, 030160006, 000010533, 362844683, K10296, 362844643, 000012278, K10321, 023020002, G11091, G10923, G11597, 053410000, 030730002, 362844611, G11841, 030450019, 050420003, 000512049, G10999, K11097, K10097 and 030650002.</p>

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education rescind its resolution of February 12, 2014 in which the Board of Education accepted a donation of two (2) 70' X 14' X 14', #42 treated, batting cage nets, valued at \$1,500 each, for a total of \$3,000, to Calhoun HS from Calhoun Sports Boosters.

**RESCINDED
RESOLUTIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education rescind its resolution of February 12, 2014 in which the Board of Education accepted a donation of \$2,100 toward the purchase of an electric cart, 2009 MCV/KUDFO6402 Electric Utility Vehicle w/solar panel and storage box, to Calhoun High School's athletic department from Calhoun Sports Boosters.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of \$2,875 from Merrick Avenue Middle School PTA for payment of two educational assemblies presented by Bobby Petrocelli of 10 Seconds, Inc. and increase the appropriations budget by this amount.

DONATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept a donation of a 2009 MCV/KUDO6402 electric utility vehicle with solar panel and storage box from the Calhoun Sports Boosters to the Calhoun HS Athletic Department.

Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

Mrs. Schwartz and Mrs. Goller thanked Calhoun Sports Boosters and Merrick Avenue MS PTA for their donations.

Mrs. Lanci moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District accept insurance proceeds of \$5,046.30 from the New York State Insurance Reciprocal for damage incurred to a District vehicle and increase the appropriations (A1621 425 08 7200) accordingly.

**INSURANCE
PROCEEDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the recommended Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District 2014-2015 School Year calendar.

**2014-2015 SCHOOL
YEAR CALENDAR**

Dr. Kushner seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

Mrs. Schwartz stated the newly approved school calendar will be posted on the District's website tomorrow.

Dr. Kushner moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent of Schools' Personnel Report, dated March 12, 2014, as stated in the agenda.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

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BILLS	The Board reviewed the Summary of Bills, dated March 12, 2014, and the corresponding warrants.
BUDGET SUMMARY	The Board of Education reviewed the Budget Summary Report. Dr. Kuschner moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolutions:
COOPERATIVE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT	BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provision of Education Law, 1907 and 3635, and General Municipal Law, 119-0 relating to Municipal cooperative activities, the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is hereby authorized and directed to continue its participation in a regional transportation consortium with its component elementary districts to provide for the regional transportation of elementary and secondary students of the District and its components to the schools which such students attend in accordance with the parameters defined in a document entitled, "Cooperative Student Transportation Feasibility Study" dated March, 1989; the foregoing resolution shall be operative to commit the Central High School District to participation in such regional transportation system only for the 2014-2015 school year; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to give effect to the within Agreement if, in his judgment, there is sufficient participation among the elementary component districts to make participation by the Central High School District feasible and economically advantageous to it; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as shall be necessary or appropriate to give effect to the within resolution.
OBSOLETE/SURPLUS PROPERTY	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare 50 Calhoun HS TVs, VCRs and DVD players obsolete and approve their disposal inasmuch as they are old, broken and not worth repairing.
BOCES	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with Nassau BOCES Department of Instructional Programs and Alternative Schools wherein the District may participate in the Nassau BOCES Regional Summer School Program from 7/1/14 – 8/30/14.
MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVE INVESTMENT	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes its President to execute a New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS) Municipal Cooperative Investment agreement in the name of and on behalf of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.
RECYCLE SERVICES	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve an agreement with AHRC Nassau to provide processing of the District's computer hardware and related devices.

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of the Superintendent of Schools, Board members JoAnn DeLauter and Janet Goller at the Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts Luncheon at Long Island Marriot Hotel and Conference Center of Uniondale on May 29, 2014, at 11:30 a.m., at a cost of \$45.00 per person.

BOARD CONFERENCE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of the Superintendent of Schools, Board members JoAnn DeLauter, George “Skip” Haile, Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Dr. Matthew Kushner, Nina Lanci and Susan Schwartz at the Bellmore-Merrick United Secondary Teachers’ 32nd Annual Awards Dinner Dance at the Woodbury Country Club, on June 19, 2014 at a cost of \$60.00 per person.

Mrs. Blane seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

Mrs. Blane moved that the Board of Education return to the order of the agenda. Mrs. Goller seconded and the motion was carried 6-0.

**RETURN TO ORDER
OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. DeTommaso stated he was very excited to recognize extraordinary student accomplishments in cheerleading and wrestling tonight.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT**

Mrs. DeLauter presented Award of Honor certificates to the Mepham High School Varsity Coed Cheerleading Team who are the New York State (NYS) Coed Cheerleading Champions for the second year in a row. The Pirates competed against the top coed teams from across NYS. The team of 30, coached by Ms. Nicole Kyriacou and Ms. Jayna Kyriacou with captains, Kelly Cates, Julie Dijkstra and Brianna Frobosil, dominated the mat with their stunts and tumbling. Winning the NYS title was a wonderful way to end an undefeated season. Mrs. DeLauter, on behalf of the Board of Education congratulated the team members and coaches.

**2014 NYS COED
CHEERLEADING
CHAMPIONS**

Mrs. Lanci thanked Mepham 12th grader Louis Hernandez for representing “Strong Island” and presented him with an Award of Honor stating he recently became Mepham High School’s 12th NYS Wrestling Champion. Louis claimed his second State Championship. He became a three time Nassau County champion at Hofstra on February 16th. Louis is in an elite group as only two other Mepham students have achieved this distinction. He is not only one the greatest wrestlers in Mepham’s Wrestling history, but also in Nassau County’s history. Louis is a rare four time Sprig Gardner Tournament champion, three time Qualifying Tournament champion, two time Ted Petersen Tournament champion, Eastern States champion, two time place winner and placed third at the prestigious Super 32 National Championships in the fall. Louis’ high school career record is 147-11. He is coached by Rich Anderson, Mike Muscara, Sean Arresto and Tom Piccirillo. His coaches, teammates and community are extremely proud of Louis for these outstanding accomplishments. Mrs. Lanci congratulated Louis and Coaches Anderson, Muscara, Arresto and Piccirillo on behalf of the Board of Education.

**2014 NASSAU COUNTY
AND NYS WRESTLING**

Mr. DeTommaso added that in addition to these students, Dr. Bollettieri ran a program to promote a theme of One Voice, One Message, over the last number of months culminating with an assembly yesterday at Brookside. Mr. DeTommaso thanked Dr. Bollettieri on behalf of the entire community.

BRINGING VOICES TOGETHER

Dr. Bollettieri stated that, with the Superintendent's support, district students attended conferences related to human relations and race issues. The assembly, "Bringing Voices Together," addressed issues of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination in society and our own community. Tenth graders from our four high schools came together to join in the vision of "One Voice – One Message." Four student ambassadors, Maribel Sabino of Calhoun, Laurel Gumpert of Mepham, Breanna Tardo of the Meadowbrook Alternative Program (MAP) and Carly Lennon of Kennedy followed up the assembly by visiting 10th grade students in their classrooms. They also attended the Board meeting and spoke enthusiastically of their experiences and interest in pursuing these issues. They thanked Ms. Connolly, Mr. Gomez, Dr. Netto, Mr. Safina, Ms. McGuinness, Dr. Bollettieri and Mr. DeTommaso for allowing them this opportunity and added that they believe they can make a difference. Dr. Bollettieri praised the four ambassadors for their leadership and added that the District will continue this initiative.

Dr. Kushner, and the entire Board, thanked the Superintendent of Schools for bringing this initiative to the District and making it happen.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DeTommaso again welcomed Griffin Miller stating he is Calhoun's Junior Class President. Tonight's student representatives will begin with Rohan Nagpal of Kennedy High School.

Rohan Nagpal congratulated Kennedy High Schools' Founders Day Award recipients. He acknowledged the passing of Ms. Sheldon. April's Faculty Olympics will benefit lung cancer research in her honor. The senior class won the Class Night competition. A Kennedy student is preparing for the Olympics. A World War II veteran spoke at a Kennedy assembly. The Social Studies Department will feature Dr. Cashen's career path and the role of gender in the workforce at a future presentation. The Art Department has a gallery show this week. College Planning Night is this Thursday. The Science Department, alumni and LIJ Medical Center are presenting Kennedy's first Health and Career Fair with a medical scrabble game. Kennedy's drama production "*The Drowsy Chaperone*" is March 21 and 22, 2014. Kennedy students attended Broadway and Lincoln Center performances. March 27th is the Spring Blood Drive.

Rachel Fain congratulated Mepham's Cheerleading team and Louis Hernandez on their State titles. The 5th Annual Mr. Mepham Night was successful. Chris Durkin and Mr. Morris were chosen. Mepham Strong attended a NY Islanders' game. The café held its Open Mic Night. Hofstra students performed at Mepham. The annual St. Baldrick's event benefiting children's cancer research honored Gigi, a Mepham teacher's child. The Paul Limmer Invitational track meet is scheduled for April 5, 2014.

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Griffin Miller of Calhoun HS congratulated Calhoun staff who received awards at the annual Founders Day Dinner. The gym was filled for a basketball game coached by three Calhoun seniors and Mr. Lerner was the referee. The Art Honor Society has 32 new members. Mrs. Haile, wife of Board member Skip Haile, spoke to the Calhoun students. There was a Prep for Life ribbon cutting ceremony for the donated bank of new computers. The senior class won Class Night and proceeds will benefit Challenge Day. Highlights of the LOTE Department's International Fair included food, song, and dance. 9th graders attended an assembly on Internet Safety given by an FBI agent. Model UN had a field trip to NYC representing the U.S. DECA has seen an increase in enrollment and members advanced to the State competition. Ten students were accepted into DECA Honor Society and will compete in the national championship.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
(Continued)**

Mr. DeTommaso thanked the Calhoun Art Department for their display in the Central Office corridor this month.

Mr. Lerner, Director of Physical Education/Health/Athletics/Driver Education/Adult Ed, stated an evening narcan training class will take place with a week. Narcan is the antidote to a heroin overdose and he hopes everyone will attend. This Friday he will meet with the principals, community members and legislators to discuss a sustainable, long term program regarding drugs. He added he would report in the future with some concrete examples to address this issue.

Mr. DeTommaso mentioned some of the important up-coming dates listed on the agenda. He advised Deputy Superintendent Cynthia Strait Régal will now give a PowerPoint presentation.

Mrs. Strait Régal began with stating that the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District is not the taxing authority. The component districts each pay a share to the Central High School District. Nassau County establishes the property assessment values and, as a result of litigation, the courts have determined that Nassau County alone is responsible for any errors and cannot pass the burden on to school districts. ERS payments are leveling off while TRS are still on the rise. Lower enrollment has eased the burden by eliminating positions yet keeping staff pretty much intact. This year's tax levy increase is only 1.866%, not 2%. The 2014-2015 budget is \$139,192,768 and is relatively status quo with two additions, summer school and dance at LI School for the Arts. The District will not borrow for the Capital Projects Bond until next year. There is a small restoration of Gap Eliminating Assessments (GEA) in the Governor's budget. The District will once again use some reserves to offset the budget.

2014-2015 BUDGET

Mr. DeTommaso stated the 2014-2015 tax levy is 1.866% and there is a 1.96% difference in the budget to budget.

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Katz asked how the elementary districts' taxes are determined.

Ms. Strait Régal advised each component districts is taxed on its total assessed property.

Mrs. Schwartz stated the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District does not raise taxes for itself. The issue of granting veterans' exemptions is determined at the elementary (component) districts. They are the taxing authority.

Pam Banks asked for an update on school safety and security work.

Mr. Simpkins, Director of School Facilities and Operations, advised Phase 1 consists of ID cards to staff and 12-15 additional cameras at each of the schools. He is hopeful that Phase 1 will be completed by September of 2014.

Marcia Eisenmesser asked about student make-up days for this year's snow days.

Mr. DeTommaso stated school will be in session on April 21st and May 23rd. Only staff will be required to come in on June 23rd.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Schwartz displayed a plaque that was presented to the Board of Education at the Founders Day Dinner for the Board's work in preparing and presenting a Capital Projects Bond to the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Blane, seconded by Dr. Kushner and carried 6-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss a particular Personnel matter at 9:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dr. Kushner, seconded by Mrs. Blane and carried 6-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Neufeld
District Clerk